

# Public Document Pack

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Chief Officer (Governance)  
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Leader)

Councillors: Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, David Healey, Dave Hughes, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones and Billy Mullin

8 March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING**  
**CABINET**  
**TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2023 at 10.00 AM**

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum  
Democratic Services Manager

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. The live streaming will stop when any confidential items are considered. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

## A G E N D A

### 1 APOLOGIES

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Purpose:** To receive any declarations and advise Members accordingly.

### 3 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 18)

**Purpose:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

### STRATEGIC REPORTS

#### 4 STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 (Pages 19 - 68)

Report of Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets - Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

**Purpose:** To present the 2021/22 annual report for the Strategic Equality Plan.

#### 5 GRASS CUTTING POLICY – MANAGING ROAD VERGES AND AMENITY GRASSLANDS TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY (Pages 69 - 158)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

**Purpose:** To consider the opportunities available to increase biodiversity in the management of road verges and amenity grasslands through the Council's grass cutting policy.

## **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

### **6 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 10) (Pages 159 - 182)**

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

**Purpose:** This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2022/23 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 10, and projects forward to year-end.

### **7 BUSINESS RATE WRITE OFFS IN EXCESS OF £25,000 (Pages 183 - 186)**

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

**Purpose:** For cabinet to approve the write off of Business Rate balances in excess of £25,000 where it is no longer possible to collect the debts

### **8 STREETSCENE STANDARDS REVIEW 2022-23 (Pages 187 - 196)**

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

**Purpose:** To review the existing Streetscene standards and consider a new set of measures and performance indicators that link more closely to the Council Plan, portfolio business plan and policies.

### **9 HYNET CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT; CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE AND CONSENTING PROCESS UPDATE (Pages 197 - 204)**

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the cross border hydrogen and carbon capture storage (CSS) project called HyNet North West, the consenting processes for the project, and to establish if a corporate view is required on the project as a whole.

10 **ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION 2024/2025** (Pages 205 - 220)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

**Purpose:** To advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for 2024/25 and to recommend approval.

11 **REPORT BACK FROM THE CALL IN OF DECISION NO. 4056 - WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW** (Pages 221 - 266)

Report of Democratic Services Manager - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

**Purpose:** To report back from the Call In.

12 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 267 - 268)

**Purpose:** To provide details of actions taken under delegated powers.

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - COUNTY COUNCIL, CABINET, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY - FOR INFORMATION**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public interest in withholding the information outweighs the interest in disclosing the information until such time as the commercial arrangements have been finalised.

13 **NORTH EAST WALES (NEW) HOMES BUSINESS PLAN 2023/2052** (Pages 303 - 322)

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

**Purpose:** To consider the NEW Homes Business Plan 2023/2052.

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains details of a proposed contract and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure until the contract has been awarded.

14 **HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT - EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR THE WALLICH, HOMELESS HUB** (Pages 323 - 336)

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

**Purpose:** To extend the contract for The Glanrafon – Emergency Homeless Hub for 1 year (end of 23/24) with an option to extend for an additional year (end of 24/25).

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains details of a proposed contract and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure until the contract has been awarded.

15 **PLAS BELLIN (LOCAL SOLUTIONS) CONTRACT EXTENSION** (Pages 337 - 354)

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

**Purpose:** To note the change in service delivery model linked to services of housing support for vulnerable families presently delivered from Plas Belin Supported Housing Project for vulnerable families.

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 15, 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains legal advice relating to employee relations matters and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information until the issue has been resolved.

16 **APPROACH TO PAY FOR LEAVERS** (Pages 355 - 366)

Report of Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development -  
Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and  
Safety and Human Resources

**Purpose:** To discuss and agree on the approach to be taken to pay for  
leavers.

***Please note that there may be a 10 minute adjournment of this meeting if it  
lasts longer than two hours***

**CABINET**  
**23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.

**PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)**

Councillors: Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Dave Healey, Dave Hughes, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones and Billy Mullin.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Housing and Assets), Chief Officer (Social Services), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets, Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development, and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

**120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

**121. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

**122. COUNCIL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24 – FINAL CLOSING STAGE**

Councillor Roberts thanked Members and officers for all of their work on the budget which was a significant piece of work. He paid particular thanks to new Members of the Council who had been involved in Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, including special meetings where proposals had been considered. He looked forward to setting a balanced budget later in the day.

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and explained that the Council had received full reports on previous stages of the budget setting process for 2023/24.

Cabinet received an update on the key headlines and financial impacts of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January, together with an update on the increased additional budget requirement of £32.978m.

The report provided (1) feedback from the series of specific Overview and Scrutiny Committees held in December 2022 (2) an update on the ongoing risks to the additional budget requirement and (3) an update on the work being undertaken on the range of budget solutions available to the Council to set a legal and balanced

budget. That work had now been concluded and the outcome was set out in the report, with the report setting out recommendations for the Council to be able to reach a legal and balanced budget position for the 2023/24 financial year.

Also set out in the report was the Council Tax recommendation for setting local taxation levels for 2023/24. A formal resolution was being proposed to Council later that day as notification of the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner and all Town and Community Councils within Flintshire had been received. A full presentation would be made at County Council.

He added that the impact of pay awards that year showed the importance of retaining reserves.

The Chief Executive said that as soon as the budget for this year was closed, work would commence on the budget for the following year. Some of the initial figures were challenging and based on the economic climate there would be a need to adopt a prudent position for setting the budget today. It had been an extremely challenging year in terms of budget setting, based on things such as energy costs and pay awards.

The Corporate Finance Manager said a detailed presentation would be given at County Council later in the day on how the proposed budget has been made up. An update was available, which was that an amount of £127k could now be released to the Contingency Reserve from the Local Development Plan (LDP) Earmarked Reserve. That was following approval of the LDP and allowing for remaining commitments from the Reserve.

The following was also set out within the report:

- Table 1: Revised Additional Budget Requirement 2023/24
- Table 2: Proposed Budget Solutions 2023/24
- Table 3: Proposed Budget 2023/24
- Table 4: School Budget Adjustments
- Table 5: Social Care Budget Adjustments
- Table 6: Medium Term Forecast 2024/25 – 2025/26

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the revised additional budget requirement for 2023/24 be noted and approved;
- (b) That the final proposals for the cost reductions that will contribute to the budget be approved;
- (c) That Cabinet recommends to Council a legal and balanced budget based on the calculations as set out within the report;
- (d) That the open risks which remain to be managed in the 2023/24 financial year be noted;



- (e) That an annual increase in Council Tax for 2023/24 of 3.99% for Council Services and 0.96% for contributions to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Regional Coroners Service and the Regional Education Consortium (GwE) – an overall uplift of 4.95% be recommended;
- (f) That Cabinet invites the Council to pass the formal Council Tax resolution now that notification of the precepts of the Police and Crime Commissioner and all Town and Community Councils within Flintshire had been received; and
- (g) That the medium-term forecast be noted as a basis for the next revision of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

### **123. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION – 2023/24 POLICY**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and explained that local authorities were required to set a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy each financial year. Local authorities were required to set aside some of their revenue resources as provision for the repayment of debt.

Regulations required an authority to make an amount of MRP which it considered to be 'prudent'. The Regulations themselves did not define 'prudent' provision. Welsh Government (WG) had provided guidance which made recommendations to local authorities on the interpretation of the term and authorities were required to prepare an annual statement of their policy on making minimum provision.

The Council, as part of the budget strategy, conducted detailed reviews of its MRP policy in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and amended the policy as a result. No changes were required to the policy for 2023/24.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the following be approved and recommend to County Council for Council Fund (CF) outstanding debt that:-
  - Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in financial year 2023/24 for the balance of outstanding capital expenditure funded from supported borrowing fixed as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The calculation will be the 'annuity' method over 49 years.
  - Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in 2023/24 for all capital expenditure funded from supported borrowing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 onwards. The calculation will be the 'annuity' method over an appropriate number of years, dependent on the period of time that the capital expenditure is likely to generate benefits.
  - Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the MRP in 2023/24 for all capital expenditure funded from unsupported (prudential) borrowing or credit arrangements. The calculation will be the 'annuity' method over an appropriate number of years, dependent

on the period of time that the capital expenditure is likely to generate benefits.

(b) That the following be approved and recommend to the County Council for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outstanding debt:-

- Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the HRA's MRP in 2023/24 for the balance of outstanding capital expenditure funded from debt fixed as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The calculation will be the 'annuity' method over 50 years.
- Option 3 (Asset Life Method) be used for the calculation of the HRA's MRP in 2023/24 for all capital expenditure funded from debt from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 onwards. The calculation will be the 'annuity' method over an appropriate number of years, dependent on the period of time that the capital expenditure is likely to generate benefits.

(c) That the following be approved and recommend to County Council that MRP on loans from the Council to NEW Homes to build affordable homes through the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) (which qualify as capital expenditure in accounting terms) be as follows:-

- No MRP is made during the construction period (of short duration) as the asset has not been brought into use and no benefit is being derived from its use.
- Once the assets are brought into use, capital (loan) repayments will be made by NEW Homes. The Council's MRP will be equal to the repayments made by NEW Homes. The repayments made by NEW Homes will be classed, in accounting terms, as capital receipts, which can only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt. The capital repayment / capital receipt will be set aside to repay debt, and is the Council's MRP policy for repaying the loan.

#### **124. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT, PRACTICES AND SCHEDULES 203 TO 2026**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which presented the draft Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 for approval and recommendation to Council, in conjunction with:

- Draft Treasury Management Policy Statement 2023 to 2026
- Draft Treasury Management Practices and Schedules 2023 to 2026

The report had been considered in detail but the Governance and Audit Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The report was supplemented by treasury management training which was provided for Members of the Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

## **RESOLVED:**

The that following be approved for recommendation to Council:

- Draft Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24
- Draft Treasury Management Policy Statement 2023 to 2026
- Draft Treasury Management Practices and Schedules 2023 to 2026

## **125. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

Councillor Healey introduced the report and explained that in 2019, Welsh Government (WG) called for the Public Sector to become net zero carbon by 2030. Following that declaration, Cabinet resolved in December 2019 to a Climate Change Strategy which would set key aims and actions for creating a net zero carbon Council by 2030.

The report summarised the progress made in 2021/22 across the key themes within the strategy: Buildings, Mobility & Transport, Procurement, Land Use and Behaviour.

The total carbon emissions for 2021/22 saw a 1% increase on the 2018/19 baseline. All carbon emission sources had seen decreases beyond the percentage targets, aside from Procurement which saw a 24% increase. Emissions from this source were directly linked to spend value and therefore the current methodology was adversely affecting the Council's total carbon footprint.

Fleet transition to low carbon alternatives and provision of available EV charging infrastructure for Council fleet was progressing slowly. There was also a need to embed climate change and carbon reduction throughout the Council, and increased visibility and provision of training could achieve that.

Further developing efficient energy management within Council buildings would enable continued reductions from that theme. Those areas needed particular focus and revenue support over the coming year to accelerate decarbonisation and stay on track towards 2030 net zero carbon goal.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) said the report had been submitted to the recently formed Climate Change Committee where the findings of the report, and the recommendations, were supported. It had also been reported to Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee where it was also supported. A portfolio would be identified to run a pilot on procurement.

In response to a question from Councillor Bithell on procurement, the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) explained that for any public sector body the procurement impact would always be 60/70%. Natural Resources Wales have reported an extensive reduction so contact had been made with them to find out details of how that had been achieved. It was a challenge that needed to be addressed by all public bodies in Wales.

The Chief Officer (Governance) added that it had recently been agreed with Denbighshire County Council that they would appoint a Carbon Reduction Officer who would work in a similar way to the Social Value Officer, to work with the portfolio pilot to establish how service specifications could be drawn out on things such as building homes and transport.

Councillor Johnson said he was a member of the Joint Management Board for Procurement and it was raised at the last meeting. Both Denbighshire and Flintshire were fully committed to it.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be received and the contents noted;
- (b) That the improvement of internal communications to raise awareness of the Council's positive progress in moving to achieve its climate change ambitions be supported;
- (c) That the introduction of embedding carbon measures into procurement processes within a pilot portfolio of the Council be supported;
- (d) That the case for an Invest to Save post and resources to introduce Building Management Systems within more of the Councils building assets to improve the management of energy use be supported; and
- (e) That the embedding of climate change principles throughout the Council, through delivery of Carbon Literacy training to elected Members, Senior Managers and other key decision makers be supported.

**126. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 9)**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which provided the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2022/23 for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

The report projected how the budget would stand at the close of the financial year, without new actions to reduce cost pressures and/or improve the financial return on efficiency planning and cost control was:

**Council Fund**

- An operating deficit of £0.117m (excluding the impact of the pay award which had been met by reserves), which was a favourable movement of £0.235m from the deficit figure reported at Month 8
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31st March 2023 of £6.464m

**Housing Revenue Account**

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £3.208m higher than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31st March 2023 of £3.266m

Hardship funding from Welsh Government helped secure over £16m of direct financial help the previous year and payments totalling £4.8m in 2022/23 had continued to be claimed for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments and Winter Fuel Payments within their eligible periods.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report and estimated financial impact on the 2022/23 budget be noted;
- (b) That the carry forward request included in the report be supported; and
- (c) That the funding from Contingency Reserve outlined in the report be supported.

**127. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 9)**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which summarised the changes made to the Capital Programme 2022/23 since it was set in December 2021 to the end of Month 9 (December 2022), along with expenditure to date and projected outturn.

The Capital Programme had seen a net decrease in budget of (£20.414m) during the period which comprised of:

- Net budget decrease in the programme of (£13.750m) – Council Fund (CF) (£13.283m), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£0.467m)
- Carry Forward to 2023/24 approved at month 6 of (£4.562m) and additional Free School Meals grant (£1.767m) (all CF)
- Identified savings at Month 9 of (£0.335m) (CF)

Actual expenditure was £35.294m.

Capital receipts received in the third quarter of 2022/23, along with savings identified totalled £0.882m. That gave a revised projected surplus in the Capital Programme at month 9 of £4.258m (from a month 6 funding position surplus of £3.376) for the 2022/23 Capital Programme, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources.

Investment in county towns – cost of materials having an impact.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the overall report be approved;
- (b) That the carry forward adjustments be approved; and
- (c) That the additional allocations be approved.

**128. JOINT CORPORATE PROCUREMENT UNIT – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and explained that the Council continued to operate a joint procurement service with Denbighshire County Council, with Denbighshire acting as the lead authority.

As part of the service level agreement, the joint procurement service produced a joint annual report on its regulated procurement activities.

The report was presented to Cabinet for the purpose of providing an annual update on procurement performance for 2021/22.

The report also provided Cabinet with an update on 'FastTrack', an initiative launched in 2021/22, which gave suppliers the option to be paid as soon as their invoice was authorised and ahead of their payment terms, in exchange for a small, pre-agreed rebate. The rebate was applied as the invoice was paid and was proportionate to how many days the payment was accelerated by. The Free Pay initiative also provided small businesses and suppliers with accelerated payments for free.

The Chief Officer (Governance) said there was an increasing percentage of contracts containing community benefits which was pleasing and provided a good model for internal collaboration that would be needed in relation to carbon reduction. He emphasised the importance of Free Pay and FastTrack for small local businesses.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Procurement Annual Report for 2021/22 be endorsed; and
- (b) That the progress with the FastTrack and Free Pay initiatives be noted.

**129. WEPRE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Councillor Healey introduced the report and said Wepre Park was one of Flintshire's finest parks and contained some of the most beautiful, culturally rich parkland in the region.

The park was important to thousands of visitors each year. The Management Plan set out the strategic direction and associated action plan for the next five years.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) said the report had been submitted to Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee where it was supported. Work has been undertaken with local Members and Friends of Wepre Park, the details of which were appended to the report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the new five-year management plan for Wepre park be endorsed.

**130. OPEN SPACES AND HIGHWAY MEMORIAL POLICY**

Councillor Healey introduced the report and explained that due to the increasing demand for memorials in an open space, countryside or highway setting, it was necessary to draw up a policy to ensure memorials were in keeping with the character of the local settings and its many and varied uses and users.

The report detailed the proposed policy and principles to ensure a consistent and sensitive approach to the provision of memorial requests.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) reiterated the importance of a sensitive approach being taken on something that was seeing an increase in demand. The Policy has been expanded to include highways.

The report had been submitted to Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee where it was supported.

In response to a question from Councillor Bithell, the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) confirmed that a Notice of Motion was submitted to County Council some years ago, which was supported, but it only related to Council land. Publicity on the policy would be required so that the public knew what was required of them and also give the Council a defensible position if structures were put up without any approval being sought.

**RESOLVED:**

That the policy be approved.

**131. AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Jones introduced the report which provided an update on the development of age friendly communities in Flintshire and sought support for the submission of an application for membership of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

Membership would provide a number of positive impacts. It would demonstrate Flintshire's commitment to supporting, valuing and celebrating its ageing population. It would also provide an opportunity to share best practice ideas and resources with other members.

Flintshire was one of a small number of counties that were currently developing plans to make an application. Cardiff recently attained membership, the first in Wales.

In Flintshire there was a long standing commitment to developing age friendly communities. The Flintshire Public Services Board prioritised in the Wellbeing Plan for Flintshire, the continued development of age friendly public services and communities.

Significant progress had been made over a number of years to build age and dementia friendly communities in Flintshire. That included the establishment of community cafes, action groups, information sharing, intergenerational projects and

digital inclusion initiatives. That work had set a firm foundation for further development and collaboration, aligned to the structure WHO network membership process.

Councillor Roberts thanked the Cabinet Member and the officers for their work on this initiative.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the progress being made to develop age friendly communities in Flintshire be noted;
- (b) That the proposal for Flintshire to submit an application for membership of the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities be approved; and
- (c) That a commitment be provided for the continued support of all Council services to collaborate with the Social Services team to make Flintshire a great place to live for the ageing population.

**132. REPORT BACK FROM THE CALL IN OF DECISION NO.4056 – WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW**

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) introduced the item and said that the authority was still at risk of a significant fine if the recycling targets were not met. Work was being undertaken to try to understand the reasons why the targets were not being met. In response to that, Councillor Roberts suggested that the report should be deferred until Cabinet in March which would also allow time for a meeting to take place with the Minister. That was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

That the item be deferred until the Cabinet meeting in March.

**133. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS**

An information item on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted. The actions were as set out below:-

**Education and Youth**

- **Queensferry Campus Site, Holywell. Transfer of Land to Valuation & Estates**

To declare sections of land at the Queensferry Learning Campus surplus to Education requirements, and to transfer to Valuation and Estates Team for the purpose of progressing the Community Asset Transfer of Ty Calon Community Centre and the associated land identified. This will enable Deeside Community Trust to access funding independent of the Local Authority constraints as previously agreed with COT.



- **Revenues**

Financial Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources to write off debts between £5k and £25k. An outstanding Business Rates debt from April 2014 to October 2016, amounting to £16,843.50 is now deemed irrecoverable and 'statute barred' and a write off is necessary.

**134. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.15 a.m.)

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**Chair**

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14 March 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2021/22
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council published its equality objectives and four year Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) in April 2020, fulfilling the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED), as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

The aim of equality objectives is to address the most significant issues and areas of inequality that face people with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on public sector organisations in Wales, requiring an annual report, which must outline progress on meeting the PSED and achieving the equality objectives, be published by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. The attached report is the Council's annual report that highlights the Council's progress in implementing the SEP and meeting our equality objectives during 2021/2022.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet note the progress made during the year to meet our statutory duties in relation to equalities.
2	Cabinet endorse the progress made against the Strategic Equality Plan 2021/22, prior to publication of the annual report on the Council website.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT
1.01	<p>The Council published its equality objectives and four year Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) in April 2020, fulfilling the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED) as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (“The Act”).</p> <p>The purpose of equality objectives is to address the most significant issues and areas of inequality that face people with protected characteristics. For example, disabled people, women, older people.</p>
1.02	<p>The Act requires that an annual report is produced which specifically outlines progress towards fulfilling each of the Council’s equality objectives and includes specified employment information, including information on training and pay (unless this has already been published). The report must be published by 31<sup>st</sup> March.</p>
1.03	<p>The Council’s Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report for 2021-22 is provided at <b>Appendix 1</b>. This is the second annual report for the SEP 2020-24 and highlights the Council’s progress in meeting our equality objectives during 2021/2022.</p>
1.04	<p>Areas of achievement in meeting the equality duties during 2021/22 are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the “Be-Kind on-line” initiative- encouraging children and adults to pledge to be kind on-line. This contributes to improving well-being and reducing identity-based bullying.</li> <li>• Development of a specific Dementia friendly webpage, acting as a directory of support services for people living with dementia and their carers.</li> <li>• 654 adaptations were made to the homes of Council tenants to ensure accommodation was suitable to their needs.</li> </ul>
1.05	<p>Whilst the Council is able to demonstrate progress in achieving its equality objectives, a number of areas have been identified for improvement, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection – systematic data collection across services to enable progress and equality outcomes to be measured more effectively. This will form part of the actions to meet Welsh Government’s (WG) Plan for an anti-racist Wales.</li> <li>• Impact assessments to be undertaken more consistently and where there is likely to be substantial impact. An action plan has been developed to address this and the recommendations of Audit Wales review of equality impact assessments by public bodies.</li> </ul>

1.06	<p><b>Further Information</b></p> <p>The production and publication of the annual Workforce Information Report and the Equal Pay Audit reports contribute to the Council’s Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report. This is because as they form part of the reporting requirements of the PSED.</p> <p>The Equal Pay Annual Report for 2021/221 has been published. The Workforce Information Report 2021/22 at the time of writing has yet to be published.</p>
1.07	<p>The Corporate Equality Board will contribute to ensuring that a focussed and joined-up approach is maintained across the Council to achieve our equality objectives, address any issues raised by Welsh Government and ultimately reduce inequalities.</p>
1.08	<p>A new action plan to support the Council to meet Welsh Government’s Anti-racist Wales Plan is being developed and this has been included as an action within the new Council Plan 2023-28, which is currently in development.</p> <p>Reports on progress towards this action plan will be included within the Council Plan performance reporting.</p>
1.09	<p>New equality objectives and a new Strategic Equality Plan will be developed during 2023/24, with a view to being in place for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p><b>Revenue/Capital:</b> There are no revenue / capital implications</p> <p><b>Human Resources:</b> There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<p><b>Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs)</b></p> <p>An integrated impact assessment is not required as this is a report on progress in meeting the Council’s equality objectives, which aim to have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics. A full impact assessment was completed on the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24.</p> <p>Under the five ways of working principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, this report will have the following impact:</p>

<b>Ways of Working</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Long-term	No change
Prevention	Positive impact through promoting equal access to services and information
Integration	No change
Collaboration	No change
Involvement	No change

**Well-being Goals Impact**

<b>Well-being Goal</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Prosperous Wales	No change
Resilient Wales	No change
Healthier Wales	Positive impact through reducing health inequalities
More equal Wales	Positive impact through increasing access to services and information for people with protected characteristics
Cohesive Wales	Positive impact through addressing hate crime and fostering good relations between people from different protected groups
Vibrant Wales	No change
Globally responsible Wales	No change

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Relevant officers, including the Corporate Equalities Board, were consulted to update the Annual Report.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2021/22

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<a href="#">Audit Wales: Equality Impact Assessments: more than a tick box exercise</a> <a href="#">Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24</a> Welsh Government: <a href="#">Anti-racist Wales action plan</a>

7.00	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Fiona Mocko, Strategic Policy Advisor  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702122  <b>E-mail:</b> fiona.mocko@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>Anti-racist Wales Plan:</b> a Welsh Government plan, setting out what action will be taken to make Wales an anti-racist nation.</p> <p><b>Audit Wales:</b> works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.</p> <p><b>Data collection:</b> is the collection and analysis of information on the profile of customers and employees. For example, people’s age range, disability, gender reassignment, ethnic group, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation to identify actual or potential inequalities.</p> <p><b>Equal Pay Audit:</b> an equal pay audit compares the pay of men and women and employees with other protected characteristics who are doing equal work. The aim is to identify any differences in pay, investigate the causes of any differences and take action to eliminate unequal pay that cannot be justified.</p> <p><b>Protected characteristics:</b> these are the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. The characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.</p> <p><b>PSED:</b> Public Sector Equality Duty, which places a General Duty and Specific Duty on public bodies. The General Duty requires public bodies to show due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and foster good relations. The Specific Duty in Wales requires public bodies to develop equality objectives and publish Strategic Equality Plans. It also includes the requirement to train employees, assess impact of decisions and undertake equality monitoring.</p> <p><b>Workforce Information Report:</b> as part of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council are required to collect and publish a range of information on the diversity profile of its workforce and key HR processes. This includes reports broken down by protected characteristic on recruitment and selection, those who leave the authority and employees who are subject to disciplinary and grievance procedures. The purpose is to analyse the data to identify areas where there may be potential or actual discrimination and to take action to address this.</p>

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# Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2021/22

*Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh*

We can provide this information in alternative formats or in your own language

Executive Office  
Corporate Services  
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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is available in Welsh

# Strategic Equality Plan

## Annual Report 2021/2022

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1. Strategic Equality Plan Progress Monitoring Report	
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## **Executive Summary**

Welcome to the second annual report for Flintshire County Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 which sets out the progress we made to achieve our seven equality objectives during 2021/22. The purpose of the Strategic Equality Plan is to reduce inequalities experienced by people with protected characteristics.

During the past 12 months, we have re-established our Corporate Equalities Board comprising membership of senior managers representing portfolios to ensure progress is made across Council services.

During 2021/22 we became a Council of Sanctuary (non-awarded status) recognising that we are working to create a culture of welcome, inclusion and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary.

We launched an initiative "Be-kind on-line" encouraging everyone to commit to five pledge to be kind on-line, rethinking our online behaviour and embrace respect, empathy and kindness and ultimately stopping cyber bullying.

To support our workforce we trained 106 employees to become Mental Health First Aiders. Mental Health First Aiders provide a point of contact in the workplace for an employee who is experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress. This interaction could range from having an initial conversation through to supporting the individual to get appropriate help in a crisis.

During 2022 – 2024 we will focus on improving awareness and knowledge of impact assessments to increase the quality and the number of impact assessments completed and develop the confidence of those completing impact assessments.

We will develop a specific action plan to reflect Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan. We are pleased to report that we had already implemented some actions, such as the electronic system for recording identity - based bullying in schools.

Neal Cockerton  
Chief Executive

Councillor Billy Mullin  
Deputy Leader of the Council  
(Governance) and Cabinet Member for  
Corporate Management and Assets

# Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2021/2022

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This annual report for the Council's [Strategic Equality Plan](#) (SEP) 2020-2024 covers the period April 2021 to March 2022. The report sets out progress to meet our [equality objectives](#) and provides a summary of achievements during this time.

1.2 The Equality Act 2010 introduces a general public sector duty to

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

1.3 The protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act are:

Age	Disability
Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership
Pregnancy and Maternity	Race
Religion and Belief	Sex
Sexual Orientation	

Our commitment to the Welsh language and treating English and Welsh languages on the basis of equality are set out in the [Welsh Language Compliance Notice](#). The action we have taken to meet our statutory responsibilities for Welsh language are covered in a separate [report](#).

The specific equality duties also require public bodies to: -

- publish objectives to address pay differences
- publish a statement setting out the steps it has taken or intends to take to meet the objectives and how long it expects to take to meet each objective
- produce an annual report by 31 March each year, which will include specified employment information, including information on training and pay
- engage with people from protected groups
- assess impact of new and revised policies on people from protected groups
- publish and use equality information

The purpose of the equality objectives is to reduce specific areas of inequality which were identified using both qualitative and quantitative evidence. We have also worked with the other public bodies across North Wales to identify regional equality objectives. Our local equality objectives and the evidence base used to identify the objectives can be found [here](#).








1.4 Alongside the [SEP](#) our work on equality is supported by a [Diversity and Equality policy](#) , and Plain Language Guide and delivered as part of various Council documents such as the Council Plan and Customer Strategy.

## 2. Progress

2.1 Our [equality objectives](#) and [Strategic Equality Plan](#) were published in March 2020. The action plan to meet the SEP is provided in Appendix 1; this also highlights the progress made to meet each action.

2.2 The following table sets out our performance towards achieving the actions we set ourselves for each objective, we have assessed ourselves using the following criteria:

- R** **Limited Progress** - delay in scheduled activity; not on track
- A** **Satisfactory Progress** - some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track
- G** **Good Progress** - activities completed on schedule, on track

Equality Objective	Progress
Improve health, well-being and social care outcomes including outcomes for older people and disabled people.	
Reduce gaps in educational attainment between protected groups and implement strategies to improve well-being	
Ensure equal pay within the workplace by having in place fair, open and transparent grading and salary strategies in place	
Improve personal safety for all protected groups	
Increasing access to participation to services and decision making for all protected groups	
Improve living standards of people with different protected characteristics	
Develop our knowledge of the socio-economic duty to protect people from poverty	

### 3. Meeting our Equality Objectives 2021/22

3.1 This section sets out our key achievements to meeting our seven equality objectives during 2021/22.

#### Objective 1: Improve health, well-being and social care outcomes including outcomes for older people and disabled people.

##### During 2021/22:

- We supported our employees' well-being by promoting our Employee Assistance Programme, Care First, and providing resources to support mental health and isolation, including videos and checklists.  
The Council now has a specific Dementia Friendly webpage: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Social-Services/Dementia.aspx..> [providing information on Dementia friendly services.](#)
- A co-produced Dementia Strategy for Flintshire was developed in 2021, in alignment with the North Wales Dementia Strategy and public consultation findings. The Dementia Friendly Council Action plan is being actively managed in collaboration with community groups. A new Dementia Project Board will be established in 2022 to continue the delivery of strategic priorities and actions.
- An increased number of employees attended Dementia. Awareness training:
  - 6 x Dementia Friends Sessions – 47 attendees
  - 4 x Dementia Awareness – 29 attendees
  - 1 x Stages of Dementia – 14 attendees
  - 1 x Dementia Complex issues – 17 attendees
- Social Services continued to work with Alzheimer's Society and North East Wales Carers' Information Service (NEWCIS) to maintain and develop Dementia Friendly Communities and the Dementia Friends network.
- All individuals with a diagnosis of a learning disability are entitled to have their completed annual health checks through their GP surgery. Social Services support those who need assistance to access their appointments. There is a new pathway being devised around "lab in a bag" each Learning Disability Team (multi agency team) are working towards this. We have now been given all the equipment and will be provided with training and for this programme to roll out. This will be to support those individuals who are not able to physically get to the GP surgery to have their annual health check. We will have a cluster link nurse for Flintshire based in our team who will complete the health check at home in line with the GP surgery.

## Example - Making a difference

106 employees have been trained as Mental Health First Aiders. Mental Health First Aiders provide a point of contact in the workplace for an employee who is experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress. This interaction could range from having an initial conversation through to supporting the individual to get appropriate help in a crisis.

## Objective 2: Reduce gaps in educational attainment between protected groups and implement strategies to improve well-being

### During 2021/22:

- We implemented the electronic system for recording and reporting identity-based bullying systems in schools.
- We raised awareness of identity-based bullying during anti bullying week
- Modern Slavery and County Lines virtual training was made available to school employees.
- The Inspire Pride youth group continued to run and face to face meetings are now being held.
- The levels of Year 11 pupils becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) after completing compulsory education remain very low at 1.2% of the overall year group despite the impact of the COVID pandemic.
- There has been a comprehensive offer of support to refugee families moving into Flintshire. This has included support to access and engage with education along with wrap around services to support the whole family to integrate successfully with the wider community.
- Forest Schools were delivered by qualified youth workers to young people identified by schools who they felt would benefit from this additional and targeted support. Forest School is based on a holistic approach to mental health and wellbeing and the beneficial effects of learning in a relaxed outdoor setting but within a structure where they feel their achievements can be recognised by others (youth workers and school etc.) but also, more importantly, by themselves. This leads to increased confidence and self-esteem and has a positive effect on mental health and wellbeing.
- “What Just Happened Project “– Flintshire’s Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) team launched a unique video highlighting insights into and reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic by young people and how it affected their lives. The video shows young actors voicing the thoughts and feelings of local young people and



- the scripted video shows a true reflection of how they coped during the last two years and how they have adapted to change.

### Example - Making a difference

The Youth Service consulted with young people on services they needed. One outcome of the consultation was that young people didn't know where to turn to for help in a crisis. The Team researched the best websites and organisations who could support young people, placing all the information in one leaflet, which has been circulated widely.



**Objective 3: Ensure equal pay within the workplace by having in place fair, open and transparent grading and salary strategies in place**

### During the past 12 months:

- We completed our 7<sup>th</sup> Equal Pay Audit inclusive of the characteristics Disability, Gender & Age, Ethnicity and Religion or Belief, with full consideration of both mean and median pay gaps, publishing its findings in November 2022. The full report is available on our [website](#). A summary is provided in section 5.0.
- Of the five Project SEARCH graduates three are now in full time employment of more than 16 hour per week, two of whom are employed by the Council. Project SEARCH is a transition to work programme committed to transforming the lives of young adults with a learning disability and autism or both.
- Of the seven graduates from 2020 five remain in full time employment of 16 or more hours per week. The remaining graduates are in voluntary positions and working with employability coaches to access paid employment.
- 23 people supported by Hft are now in paid employment, 45 were in voluntary placements, 10 on work experience and a number were job hunting with the support of the job coaches or on Project SEARCH. Hft are contracted by the

- Council to deliver and develop Day and Work opportunities across the county for adults with a learning disability.

### Example - Making a difference

Leticia, who following a rotation of roles at Llys Raddington Extra Care scheme as part of Project SEARCH, is now successfully employed by the Council as an activities co-ordinator, supporting residents to enjoy a range of social and craft activities.

## Objective 4: Improve personal safety for all protected groups

### During 2021/22:

- There were 265 reports of hate incidents in Flintshire in the period 2021/22.

Type of incident	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Racially motivated	37	84	76	99	92	126
Homophobic	6	26	29	40	39	61
Disability Related	9	8	14	20	38	65
Transphobic	1	0	1	4	7	7
Religious	6	5	9	5	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>265</b>

There was a significant increase in disability related and racially motivated hate crime during 2021/22- this seemed to be through increased neighbourhood disputes during COVID-19 restrictions. North Wales Police report that this increase is consistent with the regional and national picture and reflects the national campaigns that have taken place to increase reporting. There has also been greater engagement between groups in Flintshire such as Hft and North Wales Police raising the awareness of the importance of reporting.

- Although there has been an increase in reports of hate crime, it is still felt that hate crime is under reported across North Wales; action will continue to encourage reporting. Hate crime is included as a standing item at the North Wales Public Sector Equality Officers' Network.
- The members of North Wales Public Sector Equality Network (NWPSSEN) have worked together to encourage reporting of hate crime during Hate Crime Awareness week in October every year. We also published tweets alongside other public bodies to encourage people to report hate crime.

- We raised the Trans Flag on 20 November to commemorate the Transgender Day of Remembrance in memory of all Trans people who have lost their lives to Transphobic violence.
- We raised the Rainbow flag during LGBT History month to highlight our commitment to equality. The Rainbow flag is a symbol recognised as the celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Supported the White Ribbon Campaign for an end to violence against women.
- Over 73% of employees have now completed the Welsh Government's Violence against women e-learning training.
- 22% (1292) employees completed the Modern Slavery e-learning training.
- Victim Support continued to provide Hate Crime training which our employees attended.

### **Example - Making a difference**

We launched a new campaign called #FCCBeKindOnline in 2022 on Safer Internet Day.

The aim is to raise awareness of responsible use of the internet and social media and end cyber bullying in our communities. This means rethinking online behaviour and embrace respect, empathy and kindness.

The campaign also promotes the safe and positive use of digital channels when communicating with Council services.

A dedicated web page [flintshire.gov.uk/BeKindOnline](https://flintshire.gov.uk/BeKindOnline) has been set up for people to make 5 pledges to be kind online. Pledges can be made as an individual (young person or adult), a school, a business or a club/community organisation.

## **Objective 5: Increasing access to participation to services and decision making for all protected groups**

### **During 2021/22:**

- Young Voices Speak Out (YVSO), a group of young people who are looked after or leaving care aged between 13 and 18 years old, have continued to meet online to represent the voices of looked after children in Flintshire.
- Workshops and discussions have taken place covering health and relationships, and models of fostering.

- Members of this group regularly attend the Children's Services Forum, which is made up of Elected Members, Senior Managers and representatives from Children's Services and Education. At these meetings they share their views on topics which have included Housing, education and sexual health advice for young people. The group attended the first virtual Children's Services Forum in September and spoke about how the pandemic has affected them.
- The group have also interviewed candidates for the new staff for the Multi Systematic Therapy project and the Permanency and Court Team Manager position.
- People living with dementia, their carers, and those who work with them contributed to the development of a local Dementia Strategy.
- Young Carers have been involved in the development of a new service specification to help in the commissioning of a new service for Young Carers.
- The engagement was informal, via social media and meetings. Four young carers were also involved in the procurement process, interviewing all bidding organisations by asking questions they had chosen and had an equal say on the outcome of the procurement exercise.
- Young carers supported by North East Wales Carers Information Service (NEWCIS) continue to be active in the development of the regional young carers ID card, by designing posters and information. The ID Card Steering Group has also welcomed a young carer to support decision making using their lived experience.
- "Voices to be heard" is Hft's involvement group for the people they support. The group contributes to consultations about different issues affecting the service, gather feedback/suggestions on developments and use it to share information. The group have helped to develop the person specification and job advert for support workers following a session where they decided what makes and good and bad support worker. The group also reviewed and developed a smoking policy for all the sites in Flintshire.
- People with learning disabilities and their families were also consulted about how they would like to see the attendance payment budget reinvested into the service, some suggestions included a lunch club, trips out and more online activities. Some of the funding has also been invested into developing the UK's first Project SEARCH programme for over 25's.
- Families of individuals with Learning Disabilities have been part of commissioning a new supported living service for their loved ones. Two families agreed to be part of the commissioning process and attended several online meetings, provided feedback over email and were members of the interview and evaluation panels.
- The families voice influenced the service that was being commissioned and were part of selecting the provider that they believed would provide the best care to their loved ones. They also assisted in developing a transition plan that was right for them and their family member. The families felt informed, valued and involved throughout the process, and had an insight in to the processes a local authority goes through when developing services. The officers supporting the process gained a better understanding of the well-being outcomes of the individuals requiring care and support.
- 39% of home-based support was delivered via a direct payment.

- We marked year's International Women's Day by celebrating with our female councillors. Just over 24% of our councillors are female, we are committed to increasing the diversity of our councillors as part of our Diversity in Democracy action plan.

### Example - Making a difference

Families and individuals were invited to view a proposed new work opportunities site and give their input in to how the site should be developed. The building works, finished in December 2021, comprises four activity areas and a large accessible changing area for personal care for adults with learning disabilities. The individual and families influenced the layout and structure of the new site. As they were involved at an early stage they could make meaningful contributions to the final design. They were also able to influence the name of the new building –Hwb Dyffryn.



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<sup>1</sup> Female Flintshire County Councillors come together to support International Women's Day 2022

## Objective 6: Improve living standards of people with different protected characteristics

### During 2021/22:

- Tŷ Nyth is a property that has been acquired by the Council to provide short term residential accommodation for four children, plus one emergency room, for children aged 11 to 18 years.
- The expansion of Marleyfield House residential Care Home was completed in May 2021. It provides an additional 32 bedrooms with personal outdoor space. 16 of the beds are utilised for short term stays, supporting hospital discharge through a 'discharge to recover and assess' model, in conjunction with the Health Board. This is for those who are fit to leave hospital but may need further assessment and therapeutic support from a dedicated team based on site before they return home.
- A new Extra Care facility was opened, Plas Yr Ywen. Extra Care facilities are an extremely popular housing choice for older people. They offer the opportunity to live independently whilst having the support of an on-site care and support team, if needed.
- Glan Y Morfa house was opened and provide a temporary 'step up / step down' shared accommodation for people who have a physical disability. The people accessing the house may be homeless, or temporarily unable to return home due to planned adaptations being made to their existing home. Whilst at the house, the individuals are supported to improve their wellbeing and independence, so they can live as independently as possible when they have returned to their own or more permanent accommodation.
- Llys Yr Ial was opened, providing apartments for adults with learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities. Where there is an assessed need, individuals receive appropriate care and support to enable them to live independently. The support provided focuses on developing their skills and each person has become more independent since moving there.
- The rate of completion of small/priority adaptations to Council housing doubled.
- We completed 654 adaptations to our disabled tenants' homes to ensure their accommodation was suitable for their needs and enabling them to continue living in their own home. These ranged from small to large adaptations:
  - Installing grab rails, toilet seats, specialist taps, ramps.
  - Widening doorways, building paths.
  - Installing showers, stair lifts and hoists.
  - Making major internal and external alterations to properties.

## Example - Making a difference

We are continuing to participate in resettlement schemes for Afghan and Syrian nationals and families fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. We are the only authority in North Wales investing in caseworkers providing holistic packages of support, alongside statutory and third sector partners. This has been recognised as good practice by Welsh Government. One person who was originally supported through the resettlement scheme is now employed by the Council as a caseworker.

## Objective 7 Develop our knowledge of the socioeconomic duty to protect people from poverty

We continued to support people living in poverty during 221/22.

### During 2021/22:

- Presentations on the new duty were made to all elected members who sit on scrutiny committees.
- A financial well-being hub is available on the intranet providing employees guides and resources on budgeting and savings.
- The Council website includes a cost-of-living hub which includes sources of financial help and support available to individuals and households.
- There were 1224 applications for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and advice and support provided as part (DHP) application process.
- £395,349 (DHP allocation and additional Government funding) was spent supporting households due to impact of pandemic and cost of living rising costs.
- 3,000 plus Self Isolation Support Payment applications were granted.
- 140 plus households were provided with specialist advice and support, including Discretionary Assistance Fund, Warm Wales, Welsh Water, Supporting People service, Free School Meals and Uniforms.
- 2000 plus meals were delivered to families over half term and the Christmas holidays.
- The new Discretionary Grant Policy (2021) came into place, meaning adaptations of less than £10,000 could be approved without the requirement of means tests. This equated to 40% of medium sized adaptations being processed as discretionary.
- 8,672 applications were processed for Winter Fuel Payment Support Scheme, awarding 6,682 eligible customers with £200 towards their fuel bills.
- 10,070 customers received £150 towards the costs of their bills, in addition to the 32,000 customers automatically paid £150. We paid over 90% of the main

Cost of Living scheme payments (one of two local authorities achieving such high results against a Welsh average of 60%).

- The number of households supported to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and thereby contributing to the reduction in fuel poverty exceeded the target set for the year with 1293 measures being delivered against a target of 1,200.
- The number of support and referrals of vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing exceeded target with 204 households supported against a target of 200.
- We approved £424K 'house to home' loans to enable Empty Homes to be brought back into use.
- In 2021, over 160 children and young people aged 5-12 years benefited from SHEP in 6 schools, with over 2000 meals served during the 12-day programme. SHEP is the school holiday enrichment programme, provides healthy meals, food and nutrition education, physical activity and enrichment sessions to children in areas of social deprivation during the summer holidays.
- As part of the Period Dignity Grant a home subscription service was provided. This meant that products could be delivered to home addresses of children and young people directly with a suitable provider. A survey of users of this service was very positive with 96% agreeing the products were delivered in discreet packaging; 92% of responders saying they would recommend the providers' sanitary products to others and 91% of responders would consider using the provider again.
- 2057 orders were received within the 3 month period with the most orders from learners in Years 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

### **Example Making a difference**

#### **Flintshire Hey Girls**

Hey Girls were commissioned to deliver period products direct to homes of girls and young women aged 8-18 years providing they attended a school in Flintshire (including those who are electively home educated). Either the young people themselves, or the parents on their behalf, would choose the products for delivery from environmentally friendly options on a dedicated Hey Girls web page. These included reusable and disposable products

All schools were given appropriate information to share with their learners and families about this campaign, which in turn would reach those in underserved communities.

The benefit of this approach meant young people could select products of their choice and receive these discreetly.



## 4. Collating information and engagement

4.1 Systems have been developed within portfolios and services to capture and monitor the profile of our customers by protected characteristic. However, all the services are different and not all protected characteristics are captured on each system. There is insufficient data available for detailed analysis for most services. It is an ongoing action to improve data capture across services.

4.2 Categories used to collate diversity data are taken from the Census 2011, future data will be available from the Census 2021. Some communities have relatively low numbers which make statistical analysis difficult, in these cases, the results of national research and reports are used. The full results from Census 2021 will not be available until late 2022 onwards.

4.3 Despite the challenges in collating data, improvements have been made to our processes. We now:

- record the ethnic details of Social Service users. This is now a mandatory field on the Social Services client database, PARIS.
- monitor the profile of tenants, homelessness applicants and people on the housing waiting lists.
- record the profile of school pupils and school attainment levels.
- record and monitor diversity data to ensure there is no disproportionate representation of service users being supported by the Youth Justice Team.

4.4 Research has been undertaken by Gwynedd Council for the North Wales Public Sector Equality Network (NWPSSEN), a network of all North Wales public bodies' Equality Officers, to help identify the inequalities experienced by protected groups. This information is available for use by services.

4.5 NWPSSEN has developed an exemplar equality monitoring form with a Top Ten Tips Guidance note. This helps ensure consistency amongst the equality monitoring categories used by public bodies across North Wales and will contribute to more effective benchmarking.

4.6 Qualitative data is collated through other means such as surveys and focus groups and through engagement with local groups such as:

- Flintshire Disability Forum
- Flintshire Youth Forum
- Faith contacts
- Older People's Forum
- North Wales Regional Equality Network
- Race Equality First
- School's Councils
- Stonewall Cymru
- Travelling Ahead who work with Gypsies and Travellers
- Unique transgender group
- 50 plus Action Group

4.7 We have continued to work with the Regional Community Cohesion Team to strengthen engagement. During 2021/22 the Community Cohesion Team:

- developed a Cultural Community Drop-in, which was held weekly in the county which has led to greater engagement with Albanian and Polish community members;
- re-established links with the Chinese Women’s Network;
- contributed to the Community Chat engagement model to improve engagement with seldom heard groups to develop the Well-being Plan;
- hosted online Cultural Exchange meeting for members for a range of communities to exchange and share culture. Sessions are attended by a small number of active members from the Welsh, Syrian, Polish, Portuguese, Chinese, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender and Questioning plus (LGBTQ+) communities who wish to share and work together.

**4.8 Using information to meet the general duty**

The profile of customers/service users is compared against the profile of the community to identify areas of over/under representation or under achievement which enables services to set targets for improvement.

Using data in this way helps services to identify potential and actual areas of discrimination and also identify the opportunity to advance equality of opportunity through setting improvement targets which will be incorporated into the [SEP](#). This information has also been used to identify the [Council’s local equality objectives](#).

Comparisons of satisfaction levels and complaints and information from focus groups is also used to identify any areas of potential and actual discrimination and areas of community tensions which in turn contribute to identifying opportunities for advancing equality and for fostering good relations.

**4.9 Employment Information**

A full diversity profile of the workforce is published separately and includes information required by the specific duties of the Equality Act 2010. This can be found on our website.

**Workforce Composition**

Females	% Females	Males	% Males
5307	77.4%	1542	22.6 %

Qualitative information is gained through feedback from Trade Union representatives at the Joint Trade Union Consultative Committee and through the employee networks.

Qualitative and quantitative information is used to inform equality impact assessments on HR policies and practices and to identify areas of potential/actual inequalities which require further investigation.

**5.0 Equal Pay**

5.1 Equal pay is the equal payment of men and women for doing equal work as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

There are three kinds of equal work:

- like work is the same or broadly similar. It involves similar tasks which require similar knowledge and skills, and any differences in the work are not of practical importance.
- work rated as equivalent has been rated under a valid job evaluation scheme as being of equal value in terms of how demanding it is.
- work of equal value is not similar and has not been rated as equivalent, but is of equal value in terms of demands such as effort, skill and decision-making.

With regard to the Equal Pay requirements contained within the Equality Act, the Council will ensure there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of equality proofed Job Evaluation systems and processes which directly relate salaries to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.

5.2 A summary of the annual Equal Pay Audit by gender, disability, ethnicity and religion is set out below, the data was extracted from the Council’s HR and Payroll system “iTrent” on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Relief workers were not included in the data extract. However, temporary employees were included. Data was analysed for all employees irrespective of their terms and conditions to provide an overall gender pay gap, with further analysis focusing on certain groups of employees.

The full Equal Pay Audit is available on our [website](#).

**5.3 Gender – Pay Gap.**

5.3.1 From the data extract taken on 31st March 2022, the Council had 6849 (occupied positions). This is not a head count number as a significant proportion of employees hold multiple positions across the organisation. This is an increase of 72 (occupied positions) from the 2021 audit.

<b>Gender</b>			
<b>Females</b>	<b>% Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>% Males</b>
5307	77.4%	1542	22.6 %

22.6%

77.4%



5.3.2 There are 6849 permanent occupied positions (staff records) for employees of Flintshire County Council across the full range of terms and conditions of employment. This is not a head count number as a significant number of our employees hold multiple positions across the organisation.

The following table provides a breakdown of all terms and conditions, gender numbers and the average salaries for each group.

**Table 1: Average Salary for Males and Females on different terms and conditions**

Payment Table	Female Count	Female Average Salary	Male Count	Male Average Salary	Total Count	Total Average Salary	Gender Pay Gap
Chief Officers/Chief Executive	2	£94,837.00	4	£108,771.25	6	£104,126.50	12.81%
Head Teachers	118	£59,841.03	80	£62,919.21	198	£61,084.74	4.89%
Local Rates			2	£2,467.00	2	£2,467.00	100.00%
Members			1	£1,200.00	1	£1,200.00	100.00%
National Trainees	11	£16,291.54	19	£17,179.94	30	£16,873.59	5.17%
NJC Pay Table 2019	4097	£22,964.61	1128	£27,167.51	5225	£23,871.96	15.47%
Occupational Health Nurses (New)	2	£46,123.00	0	£0.00	2	£46,123.00	N/A
Single Status Pay Scale (2014)	0	£0.00	1	£0.00	1	£0.00	N/A
Soulbury/Y&C Officers/Ed. Psychos	19	£51,913.00	3	£53,441.00	22	£52,121.36	2.86%
Teachers - Basic Scale	990	£38,923.49	280	£38,864.76	1270	£38,910.54	-0.15%
Teachers - Unqualified (Assimilated)	11	£25,914.55	6	£24,220.33	17	£25,316.59	-6.99%
Unison Pay Structure	1	£22,025.00	0	£0.00	1	£22,025.00	N/A
Youth Workers	43	£25,465.56	17	£25,144.41	60	£25,374.57	-1.28%
Occupational Health Nurses	2	£38,973.50	0	£0.00	2	£38,973.50	N/A
(blank)	11	£0.00	1	£0.00	12	£0.00	N/A
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5307</b>	<b>£26,929.70</b>	<b>1542</b>	<b>£31,208.67</b>	<b>6849</b>	<b>£27,893.80</b>	<b>13.71%</b>

5.4.3 Overall, the average salary for women across all grades and terms and conditions is £26,929.70 and the average salary for men across all grades and terms and conditions is £31,208.67 giving an overall **gender pay gap of 13.71%**. This is

using the mean method of calculating average pay. This is a slight reduction on last year (2021) which was 13.75%

### 5.5 Disability – Pay Gap

**Table 2: Disability analysis of all employees**

Disabled	Number	Percentage	Average Salary
No	4316	63.02%	£28,135.96
Not Known	475	6.94%	£29,864.79
Yes	179	2.61%	£26,256.44
(blank)	1879	27.43%	£26,993.98
Grand Total	6849	100.00%	£27,893.80

*Note: It has not been possible to produce a meaningful view of a grade-by-grade comparison and of occupational segregation due to low numbers, as noted above.*

5.5.1 There are a significant number of employees who have not declared their disability status or for whom this status is not known and this makes it difficult to undertake a robust analysis of pay by disability status. Out of the 6849 records across all County Council employees, 179 (**2.61%**) have disclosed a disability, 4316 (**63.02%**) have declared themselves as not disabled and 2058 (**30.04%**) have not disclosed any information in relation to a disability. The data has improved since the 2021 audit (35.75% hadn't disclosed) with a decrease in the numbers of employees who have not disclosed their disability status. However, there is still **30.04%** of the workforce who have not declared.

### 5.6 Ethnicity- Pay Gap

**Table 3: Ethnicity Pay Gap**

Ethnic Origin	Number	Percentage	Average Salary
White	4552	66.46%	£28,604.76
BME	48	0.70%	£36,209.67
Blank/Prefer not to say	2249	32.84%	£26,422.06

5.6.1 There are significant number of staff who have chosen not to disclose their ethnicity or who have not provided any information on their ethnic origin (32.84%). This has slightly improved from 2021, where the figure was 33.98% but, this makes it difficult to undertake a robust analysis of pay by ethnicity.

5.6.2 4,552 employees have disclosed their ethnicity as “white” (**66.46%**) and 48 employees have disclosed their ethnicity as BME (Black or Minority Ethnic) (**0.70 %.**)

Please note the ethnic profile of Flintshire County is 97.6% white (2021 census – Office for National Statistics). The Ethnicity pay gap is -26.59% which shows that BME employees earn on average 26.59% more than those who have disclosed their ethnicity as White. However due to high number of employees who have not stated their ethnicity or we do not have the information this is not considered to be robust enough for meaningful data.

**5.7 Religion - Pay Gap**

**Table 4: Religion Pay Gap**

Religion	Count	%	Average Salary
Christian	2251	32.87%	£28,290.39
None	1402	20.47%	£26,623.97
Prefer Not to Say/Blank	3077	44.93%	£28,002.84
Non- Christian	119	1.74%	£26,332.46
Grand Total	6849	100.00%	£27,893.80

5.7.1 The proportion of the total population of employees who have declared their religion or belief as Christian is **32.87%** and **1.74 %** have declared another religion or belief (such as Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh or other), with 20.47% declaring no religion. For **44.93%** religion or belief is unknown. However due to high number of employees who have not stated their religion or we do not have the information this is not considered to be robust enough for meaningful data.

**5.8 Closing the pay gap**

5.8.1 To date we have already made significant progress to tackle some of the challenges, for example:

- Introduction of a new pay and grading structure in April 2019 including the introduction of Senior Management grades to reduce the pay gap between the Chief Officers and other employees.
- Ongoing maintenance of job evaluation scores to stop grade drift and ensure a consistency of approach in the application of the job evaluation scheme.
- Comprehensive work/life balance policies to encourage a more flexible workforce.

5.8.2 Flintshire County Council is committed to reducing the gender pay gap and intends to continue addressing the following areas:

- Gender monitoring - data will be refreshed and republished annually and this data will remain on our website for comparison purposes.
- Focus on marketing Family Friendly policies and procedures.
- Review the provision of flexible and alternative ways of working.
- Minimise any negative impacts from pay and grading structures - reviewing our pay and grading structure in 2023/2024 to ensure as an organisation our pay and grading structure is modern, equitable and fit for purpose. As part of this exercise, we are also reviewing and updating our school support staff role profiles to ensure they are relevant and fit for purpose.
- Provide Policy to practice training to support managers understand how their role can support equality and diversity within the workplace.
- We will continue to expand the variety of apprenticeships offered ensuring young people are developing skills in areas of growth and demand which enhances employability
- Reduce data gaps - We continue to have gaps in our data and will continue to encourage employees to update their diversity data when commencing new roles or through the self-serve iTrent portal.

## 5.9 Summary

5.9.1 Over the last five years our gender pay gap improved year on year, however we have seen a very marginal increase this year.

**Table 5: Gender pay gap by year**

Gender Pay Gap	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Overall	16.96%	13.65%	13.40%	13.11%	13.75%	13.71%
NJC/Green Book	18.60%	16.22%	15.45%	15.00%	15.37%	15.47%

## Priorities

Our four priorities to address known pay gaps during the next 12 months are:

### Action 1:

We will continue to encourage staff to complete the optional equality data questionnaire over the next year through various means such as:

- sharing a message twice a year to remind people that the information can be changed, e.g. in a situation where a member of staff has got married or has had a long-term illness
- reminding anyone who has not completed it of the need to do so

- discussing with individual Service Manager to discover the best methods of reaching their workforce

### **Action 2:**

- We will continue to support flexible working as a mechanism to support women and other workers with caring, home schooling or other commitments
- We will encourage uptake of shared parental leave,
- We will continue to review and improve our support for staff experiencing disability as a result of a mental health condition.
- We will review our pre-employment medical checks, to encourage better discussions with staff from the start of their employment regarding disability/underlying health conditions, to help reduce stigma/concern around reporting disability, and better enable us to identify and make reasonable adjustments.
- We will work with existing staff regarding recognition of what disability in the workplace means to improve our reporting levels and understanding of our disability representation, and better enable us to support their progression / make reasonable adjustments

## **6.0 Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)**

6.1 Equality impact assessments (EIA) is one of the methods being used to mainstream equality and to support services identify specific equality targets.

6.2 A regional template has been developed by NWPSen which include Equality, Welsh language and Socio-economic impacts. This was shared with both the Equality and Human Rights Commission and Welsh Language Commissioner to seek their feedback before being adopted by NWPSen members. This has now been incorporated within our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) developed to capture the relevant information required for a range of impact assessments- including environment, health, poverty and Welsh language. Guidance notes are available for each protected characteristic to support IIA authors.

6.3 IIAs must be included within all our strategic committee reports to ensure decision makers understand the impacts of their decisions.

6.4 Periodic reviews of committee reports are undertaken to sample impact assessments to:

- Ensure they are being completed by report authors for relevant reports
- Sample the quality of the content.
- Ensure they are available for decision makers



The outcomes of the review is reported to the Council's Chief Officer Team with recommendations for improvements.

6.5 Bespoke impact assessment training is available for teams in addition to an e-learning programme.

## 7.0 Training

7.1 Details of how we promote understanding and knowledge about equality is set out in the [SEP](#). There are two e-learning packages specifically on equality: -

- Equality Act 2010 – completed by 1,363 employees, 23% of the workforce.
- Equality in the Workplace – completed by 1,459 employees, 25% of the workforce.

7.2 These are supported by e-learning packages on:

- Modern slavery – completed by 1292 employees, 22% of the workforce
- Hate crime – completed by 1400 employees, 23% of the workforce.
- Safeguarding - completed by 1402 employees, 24% of the workforce
- Trans awareness completed by 147 employees, 2% of the workforce
- Violence Against Women and Domestic Abuse Welsh Government e-learning package – this has been completed by 4361 employees, 73% of the workforce.

7.3 Diversity and equality is also included in:

- Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) programme at all levels.
- E-learning modules for new managers.
- Corporate induction

7.4 During 2021/22 in addition to the e-learning programmes, workshops were delivered on: -

- Hate Crime awareness training was delivered by Victim Support.
- Modern Slavery including County Lines training delivered by North Wales police. County Lines refers to the transportation of illegal drugs from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries, usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced by gangs.
- The Regional Community Cohesion Team also facilitated workshops on:
  - Impact of sport on anti- social behaviour and youth crime
  - Gypsy and Travellers awareness
  - Modern Day Slavery

## 8.0 Procurement

8.1 Details of how equality is embedded into the procurement process is set out in the [SEP](#). Equality questions are included within our pre-qualification questionnaire

(PQQ) for all tenders. In addition, Modern Slavery has been included as an element of the PQQ, this looks at actions potential contractors are taking to eliminate modern day slavery within their workforce and supply chains. Furthermore, social value clauses are included within contracts over £1 million; contracts of £10,000 include an element of social value in the scoring methods. We have approved a new strategy to increase the social value generated from our procurement activity. Equality is included within our community benefit clauses. Future annual reports will include social value outcomes such as increase of apprenticeship and employment opportunities and health and well-being outcomes.

8.2 We have signed up to Welsh Government's Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains. We have committed to a set of actions to tackle illegal and unfair employment practices. We publish an annual [Modern Slavery statement](#), this sets out the actions we will take to ensure there is no modern slavery within our supply chains.

## 9.0 Conclusion




9.1 This report outlines the progress we are making to meet both the general and specific public sector equality duties. It is however clear that collating some data to monitor progress has been challenging. Our priorities are to:






- Continue to collect data to support robust analysis – Social Services will work towards complying with Welsh Government's Census for Social Services in Wales.
- Develop a suite of accessible recruitment documents to ensure the process is inclusive and accessible to the learning disability community.
- Relocate Croes Atti Care Home to a modern building, with an additional 25 new rooms, almost doubling the number of placements currently available, with further capacity for 'discharge to recover and assess' provision within the county.
- Review our pay and grading structure in 2022 to ensure as an organisation our pay and grading structure is modern, equitable and fit for purpose.
- Develop and implement an action plan to achieve Welsh Government's plan for an anti-racist Wales.





**Thank you for reading our Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report  
2021/22.**




## Appendix 1 Strategic Equality Plan Action Plan 2020- 2024




### 2021/22 Progress




Strategic Equality Plan- Action Plan Year 1 2021/22		
Objective 1: Improve health, well-being and social care outcomes including outcomes for older people and disabled people.		
Action	Who	Progress
We will support people to achieve their Health, Well-being and social care outcomes through providing care and support.	Service Managers	This is on-going and new actions are being developed to achieve this.  
We will give people more choice and control over the care and support they receive, which will further reduce inequalities for people with protected characteristics	Service Manager (Disability Services)	On-going and further actions are being developed to implement during 2022-24  
Ensure people with sensory impairment, including people who are deafblind can access Information, Advice and Assistance and/or Care and Support, reducing inequality to access and support.	Commissioning Manager	On-going and further actions are being developed to implement during 2022-24  
We will Actively Offer Care and Support through the medium of Welsh, reducing risks of inequality or discrimination.	Commissioning Manager	The active offer is maintained in all Social Services communications and engagement, including integrated equality impact assessments

		
We will Actively Offer Advocacy to people when assessing their needs for care and support, reducing risks of inequality or discrimination.	Commissioning Manager	On-going and further actions are being developed to implement during 2022-24 
We will support people to achieve their health, well-being and personal outcomes in care and support settings reducing the likelihood of discrimination and inequality	Commissioning Manager	On-going and further actions are being developed to implement during 2022-24 
We will support people to with protected characteristics to remain independent and able to live at home, particularly when impacted by age or disability.	Service Manager (Older People)	On-going. 
We will support people at the earliest opportunity through early intervention and preventative support	Service Managers	On-going and further actions are being developed to implement during 2022-24 
Develop and implement a local model of 'Team around the Individual' to support those living with dementia.	Commissioning Manager	A new home and community support model has been introduced, incorporating nighttime respite support workers, dementia support workers and an allied health professionals' therapies team.




		
Implement an action plan to ensure we retain “Working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly” organisation status	Commissioning Manager	A Flintshire Dementia Strategy has been developed. This is aligned with the North Wales Regional Dementia Strategy and aims to improve the lives of people living with dementia, and their carers and families, within more informed and supportive communities.  
We will support carers to continue in their caring role	Commissioning Manager	We are supporting carers and continue to work with NEWCIS (an organisation providing support to unpaid carers). We have also established a network to support our employees who are carers.  
Develop and implement an action plan in response to the research we have commissioned into the health needs of Travellers.	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	Health needs assessment completed by Public Health Wales- waiting final report.  


Develop a transit site for Travellers to reduce the number of unauthorised encampments at unsafe and unhealthy locations and improve access to health services.	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	Proposed site included in Local Development Plan (LDP). Waiting outcome from Planning Inspectorate for Wales. 
Work with Community Midwife Team and Vaccination Team to increase take up of Traveller children receiving MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	Work ongoing with Public Health Wales (PHW) and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) 
Implement a Health and Well-being strategy for our employees and introduce initiatives to improve our employees' mental health	Senior manager HR and OD	The Strategy is currently in progress. Additional health related benefits will be made available as part of our eRewards platform. We have introduced a new financial well-being hub on the intranet. Additional annual leave is being introduced from October 2022 to help with employee well-being 
<b>Objective 2: Reduce gaps in educational attainment between protected groups and implement strategies to improve well-being</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Implement an electronic system to record and report on identity-based bullying in schools	Learning Advisor, Health, Well-being and Safeguarding	Reporting System in place and being used by schools.




		
Monitor Estyn Inspection Reports and identify any equalities issues in schools to target support to school	Senior Manager School Improvement	Estyn inspections for schools resumed during the summer term of 2022. Any recommendations from inspections are followed up through the school's improvement cycle. Progress against recommendations are monitored by GwE and the Local Authority. Only one recommendation has identified any equality issues. – improving diversity in the curriculum. 
Monitor compliance by all schools on the Wales Government Respecting Others (statutory guidance)	Learning Advisor, Health, Well-being and Safeguarding	All schools requested to complete safeguarding audit tool and end of year report by March 2022. This exercise identified schools that do not have an up-to-date bullying policy. Schools will be followed up once the audits / reports have been analysed. 
Monitor school exclusion rates by protected groups to target support to schools.	Senior Manager Inclusion	Monitoring has now commenced and includes pupils on free school meals and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) as well as by protected characteristic. The Team is addressing potential disproportionality within pupils with ALN cohort.





		<p>Boys are more likely to be excluded from schools, consistent with national trends.</p> <p>Regular monitoring taking place half termly on attendance so any trends or concerns can be identified and addressed quickly.</p> <p></p>
Monitor persistent school absenteeism by protected characteristic	Senior Manager Inclusion	<p>Regular data reviews were undertaken half termly to identify vulnerable individuals. The Inclusion Welfare team visited any children identified as vulnerable. Inclusion Welfare Officers (IWO) have been trained to profile attendance trends within secondary school bases.</p> <p>Setting up strategic group to work with Travelling community to improve engagement in education.</p> <p></p>
Raise awareness of identify based bullying during anti-bullying week	Learning Advisor, Health, Well-being and Safeguarding	<p>The Anti-bullying Alliance coordinated Anti-Bullying Week between 15th-19th Nov 2021. The 2021 theme was 'One Kind Word'. Information and signposting to resources shared with schools</p> <p></p>












Ensure all schools access modern slavery training	Learning Advisor, Health, Well-being and Safeguarding	Training was not provided in 2021/22 as North Wales Police no longer had the capacity to deliver. A new provider is being sought. 
Ensure all primary schools access “Getting on Together” including Black Lives Matters resources and training	Learning Advisor, Health, Well-being and Safeguarding	Training delivered to primary schools-(Key stage 2) and secondary schools (Key Stages 3 and 4). Hard copies of teaching resources circulated to schools and electronic versions available on website. Excellent take up of this training by schools. 
Reduce the gap and educational attainment level for those eligible/for /receiving free school meals.	Senior Manager School Improvement	National and local aggregation and reporting of performance data was paused by the Welsh Government in response to the pandemic. The Welsh Government has recently announced that reporting of key stage 4 outcomes will restart for an interim period, broken down by gender and eligibility for free school meals. 





Continue to grow/expand LGBT Youth group and prepare for face-to-face contact as COVID restrictions ease	Information and Involvement Officer	<p>The Inspire Pride group continues to run and any young person working with Inspire from Flintshire can attend the group, this is now face to face. During 2022/23 the Youth Service will be working with Theatr Clwyd to consult with young LGBTQ+ people. Partnership work will take place with Viva (an organisation supporting LGBT+ young people in North Wales) to increase provision available in the county.</p> <p>A partnership between Integrated Youth Provision and Theatre Clwyd was established and a LGBT+ group was created after a consultation event with young people in April 2022. The group runs fortnightly on a Tuesday alternative Tuesdays to Inspire sessions so LGBT+ young people have access to a range of groups. This partnership will continue until October 2022.</p> <p></p>
Monitor Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people entering youth justice system	Youth Justice Manager	Completed – no disproportionately identified. Reports are provided to the Youth Justice Board.




		
Monitor the impact of the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) delegated to schools to close the attainment gap for pupils receiving free school meals.	Senior Manager School Improvement Systems	All schools publish an outline plan of how they are using their pupil development grant allocation. Supporting improvement advisers from the regional school improvement service work with individual schools to evaluate the impact of the grant on outcomes for their learners. National and local aggregation and reporting of performance data was paused by the Welsh Government in response to the pandemic. The Welsh Government has recently announced that reporting of key stage 4 outcomes will restart for an interim period, broken down by gender and eligibility for free school meals.  
Raise profile of STEM subjects to pupils from a Black and minority ethnic background	Senior Manager School Improvement	Work to further promote STEM subjects is included where relevant in the support plans for schools. The reporting of performance data at local authority and national level was paused due to COVID-19.  

Provide revised Trans policy guidance and resources to schools	Learning Advisor, Health, Well-being and Safeguarding	Currently on hold pending Welsh Government Guidance expected in 2023. Schools are piloting resources Jigsaw Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) ahead of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) being included in the Curriculum for Wales.  
<b>Objective 3 Ensure equal pay within the workplace by having in place fair, open and transparent grading and salary strategies in place</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Undertake an annual equal pay audit and develop an action to reduce the pay difference between men and women and other protected groups	HR Policy and Reward Officer	Report has been published 
Support people with learning disabilities to gain paid employment through Project Search.	Planning and Development Team	Four interns secured employment of more than 16 hours a week. Seven new interns have been taken on  
Achieve Level 3 Disability Confident Leader – DWP Disability Confident Employer	HR Policy and Reward Officer	We have started to review actions required to achieve level 3  






Continue to work with the “Clean Slate Cymru” project an initiative funded by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to support Refugees and Travellers secure employment	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	Four Syrian Refugee males have been referred to the programme for vocational training 
Continue to collate diversity data from employees to increase response rate	HR Business Information Officer	Diversity data continues to be collated. Non-schools data is captured at recruitment stage, however, there are still gaps in school data. IT are progressing two factor authentication to enable roll out of Employee Self Service to Schools employees. 
Undertake annual workforce equality monitoring and develop an action plan to address and reduce any inequalities	HR Business Information Officer	Report to be published 
Undertake annual equality monitoring of our apprentices to identify under representation and develop action plan to address any inequalities	HR Business Information Officer	Report to provide apprentices data produced separately. 
Identify opportunities to use positive action to reduce inequalities	Strategic Policy Advisor	Analysis to take place following publication of report 




Develop a strategic and consistent approach to embedding social value in the procurement process to increase apprenticeship opportunities to disabled people, people from a Black and minority ethnic background and women	Social Value Development Officer	Social value has been embedded in procurement for all contracts over £25k and mandatory for contracts over £1m. Outcomes will be reported on from 2022 onwards 
Increase the number of employees who complete the equality e-learning modules	Strategic Policy Advisor	All employees were encouraged to complete e-learning modules throughout the year. Numbers completing equality e-learning modules: Equality Act -23% Equality in the Workplace -25% 
<b>Objective 4: Improve personal safety for all protected groups</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Continue training employees in key teams to recognise and report a hate motivated incident and hate crime	Regional Community Cohesion Officer	Regular Hate crime training is provided through the Victim Support 
Raise awareness of hate incidents and hate crime in schools through the Welsh Government, Community Cohesion Grant	Strategic Policy Advisor /Regional Community Cohesion Officer	Training was delivered across schools in Flintshire 






Develop initiatives to promote community cohesion through the Regional Community Cohesion Grant	Strategic Policy Advisor /Regional Community Cohesion Officer	A range of activities were undertaken by the Regional Community Cohesion Team including the Diverse Together project, bringing people from different backgrounds together virtually 
Participate in LGBT History month	Strategic Policy Advisor	A virtual celebration was held through raising the Rainbow flag and promoting through social media and a press release 
Participate in the annual hate crime awareness week to increase reports across all protected characteristics.	Strategic Policy Advisor	We worked with the North Wales Public Sector Equality Officer Network promoting information through social media 
Increase the number of employees who complete the Welsh Government's Domestic Violence against women e-learning modules.	HR Business Information Officer	73% employees have now completed the training 
Increase the number of employees who attend Modern Slavery training	Strategic Policy Advisor	22% employees completed the Modern Slavery e-learning training



		
<b>Objective 5: Increasing access to participation to services and decision making for all protected groups</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Put in place equality monitoring processes in key services to identify potential barriers to access	Strategic Policy Advisor	This action is being included as part of the Anti-racist Wales action plan. 
Complete review of website to ensure it meets accessibility standards	Digital Solutions Architect	Weekly checks are being completed to check compliance. A Council wide web group has been established to ensure the website meets the accessibility standards. 
Review opportunities to improve access to public transport for disabled and older people	Transport Manager	Introduction of the Fflecsi responsive transport service in Holywell. There is an on-going review of the county local travel arrangements (LTA) and development of the active travel network. The school streets concept is continuing across the county.



		
Develop an activity plan for the new model of Archive Services which positively targets the engagement of protected groups	Principal Archivist	Submission made to Heritage Lottery for funding. A new submission being made for reduced funding. 
Secure Welsh Government funding enable WiFi on Traveller sites including the transit site	Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer	Application has been submitted to Welsh Government. 
Work with Aura (leisure services) and Street Games to provide organised sports activities on our own Traveller sites	Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer	This is in place and activities are on-going 
<b>Objective 6: Improve living standards of people with different protected characteristics</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Develop plan for a transit site for Travellers	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	Proposed site included in Local Development Plan (LDP). Waiting outcome from Planning Inspectorate for Wales. Decision due October 2022 

Improve toilets, washrooms and kitchen facilities on the Council owned Traveller site	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	This was completed August 2020 
Commission contractor to improve greenspaces and play spaces for children on Traveller site.	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	Street furniture for outdoor games and hard core five a side pitch now in place. Play equipment such as footballs, tennis rackets, tennis balls and skipping ropes has been supplied to young people living on our site. 
Become a Resettlement area for Asylum Seekers and Refugees	Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer	We are now in negotiation with Home Office and Clearsprings, the accommodation provider for the Home Office. 
<b>Objective 7 Develop our knowledge of the socio-economic duty to protect people from poverty</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Provide free sanitary products in secondary schools	Learning Advisor – Health, Well-being & Safeguarding	Hey Girls were commissioned to deliver period products direct to homes of girls and young women aged 8-18 years providing they attended a school in Flintshire (including those who are electively home educated. They young people
Provide free sanitary products in primary schools	Learning Advisor – Health, Well-being & Safeguarding	

		<p>or parents can now order products on-line</p> <p></p>
<p>Maximize the numbers attending the SHEP (School Holiday Enrichment Programme) school holiday lunchtime programme - four sites offering lunches will be available per year. 40 places will be offered on each site</p>	<p>Learning Advisor – Health, Well-being &amp; Safeguarding</p>	<p>Over 160 children and young people aged 5-12 years benefitted from SHEP in 6 schools, with over 2000 meals served during the 12-day programme</p> <p></p>
<p>Implement Welsh Government's guidance on the Socio-economic duty</p>	<p>Strategic Policy Advisor</p>	<p>Training was provided to all scrutiny committees to make them aware of the new legislation. Welsh Government guidance was also shared with elected members.</p> <p></p>
<p>Continue to raise awareness of Council Tax Reduction scheme and ensure that all low-income households are aware of what they are entitled to and how they can make a claim.</p>	<p>Team Manager – Benefits Assessment</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p></p>
<p>Continue to raise awareness of the Welfare Reform Team who can support any customers impacted by Welfare Reform changes or who are simply struggling financially.</p>	<p>Welfare Reform Team Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p></p>

Continue to raise awareness to ensure all low-income households are aware they may be eligible to receive Free School Meals and a uniform Grant	Team Manager – Grants and Performance	Ongoing 
Provide holistic and financial support to those customers who find themselves in financial difficulty before they fall into poverty.	Welfare Reform Team Manager	Ongoing 



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Grass Cutting Policy Review: Managing Road Verges and Amenity Grasslands to Support Biodiversity
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to a request from the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee, an all-member workshop was held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to learn more about the management of road verges and amenity grasslands, wildflowers and biodiversity. In particular, members sought to find out about the use of pesticides and gain an understanding of existing policies, the action taken to date and opportunities available to us as a local authority. The workshop was a joint portfolio event, which was facilitated by officers from both the Planning, Environment & Economy (PE&E) portfolio and Streetscene & Transportation (S&T) portfolio.

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities must maintain and enhance biodiversity. Sympathetic mowing of road verges and amenity grasslands can help meet this duty.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work undertaken to date and consider the opportunities for policy review in the future.

In addition, as a portfolio, Streetscene & Transportation routinely reports on the annual performance of the grass cutting service to the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee for assurance purposes. This report therefore also includes an update for Cabinet on the performance of the service during 2022.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet supports the work undertaken to date and considers the opportunities to increase biodiversity in managing our road verges and amenity grasslands.
2.	That Cabinet approves the proposed changes to the grass cutting policy and supports the targeted reduction in the use of pesticides.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW OF HOW THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MANAGES ROAD VERGES AND AMENITY GRASSLANDS TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY</b>
1.01	In response to a request from the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee, an all-member workshop was held on Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 to learn more about the management of road verges and amenity grasslands, wildflowers and biodiversity. In particular, members sought to find out about the use of pesticides and gain an understanding of existing policies, the action taken to date and opportunities available to us as a local authority. The workshop was a joint portfolio event, which was facilitated by officers from both the Planning, Environment & Economy (PE&E) portfolio and Streetscene & Transportation (S&T) portfolio.
1.02	Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities must maintain and enhance biodiversity. Sympathetic mowing of road verges and amenity grasslands can help meet this duty. The Act states that all public authorities are required, when undertaking their functions in Wales, to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity wherever possible within the proper exercise of their functions. In doing so, public authorities must also seek to promote the resilience of ecosystems.
1.03	In 2019, Welsh Government declared a climate emergency, and in 2021, the Senedd declared a ‘nature emergency’ in recognition of human induced declines in biodiversity. The 2019 State of Nature Report highlights that 17% of 3,902 species assessed in Wales are threatened with extinction.
1.04	As a Council, we support the declarations made by Welsh Government and, in December 2019, elected members approved a motion to develop a clear Climate Change Strategy, which set key aims and actions for creating a carbon neutral organisation. Some of the ongoing work and projects that we have undertaken include the publication of our “Supporting nature in Flintshire” biodiversity duty plan and we are continuing to work to support biodiversity protection and increase the proportion of Council land managed for biodiversity in Flintshire. This includes increasing the areas with reduced mowing regimes to enhance biodiversity and increase carbon storage.
1.05	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of decisions and is all about working with local communities, taking a more joined up approach, looking to prevent persistent problems in order improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and impact of our actions on future generations.</p> <p>The goal of a Resilient Wales is to reverse the decline of our biodiverse natural environment, develop a better awareness of our impacts as individuals and organisations, ensure we are ecologically resilient, with healthy ecosystems, and to support community wellbeing.</p>
1.06	As outlined, an all-member workshop was delivered jointly by S&T and PE&E officers to present the need for change to a more biodiverse focus on our grassland management regimes and explore the options in each area of grass management.

1.07	<p>The workshop addressed the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature emergency and importance of local biodiversity</li> <li>• Grassland habitat requirements</li> <li>• Nature isn't Neat: addressing key concerns</li> <li>• Use of Pesticides</li> <li>• Flintshire action to date: our support for changes</li> <li>• Overview of the existing grass cutting policy and opportunities: road verges and amenity grasslands</li> </ul> <p>The workshop was well attended with approximately 30 members showing broad support for the reduction/cessation of the use of pesticides by the authority and its contractors, along with the options being presented for change of grass cutting policy standards.</p>
1.08	<p>The grass cutting policy options and opportunities to increase biodiversity are outlined in <b>Appendix 2</b> and the proposals were presented to the Environment &amp; Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023; which were supported.</p> <p>As the 2023 grass cutting season has already commenced, this does mean that any changes to the policy would need to be reflected in working practices over the course of the season.</p> <p>Safety will remain the priority for grass cutting and there will be limited opportunities for certain areas, such as rural road verges and visibility splays. However, there are opportunities to collect cuttings when we cut on flat verges, which could reduce the number of cuts required.</p> <p>The main changes proposed to the policy include reduced mowing on all suitable verges (avoiding visibility splays and banks), allowing the grass/wildflowers to grow in certain areas and increasing the number of areas included in reduced mow or wildflower management to improve the biodiversity.</p>
1.09	<p>As a portfolio, Streetscene &amp; Transportation routinely reports on the annual performance of the grass cutting service to the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee for assurance purposes, which was presented as part of the report on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This section provides an update to Cabinet on the performance of the grass cutting service during 2022, which helps us to plan the following season's operations, as well as inform the policy review and changes to practices.</p> <p><u>Grass Cutting Season – Performance Overview (March 2022 – October 2022)</u></p> <p>The 2022 season began on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 with reduced crews in light of COVID risk assessments at that time, which limited the number of operatives working together. Five crews were able to carry out grass cutting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022, including the cemetery grounds management team.</p> <p>Crew availability was also affected by the winter maintenance schedule, as many operatives from the grounds team were being regularly employed for road gritting operations.</p>

	Full scale grass cutting operations were realised from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 with all crews undertaking the rounds as per the planned grass cutting schedule. Due to the adversely hot weather in July 2022, the teams were 'stood down' between 18/07/22 and 31/07/22 and no cuts took place during that period.																		
1.10	<p>Performance status on 31<sup>st</sup> October as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Cuts Completed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4/5</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cemeteries</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Appendix 1</b> provides further details of the performance in relation to the schedule of the grass cutting rounds for the 2022 season.</p>	Area	Cuts Completed	1	8	2	8	3	8	4/5	8	6	9	7	8	8	8	Cemeteries	9
Area	Cuts Completed																		
1	8																		
2	8																		
3	8																		
4/5	8																		
6	9																		
7	8																		
8	8																		
Cemeteries	9																		
1.11	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p>The management team is currently exploring avenues to deliver a more efficient service for the 2023 season. These include changes to working patterns, adoption of new working practices and delivering additional work streams in-house such as tenants' gardens and hedge cutting.</p>																		
1.12	The acquisition of a new tractor flail arm via Welsh Government grant funding will also help to increase productivity and reduce HAVS exposure. Biodiversity sites are due to increase, which will allow resources to be redirected to other areas of the business and increase the flexibility of the workforce. Partnerships with Countryside Services are in development to facilitate more collaborative working and shared resources, and we are also exploring the opportunities available through social enterprise.																		
1.13	<p>At the member workshop in January 2023, members expressed a level of concern around the use of pesticides, particularly around the harmful effects on human health, wildlife and animals, and the carcinogenic properties of such chemicals. There was broad support by members for targeted reduction of pesticides and the use of alternatives, such as mechanical removal of weeds or organic sprays or opt-out schemes.</p> <p>Targeted reduction would involve stopping the use of chemical herbicides within town centres, school grounds and green spaces, for example in parks or recreational areas, along with excluding the use of chemical herbicides in contracted services, such as the schools' grounds maintenance contract, and using alternative weed control methods instead (E.g. heat-based methods, organic sprays, manual/mechanical removal methods).</p>																		
1.14	Grant funding has been made available by the Welsh Government for Local Places for Nature (LPfN) and a grant funding has already been received for the purchase of new plant and equipment for wildflower and weed control in 2022-2023. A further bid is being prepared for 2023-2024.																		



	<p>The aim of Local Places for Nature (LPfN) is to restore and enhance natural capital assets across Wales. Local Places for Nature intends to create Nature on Your Doorstep, where people live, work and access public services. LPfN contributes to wider biodiversity aims, but at a local level rather than landscape scale, creating nature in the 'everyday places'.</p> <p>LPfN is a bottom up programme and focuses on areas of deprivation, urban and peri-urban areas or those with little or no access to nature. The ethos is fundamentally about behavioural change and, if people engage with nature, they value nature and will take steps to restore and enhance nature.</p>
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p>Flintshire County Council is committed to sustainability in its own operations, as well as across the county more widely through the climate change agenda and carbon reduction.</p> <p><b>Revenue:</b> The portfolio is currently carrying an in-year revenue pressure of £43k, over and above the £30k revenue budget available for the weed spraying contract, which came about following the recommendation of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee to split the contract into separate areas to ensure more resilience in the supply market. This has been included as an additional cost pressure in the budget for 2023-2024.</p> <p>Any further changes to the policy would need to take into account the impact on future revenue budgets. The current national and local financial position is under increasing pressure and there is little prospect of the portfolio being able to allocate any substantial increase in revenue funding to this non-statutory service provision; consequently, the ongoing impacts of budget reductions will continue to impose a downward pressure on revenue budgets.</p> <p>Any suggested and endorsed options would need to be costed and would need to be deliverable within current budgets. Any future MTFS budget solutions to settle a balance budget that reduce grass cutting standards would need to be addressed and may not align to the biodiversity options supported by the Scrutiny Committee and by members at the January 2023 workshop.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> There may be implications for the approved capital programme for 2023-2024 and future financial years for the procurement of plant and equipment. Any capital or revenue commitment will need to be supported through a business case approach, taking account of full costs and possible income sources. The authority will continue to capitalise on any opportunities for grant funding for the development of the service, such as new or replacement plant and equipment.</p> <p><b>Staff / Recruitment:</b> The grounds management team appointed three newly promoted charge hands in 2022, who all performed well, adapting to their new roles and adding value to the operation as a whole. Many of the agency staff employed to supplement the teams for the summer season have subsequently been appointed into permanent roles further reducing the cost of the operation.</p>

**Plant and Equipment:** The McConnell RC28 Robo Cutter, which is the mower used to cut grass on slopes and steep banks, was subject to a recall due to reliability issues and, as such, the team are now trialling the larger RC56 model, which is more suited to steep inclines and bank maintenance. The replacement tractor has performed well with very little down time for repairs and a higher level of quality and performance. The teams have also trialled battery mowers, trimmers and chainsaws, with a view to replacing petrol equipment and reducing the carbon cost of the operation. The battery tools also dramatically reduce staff exposure to HAVS. The intention is to replace all petrol equipment with battery powered units over the next 3 years.

**3.00 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

3.01 A full integrated impact assessment will be required as part of the review of the grass cutting policy. This strategy and the outcome of the review is expected to have a positive differential impact on all protected characteristics.

**Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact**

Long-term	Positive impact - the proposed changes to the policy will enhance the local environment by creating habitat for wildlife, insects and pollinators etc. Areas where wildflowers have been allowed to develop and flourish will enhance the visual aesthetics of roadside verges and amenity areas and provide residents and visitors with a 'feel good' factor. This in turn will contribute to the reduction of our carbon footprint and create a more sustainable environment for residents now and for future generations. The changes to the policy aim to increase the awareness of biodiversity and promote the benefits in terms of health and well-being.
Prevention	Positive impact - the revised management regime will make road verges and amenity grasslands (parks and other open green spaces) more wildlife friendly. Regularly cut, closely mown grass may look tidy, but it has little benefit for wildlife. Letting grass grow and having more meadow-like areas with wildflowers helps wildlife. Changes in grass cutting regimes with cuts timed to benefit wildflowers and pollinators will support the council's biodiversity duty and climate change strategy and create habitat for wildlife, insects and pollinators, whilst also reducing our carbon footprint. A reduction in the use of glyphosate and other herbicides / pesticides.
Integration	Positive impact – the review of the policy will need to integrate with other existing strategies, policies and plans of the Council, such as the Place Making Plans, Climate Change Strategy and the Council's Well-Being Objectives. It will have a positive impact on the local community and enhance their local environments, which will create a more resilient and healthier environment across all communities.
Collaboration	Positive impact – The proposed changes will enable closer collaborative working with other portfolios, such as Planning, Economy and Environment and facilitate partnership working with Countryside Services and the Biodiversity

	team, as well as voluntary sector and local community groups,
Involvement	As a result of the global pandemic, many council services were suspended for an extended period of time, including grass cutting operations and grounds maintenance. This temporary pause or reduction in service allowed many green areas across the county to flourish with wildflowers, which drew comments from the local community, both positive and negative. The involvement of elected members and the local communities in choosing which green spaces within their areas to be nominated for wildflower meadows and habitat for wildlife will be extremely important.

### Well-being Goals Impact

The review of the grass cutting policy will need to have due regard for the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The policy review and inclusion of biodiversity helps to achieve all seven of the well-being goals as set out below.

Prosperous Wales	Positive impact - the proposed changes to the policy will enhance the local environment by creating habitat for wildlife, insects and pollinators etc. Areas where wildflowers have been allowed to develop and flourish will enhance the visual aesthetics of roadside verges and amenity areas and provide residents and visitors with a 'feel good' factor. This in turn will contribute to the reduction of our carbon footprint and create a more sustainable environment for residents now and for future generations. Additionally, Biodiversity and resilient ecosystems provide important opportunities for economic activity and attracting more tourism to the area, which can often involve the promotion of our natural resources, such as parks and gardens.
Resilient Wales	Positive impact – The alternative grassland management regime proposed in the policy review will not only support the council's biodiversity duty and climate change strategy, but it will also assist with reducing our carbon footprint.
Healthier Wales	The proposals aim to create a more resilient and healthier environment across all communities. Accessible natural spaces can provide direct health benefits, such as encouraging more physical activity (e.g. cycling, walking) and improved mental health and well-being. For example, as well as supporting wildlife, people enjoy seeing wildflowers.

More equal Wales	Equal access to natural spaces would contribute to equality and will have a positive impact on all local communities, enhancing their local environments irrespective of background and circumstances.
Cohesive Wales	More biodiverse green spaces will enhance the local environment and make them more attractive for residents, visitors and wildlife. Communities engaging in the management of their local open spaces has been demonstrated to contribute to an increase in social cohesion and a reduction in Anti-social behaviour.
Vibrant Wales	The proposed changes to the policy will promote and protect the culture, heritage and the Welsh language, by encouraging people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation in the outdoors and experiencing nature.
Globally responsible Wales	Sustainable management of amenity grasslands will help to reduce the carbon footprint and ensure that grass cutting operations do not have an environmental impact.
<p>Flintshire County Council together with its partners will support the health and well-being of both the current and future generations through the following strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs</li> <li>• Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities</li> <li>• Limiting the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint</li> <li>• Enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth</li> <li>• Supporting people in need to live as well as they can</li> <li>• Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities</li> </ul>	

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	With the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
4.02	An all-member workshop was held on 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2023. A copy of the workshop presentations is shown in <b>Appendix 3</b> and feedback from the session will be shared with the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet members.
4.03	With the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Grass Cutting Performance 2022 Appendix 2 – Grass Cutting Policy Review & Biodiversity Opportunities Appendix 3 – Biodiversity & Grass Cutting Member Workshop Slides

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Welsh Government’s policy and strategy for managing road verges and amenity grassland to support biodiversity:  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/road-verges-and-amenity-grasslands-supporting-wildlife">https://www.gov.wales/road-verges-and-amenity-grasslands-supporting-wildlife</a>
6.02	Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (section 6): guidance for public authorities:  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/biodiversity-and-resilience-ecosystems-duty-section-6-guidance-public-authorities">https://www.gov.wales/biodiversity-and-resilience-ecosystems-duty-section-6-guidance-public-authorities</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Barry Wilkinson, Highway Network Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704656 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:barry.wilkinson@flintshire.gov.uk">barry.wilkinson@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<b>Biodiversity</b> ('biological diversity') = The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat.  <b>Ecosystem</b> = A functioning unit made up of living organisms (plants / animals / micro-organisms) within their non-living environment (air / water / minerals / soil) and all the diverse and complex interactions that take place between them.  <b>Resilience of ecosystems</b> = A resilient ecosystem has the ability to respond to disturbance by resisting damage and recovering quickly.

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### Appendix 1 - Grass Cutting Performance 2022

Week	28/02/2022	07/03/2022	14/03/2022	21/03/2022	28/03/2022	04/04/2022	11/04/2022
ROUND 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ROUND 2		1	1	1	1	1	1
ROUND 3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ROUND 4	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
ROUND 5		1	1	1	1	1	1
ROUND 6		1	1	1	1	1	1
ROUND 7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CEMS	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
TRACTOR					1	1	1

← Grass round chargehands out of service due to WM bubble →

Week	18/04/2022	25/04/2022	02/05/2022	09/05/2022	16/05/2022	23/05/2022	30/05/2022
ROUND 1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4
ROUND 2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4
ROUND 3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
ROUND 4	2	2	2	3	3	3	4
ROUND 5	2	2	3	3	3	4	4
ROUND 6	2	2	3	3	3	3	4
ROUND 7	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
CEMS	2	3	3	3	4	4	4
TRACTOR	2	2	2	3	3	3	3

Winter maintenance operatives / chargehands returned to service

Week	06/06/2022	13/06/2022	20/06/2022	27/06/2022	04/07/2022	11/07/2022	18/07/2022
ROUND 1	4	4	4	5	5	6	
ROUND 2	4	5	5	5	5	6	
ROUND 3	4	5	5	5	6	6	
ROUND 4	4	5	5	5	5	6	
ROUND 5	4	5	5	6	6	6	
ROUND 6	4	5	5	5	5	6	
ROUND 7	4	4	4	5	5	6	
CEMS	5	5	5	6	6	6	
TRACTOR	4	4	5	5	5	6	

Week	25/07/2022	01/08/2022	08/08/2022	15/08/2022	22/08/2022	29/08/2022	05/09/2022
ROUND 1		6	6	6	7	7	8
ROUND 2		6	6	7	7	7	7
ROUND 3		6	6	7	7	7	7
ROUND 4		6	7	7	7	7	8
ROUND 5		7	7	7	8	8	9
ROUND 6		6	6	6	7	7	7
ROUND 7		6	6	6	7	7	7
CEMS		6	7	7	8	8	8
TRACTOR		6	6	7	7	7	7

Week	12/09/2022	19/09/2022	26/09/2022	03/10/2022	10/10/2022	17/10/2022
<b>ROUND 1</b>	8	8	8	9	9	9
<b>ROUND 2</b>	8	8	8	8	9	9
<b>ROUND 3</b>	8	8	8	8	9	9
<b>ROUND 4</b>	8	8	9	9	9	9
<b>ROUND 5</b>	9	9	9	10	10	10
<b>ROUND 6</b>	8	8	8	9	9	9
<b>ROUND 7</b>	8	8	8	8	9	9
<b>CEMS</b>	9	9	9	10	10	10
<b>TRACTOR</b>	8	8	8	8	9	9



## Appendix 2 – Grass Cutting Policy Review & Options for Biodiversity

### Grass Cutting Policy (January 2018) (current)

#### Biodiversity opportunities highlighted in red text (Jan 2023)

#### 1. Roadside verges

- a) Rural Verges (outside 40mph) – 1 cut per year in July (subject to weather conditions); 1 swathe width on all principal roads; 1 swathe width on all non-principal and unclassified roads

Visibility splays at junctions 4 cuts per year in –

- April
- June
- August
- September/October

Full width verge cutting for weed and self-sown sapling control on all classifications of rural roads once every 4 years in September/October.

Additional cuts may be carried out on Health and Safety grounds in specific locations as identified by the Area Coordinators.

#### Rural Verges:

- Safety remains the priority
- Limited opportunity
- Opportunity to collect cuttings when we cut on flat verges – looking into bank mowers

#### Option A – Visibility splays:

- Opportunity to collect cuttings – longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity

- b) Urban verges (within 40 mph zones) – 4 cuts per year

- April
- June
- August
- September/October

#### Option A – Reduced mow on all suitable verges (avoiding banks and visibility cuts)

Letting the grass/wildflowers grow, with a cut and collect once a year between August and October

(Targeted initial communities a possibility but adds complexities)

#### Option B – retain cuts - collect all cuttings – on flat verges

(longer term impact reduce vigour of grasses- less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity (Dorset approach)

- c) Cyclic

Cyclic routes on county dual carriageways

## Appendix 2 – Grass Cutting Policy Review & Options for Biodiversity

Cyclic routes receive 2 cuts a year (1m swathe cut in April-July and a full cut in September)

**Option A - Retain first cut as existing.**

Collect all cuttings on the second full cut where possible.

Trial cyclic cut and collect 2023 on the most appropriate cyclic route (A548 Gronant or DIP suggested).

### 2. Amenity Areas

Maximum of 13 cuts per year as required.

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions.

Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

(Removal of grass cuttings will only take place in exceptional circumstances i.e. First-Cut of the season)

**Option A - Increase area under reduced mow or wildflower management gradually through existing process.**

**Option B - Opportunity to introduce collection of cuttings on flat areas – longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity**

### 3. Public footpaths / Cycle Routes

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required, to prevent rural footways being lost to grass ingress and verge creep due to lack of usage.

**No change proposed**

### 4. Hedges

The majority of highway hedges are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. Where the hedge has grown to an extent that it is causing an obstruction to the highway user, notice will be served on the landowner to cut the hedge accordingly. Highway hedges owned by the Council will be cut once a year after the nesting season has passed.

**Highway hedges managed by the Council will be cut a maximum of once a year, outside of the nesting season.**

**Option A - Management timed between Jan - Feb maintains the availability of berries and nuts as a food source for birds and other wildlife.**

**Allow 2 – 4 years between cuts where possible**

### 5. Bus-stops

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required across the grassed areas either side of rural Bus-stops, up to 20 metres across the length of the stop.

## Appendix 2 – Grass Cutting Policy Review & Options for Biodiversity

**Option A** - Retain cuts but introduce collection of cuttings– longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity

### 6. Village / Town Gateways

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required across the grassed areas either side of Village/Town

Gateways signs, up to 10 metres either side of the gateway.

**Option A** - Retain cuts but introduce collection of cuttings – longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity

### 7. Recreation Sports Grounds

Up to 16 cuts per year March to October. Subject to separate procurement arrangements and direct liaison with the Schools.

No change proposed

## Appendix 2 – Grass Cutting Policy Review & Options for Biodiversity

### 8. Cemeteries

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions. Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

(Removal of grass cuttings will only take place in exceptional circumstances. i.e. First-Cut of the season)

Additional key dates outside of the cutting season to include Christmas and Mothering Sunday.

No change proposed continued implementation of wildflower areas in cemeteries

### 9. Tenants Gardens

Where tenants have requested and qualify for the assisted gardening service. The service is provided by contractors who will provide the following:

Maximum of 13 cuts per year as required.

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions.

Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

**Option A** - Collection of cuttings when cutting tenants lawns if not already done

**Option B** - Allow tenants to opt into a 'wildlife friendly' service for reduced mow to allow grass to grow (cut and collect once a year Aug - Oct).

Additional offer for wildflower enhancement could be coordinated by biodiversity officer. Resident engagement could also be supported by the biodiversity team.

Additions to the current policy –

### 10. Reduced mow/Wildflower Areas

Allow to grow then 1 cut and collect per year between August – November

### 11. Natural regeneration Areas

Areas to be identified for natural regeneration for carbon capture and biodiversity only requiring essential management for safety.

# Biodiversity Member Workshop 24.01.2023

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**Environment & Economy Overview &  
Scrutiny Committee**

# Agenda / Format for the Workshop

- Welcome and introductions
- Purpose and background to the workshop
- The nature emergency and importance of local biodiversity
- Grassland habitat requirements
- Nature isn't Neat: addressing key concerns
- Use of Pesticides
- Flintshire action to date: our support for changes
- Overview of the existing grass cutting policy and opportunities: road verges and amenity grasslands
- Interactive session / Q&A
- Summary and Next Steps
- Machinery demo

# Purpose and background

- Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee forward work programme
- Member enquiries
- Climate Change and Reducing Carbon Footprint
- Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act
- Flintshire Climate Change Strategy (Feb 2022)
- Climate Change Programme Board
- Council Plan – Green Council
- Joint portfolio workshop – one Council

# The importance of local biodiversity



# A nature crisis

- The UK is among the most nature depleted counties on the planet
- On average populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish have dropped by 69% since 1970
- 1 million species are threatened with extinction , many within decades

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*“The damage we are inflicting on species and ecosystems is so extensive and profound that scientists now believe we are witnessing Earth’s sixth mass extinction event—the last one marked the end of the dinosaurs.”*

*—David Attenborough*

# Exhibit 3 - Five Major Factors Drive Biodiversity Loss

1

## Land-use and sea-use change

Habitat conversion (e.g., deforestation), habitat fragmentation, and degradation through overintensive use of ecosystems

4

## Pollution of soil, water, and air

Release of harmful substances (e.g., through excessive chemical use) into ecosystems; also, light and noise pollution

2

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## Direct overexploitation

Overexploitation of animals, plants, and ecosystems in general (e.g., from poaching, unsustainable logging, or overfishing)

5

## Spread of invasive species

Plants, animals, or other nonnative organisms entering or expanding their presence in a given habitat

3

## Climate change

Shifts in temperature, precipitation, and wind flows caused by increased levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

Source: IPBES, "Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" (2019)  
(Ref: The 2023 BCG report: *The biodiversity crisis is a business crisis*)

# The importance of nature

## Ecosystem services:

- Clean air and water
- Healthy soil
- Pollination and Food
- Decomposition
- Water regulation

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## Health and Wellbeing:

- Improved mental and physical health



# Biodiversity related risk

## Risks of inaction

- Breakdown of ecosystem services, flooding food supply chains
- Increased regulation and associated costs
- Reputational risk

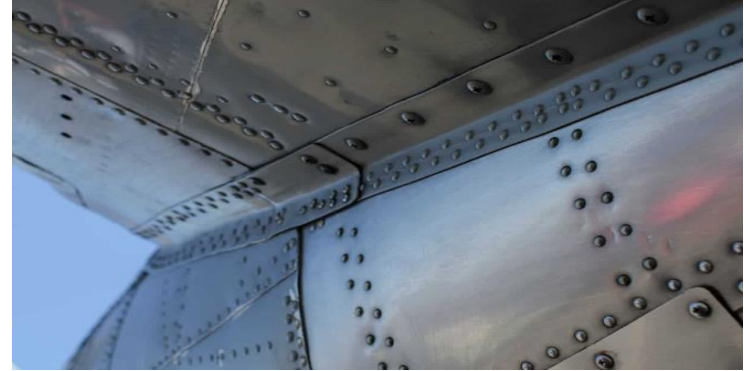
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# Does it matter if we lose species?

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- Loss of species from an ecosystem likened to randomly popping out rivets from the wing of an aeroplane
- Remove one or two and the plane will probably be fine
- Remove 10/20/50 = catastrophic failure
- Nature loss – creeping normality due to its reduction and our disconnection



# The Hazel dormouse in Flintshire

Species decline is evident locally

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# The Hazel dormouse: Decline

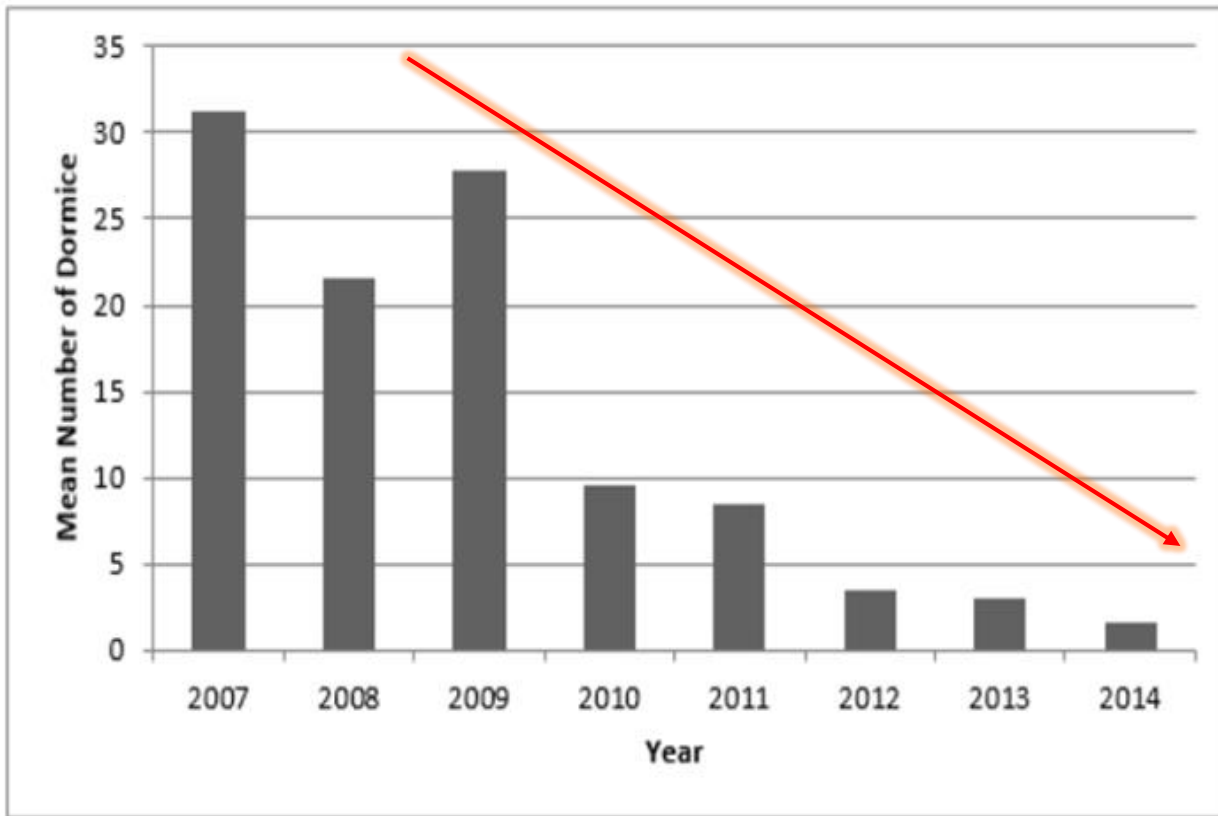


Figure 3.1 shows the average for all the sites each year, this shows that there is a steady decline in the *M. avellanarius* population in Flintshire with a peak in the mean count in 2009 of 27.8.

# Nature legislation and policy



- Legislation
- Regional Plans and Policies
- Flintshire Plans and Policies
- COP 15 – 30% of our land by 2030
- Welsh Biodiversity targets forthcoming



# Local Action and Impact

- £450,000 in grant funding for biodiversity projects and temporary staffing enabled:
- >5000 trees
- 100 swift boxes
- T/C Councils nature suggestions
- Greener development conference
- housing maintenance works to incorporate biodiversity features
- contaminated land for biodiversity
- Regional biodiversity awards (4/7 Flintshire winners)
- School nature proposals
- Burial sites survey/nature proposals
- Ongoing: Flintshire forest, green infrastructure, Streetscene

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## We can enable success through:

- Collaboration
- Working across departments
- Working across sectors
- Being open to change
- Fostering political and public support

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*“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.”* Dr Jane Goodall



# Overview of Grasslands and Management in Flintshire

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Page 99

# Wildflower Meadows

**Wildlife meadows have suffered catastrophic declines. Between the 1930s and 1980s, 97% were lost across England and Wales**

**Traditionally grasslands are managed by grazing and the collection of hay. This avoids enrichment and maintains an abundance of wildflowers.**

**Introduction of fertiliser and intensive grazing or silage management meant vigorous grasses survived and wildflowers disappeared.**



# Value of Verges

- » The 500,000 kilometres of road verges that span the UK are equivalent to half of the remaining flower-rich grassland. (Plantlife 2019)
- » Road verges are a vital refuge for wildlife, including 45 per cent of our flora.
- » Wildflower-rich meadows and grasslands are a crucial reserve for declining pollinators.
- » Permanent grasslands including wildflower-rich meadows are an important store of carbon
- » Permanent grasslands can reduce the impact of flooding.

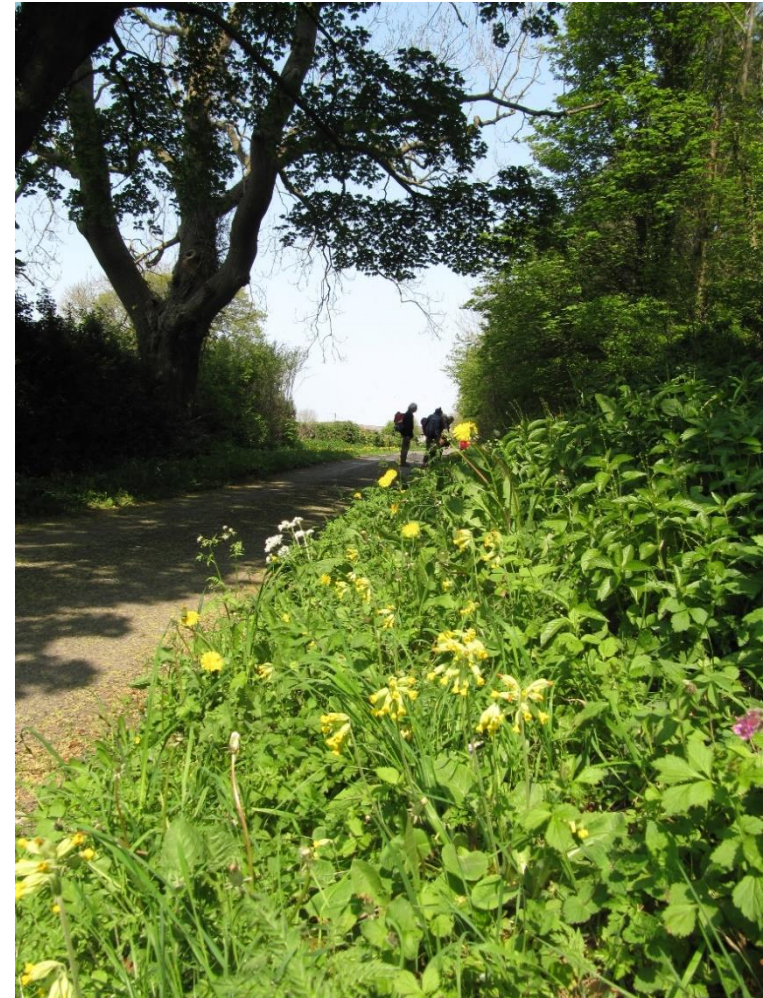




# Natural Connections

- » Verges act as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife
- » They provide people contact with their natural environment
- » Science tells us we are healthier and happier around nature.

Page 102



# Amenity Grassland Management

- » **Mown grassland has minimal wildflowers and the lack of structure means there is very little refuge for wildlife.**
- » **Short grassland can be transformed into a wildflower meadow by reduced cutting**
- » **New grasslands can be created through the use of wildflower seed BUT.....**

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# To manage or not?

- » Most wildflowers are associated with low fertility soils.
- » No cut results in an increase in tall grasses and herbs such as Nettle and Hogweed and bramble.
- » If cut and left, the cuttings lead to an increase in nutrients and the tall grasses dominate.
- » Use of herbicides has a similar effect.
- » Cut and collect reduces the layer of thatch and opens up the soil surface to allow seed germination. If repeated slower growing species are encouraged that over time require less management

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# Timing of management

- » **Vital that wildflowers are able to complete their life cycle and set seed.**
- » **Verges with woodland spring flowers have an earlier life cycle compared to wildflower meadows.**
- » ***Plantlife 2019: Managing grasslands and road verges***

»  
Page 105





# Legislation and Protected Sites

Environment Act 2016  
s6 Biodiversity Duty

Be Aware of designated verges  
L Buckley Commons SSSI  
Lalkyn Mountain SSSI  
Herward Smithy SSSI



Page 106

# Not alone!

## La richesse naturelle de nos routes départementales

Pour préserver la biodiversité des abords de nos routes, le Conseil général du Doubs met en œuvre une méthode de gestion écologique : *le fauchage tardif*

Le Conseil général du Doubs gère 3700 km de routes départementales, ce qui représente également une superficie de plus de 3000 ha de dépendances (accotements, talus), dont la biodiversité doit être préservée. À cet effet, dans une démarche de développement durable, le Département a souhaité mettre en place en partenariat avec le Conservatoire régional des Espaces Naturels (Espace naturel Comtois), un mode de gestion respectueux de la flore et de la faune des talus routiers.

Les talus routiers servent de refuge à de nombreuses plantes et animaux, dont certains très rares et protégés. Plus de 300 espèces différentes peuvent être dénombrées sur les bords de routes, et certaines zones abritent des espèces remarquables telles que l'Ophrys Abeille, une orchidée protégée, et le rare papillon Azuré de la Croisette.

**La priorité :** concilier sécurité routière et environnement. La première passe de fauchage privilégie la visibilité pour les usagers. Le deuxième fauchage, tardif, permet à la flore d'achever son cycle annuel de développement.

**Les enjeux :** des routes sûres et fleuries, une biodiversité préservée.



Azuré de la Croisette, inféodé à la Gentiane Croisette présente sur les talus routiers.



Le lézard vert, une espèce protégée

### Fauche d'entretien d'un talus routier : les principes du fauchage tardif



# Nature isn't Neat

And other concerns

# Safety

- Resident and motorist safety will always be our **top priority**

Page 109

Internal consultation process



# Recreational Use

- All P1 sites are excluded from reduced mow
- Consider impact on recreational use of a space
- Healthy and diverse places which encourage recreational use.

# There is no scientific evidence to suggest long grass encourages parasites

- The presence of ticks related to deer/livestock, than type of vegetation
- Ticks associated with damp habitats
- Study evidenced longer lawns with no ticks

# Small Mammals

- Improving biodiversity, Creating habitat for nature
- That includes small mammals, some species prefer longer grass' whereas others do not.
- Small mammals are attracted into homes by food and shelter



# Fire Risk

- Wildflower or reduced mow areas will not accumulate a thick grassy thatch which increases biomass and fire risk due to the cut and collect management
- In cases of extremely dry summer weather fire breaks can be cut in larger areas of long grass

# Behaviour

- Concerns regarding behaviour associated with longer grass/wildflowers include:
- Antisocial behaviour
- ~~Page 11~~ Titter
- Dog fouling
  
- Need to address the cause of the problem not the symptom
- Creating nature devoid places will not solve behavioural issues
- Support improved behaviour at sites

# Neatness

- Biggest concern when consulting on reduced mow or wildflower areas
- Perspective
- Short mown lawns: social norm associated with being cared for, neat, security and wealth

# Perception

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# Nature isn't neat

But we can demonstrate that sites are cared for and intentional and promote the multiple benefits

- Page 17
- Appropriate locations
  - Mown borders and desire lines
  - Reduced management is clearly intentional
  - Interpretation/Signage
  - Member consultation





B5126  
Connah's Quay, Wales  
Google  
Street View - Oct 2018

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# Visual site comparison



B5126  
Connah's Quay, Wales  
Google  
Street View - May 2022



# Mown paths

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# Mown borders and signage

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# Public opinion

Having had so many likes and comments from people about the beautiful verges and field of wildflowers planted in Buckley by our CC. I agree we need this to be spread more widely. We have many areas to fill. I have put the video here I took so those who haven't seen the flowers can see them in their full glory.

#saveourwildlife#  
#saveourbees#



75

10 comments 2 shares

Page 121

Had a good look other day when bringing dog back through town. It was really calming for me felt like a little escape for couple mins

Walk past them every day walking the dog 🐕

They are doing this all over Flintshire now and it is a brilliant idea.

That looks stunning !! 🥰

Off to Mold later along the Mold road so yes I will make sure I see all those lovely wild flowers as I pass along . 😊

Beautiful well done 👍

They have done this on the field over the bridge street field it looks beautiful xx



# Flintshire Council

16.2K Tweets

Following



**Flintshire Council** @FlintshireCC · Nov 29



This autumn we've sowed wildflower seed on a number of road verges and roundabouts in Flintshire! By creating more meadows we are helping to address the climate and ecological emergency.

Watch out for an explosion of colour next summer on these new mini-meadows!



19

49

349





## Key messages:

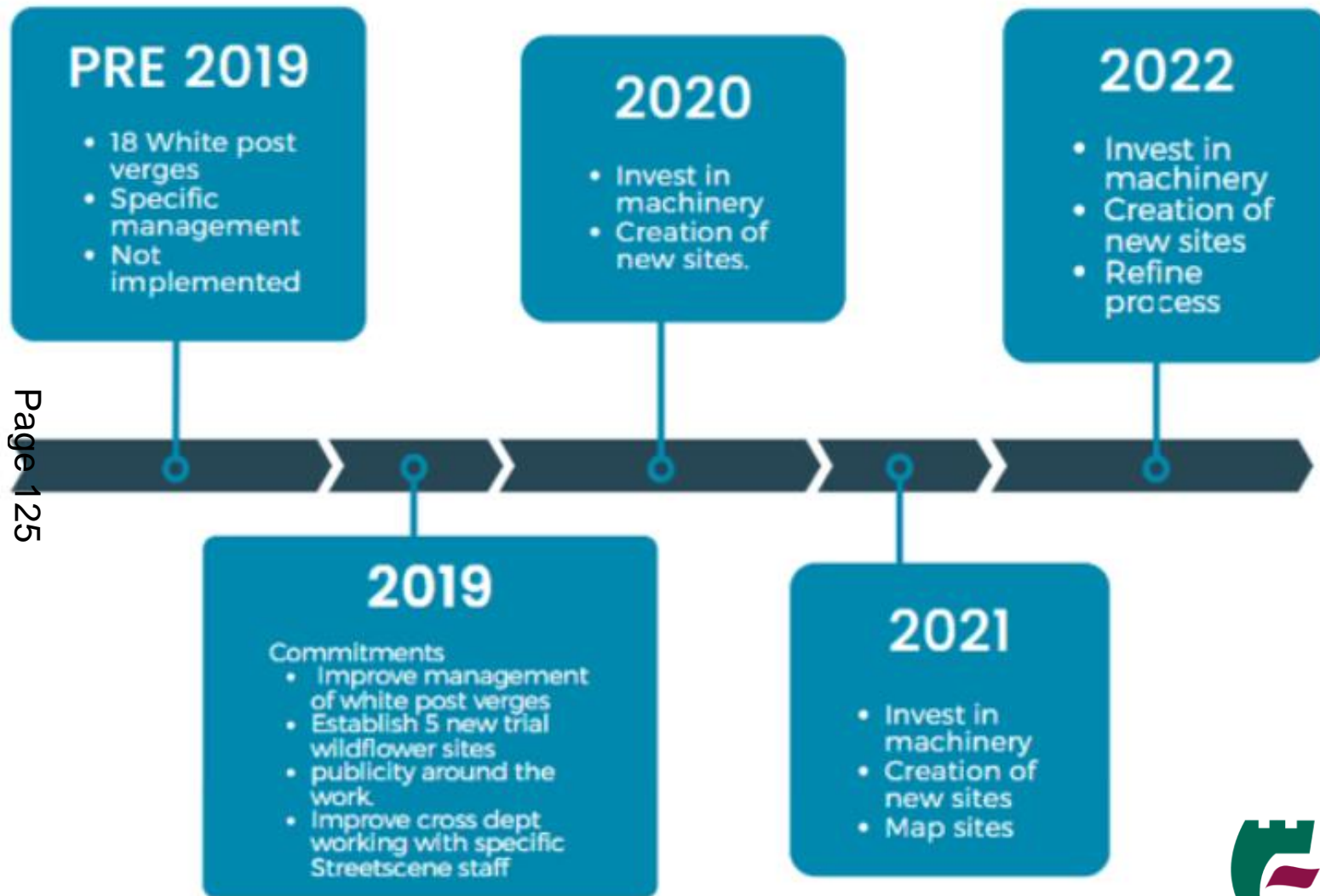
- Safety first – Always
- Consideration of existing site use
- Understanding and promoting the big multiple benefits of our actions - which go beyond neat and tidy

# Thank you

# Flintshire wildflower sites and grassland management

Action to date: An overview

# Timeline



# Our Approach

**Our approach aims to support meadow restoration by;**

- Limiting seed introduction to urban sites with low existing diversity

Page 126  
The best approach for nature is to improve grassland diversity (gradually through the correct management)

However

- **There is value in** the burst of colour, the quick results and impact of seeding especially in high visibility / footfall sites

# Types of wildflower sites

## A balance

- **Created sites:** Seeded or wildflower turf (restricted to urban sites with low existing wildflower diversity)
- **Reduced mow sites:** We allow the grass and wildflowers to grow with the aim of long term restoration to flower rich meadow
- **Naturally diverse sites:** We support restoration to flower rich meadow

# Wildflower



# Seeded





# Initial Reduced mow

After a few years of reduced mow with cuttings collected



Hawarden



Wepre

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# Sites

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Pre 2019  
to 2022



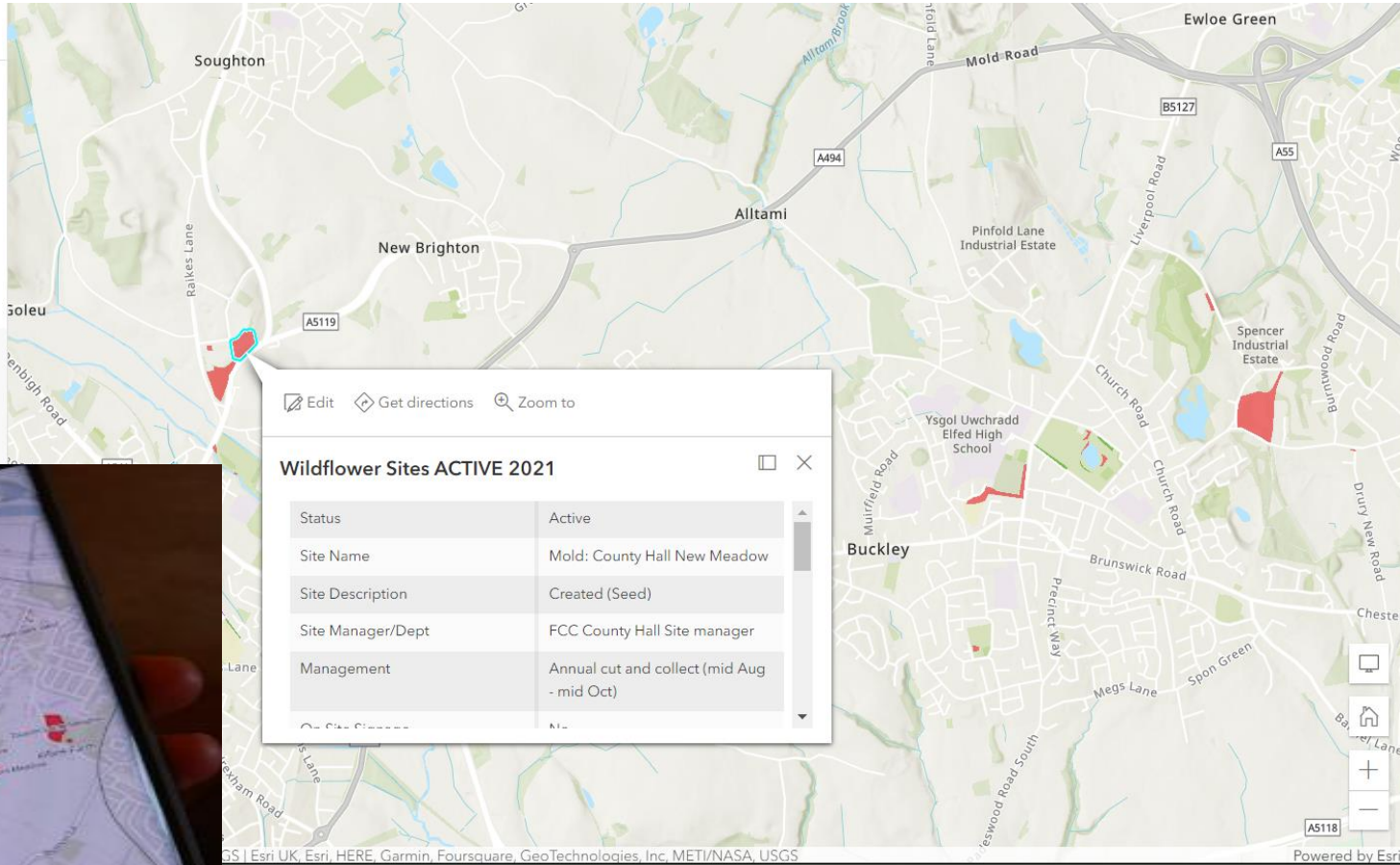
# Sites

## Legend

### Wildflower Sites

#### Status

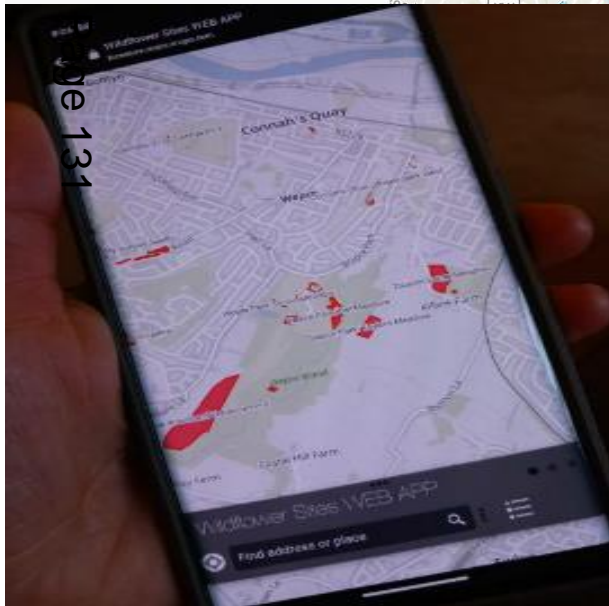
- Active
- Proposed
- Ongoing
- On Hold



[Edit](#)
[Get directions](#)
[Zoom to](#)

**Wildflower Sites ACTIVE 2021**

Status	Active
Site Name	Mold: County Hall New Meadow
Site Description	Created (Seed)
Site Manager/Dept	FCC County Hall Site manager
Management	Annual cut and collect (mid Aug - mid Oct)



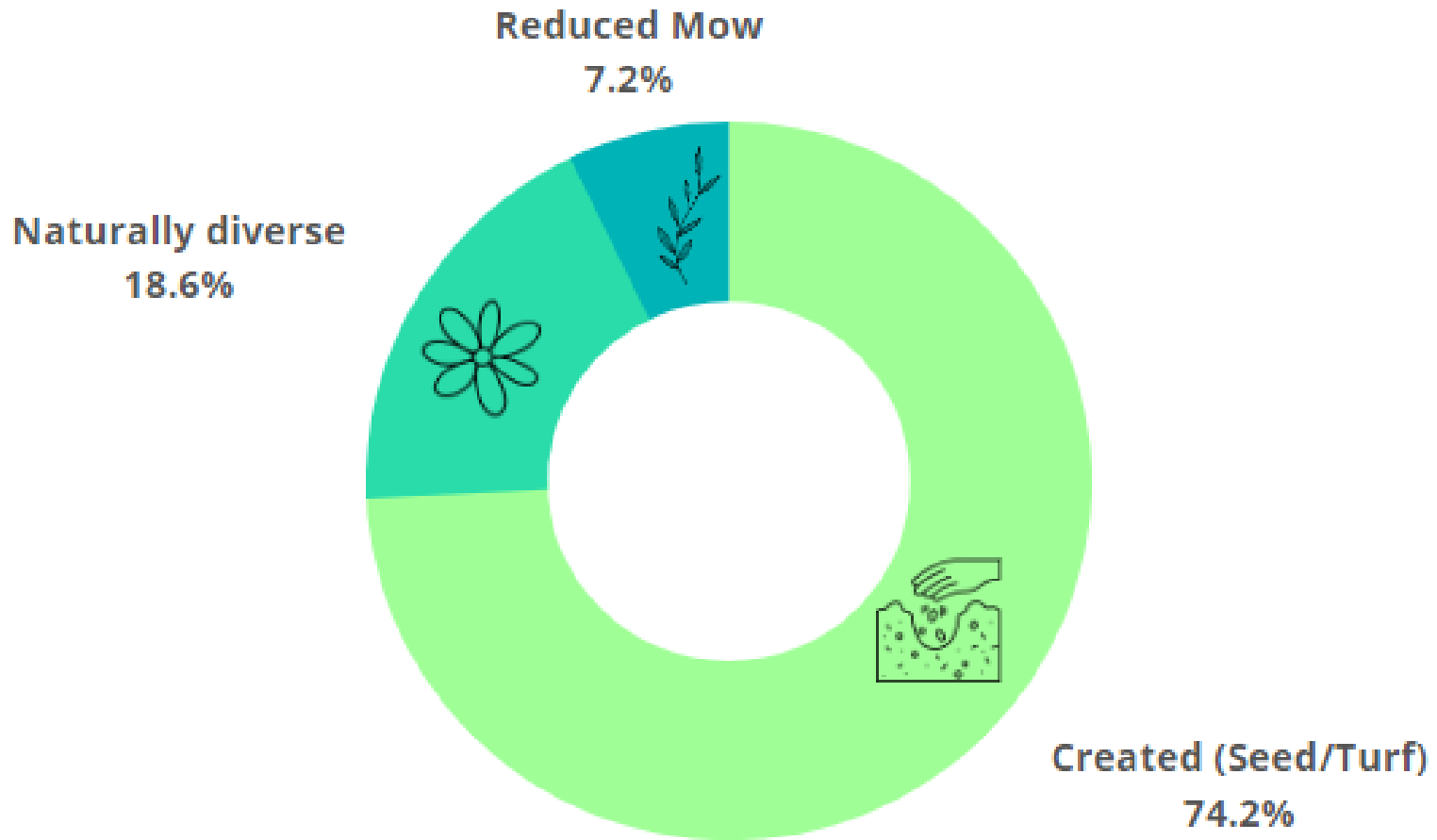
# Sites

- 98 sites
- Area 11.8Ha
- 69 Sites /8.6Ha managed by Streetscene
- 4.3% Streetscene maintained ground being managed for biodiversity

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# Wildflower site type



# Resources and Capacity



# Education and Engagement

- All sites have Oak marker posts
- Public response: overwhelmingly positive
- No Mow May publicity well received
- A public green spaces survey was undertaken in 2022.

Headline statistics received are as follows:

Page 135

The majority of respondent's consider the maintenance of their green spaces as adequate

"Feeling safe and secure" was ranked as most important when visiting local green space with

"A diverse and healthy natural environment" ranked in second.

84.6% of respondent's wanted to see local greenspace improved for nature.

# Project targets & future opportunities

Short term 22/23:

- Grass cutting disposal solutions
- In-house training
- Active travel routes.
- Share of specialist machinery
- In the field management recording
- QR code site information
- A public recording campaign for wildlife
- Grass cutting policy





Medium term /5 years:

- **Manage 25% (49.6Ha)**

Long term /Over 5 years:

- **To manage all appropriate maintained estate for wildflower diversity.**



# Pesticides in Flintshire

## What are they?

- ▶ Pesticides are chemical or biological products used to kill or control living organisms
- ▶ Types of Pesticide: Herbicides, Insecticides and Fungicides, Rodenticides, Molluscicides and Nematicides
- ▶ Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the world
- ▶ In 2015, the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) labelled glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic"

# Why we need to stop using chemical herbicides

## Effects on Human Health

- ▶ Low concentrations: damage to liver, kidney and skin cells.
- ▶ Repeated exposure: Parkinson's disease; asthma and other respiratory diseases; infertility, pregnancy problems, and birth defects; and cancer, including leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- ▶ High concentrations: can cause harmful or lethal effects after a single episode of ingestion, inhalation or skin contact.
- ▶ Children are more at risk
- ▶ Exposure: Towns and cities, farmland and rural communities, homes and gardens, and via our food

# Why we need to stop using chemical herbicides

## Effects on the Environment

- ▶ Reduction of wildflowers = insect declines
- ▶ Pollution of the air, water and soils
- ▶ Bad for bees
  
- ▶ The evidence supporting the long-term negative impacts of Glyphosate for people and the environment, warrant a move away from its use in a timely manner.



# Herbicide Use in Flintshire

Page 142

- ▶ 1150 litres
- ▶ Where: block paving in town centres, greenspaces, along curb edges, school grounds and invasive species
- ▶ Curb spraying contract = £50,000/year
  - = spot-spray 11,000km of curb
  - = One spray in June with optional revisit in September
- ▶ Issues: complaints, mileage, cost



# Options for Reductions

- 1) Targeted Reduction
- 2) Use of Alternatives
- 3) Opt-out Schemes

# 1) Targeted Reduction

- ▶ Stop use of chemical herbicides within town centres, school grounds, and greenspaces
- ▶ Numerous councils including Lewe's district council no longer use chemical weed killers in any of their parks, open spaces or children's play areas
- ▶ Change contract for school grounds maintenance to exclude the use of chemical herbicides (46 schools)
- ▶ Explore policy changes for tenant farms and council owned allotments to restrict the use of pesticides





## 2) Use of Alternatives

### Alternatives:

- ▶ Heat-based methods: Battery powered weed burners, Flame guns and Foamstream
- ▶ Organic sprays: vinegar, lemon juice, citronella etc.
- ▶ Manual removal methods: Hoeing or weeding, Road sweepers
- ▶ Invest in alternatives and trial their effectiveness for different areas
- ▶ Re-direct the curb spraying contract costs to cover an in house member of staff to use/trial alternatives







## 2) Use of Alternatives

### Alternatives:

- ▶ Heat-based methods: Battery powered weed burners, Flame guns and Foamstream
- ▶ Organic sprays: vinegar, lemon juice, citronella etc.
- ▶ Manual removal methods: Hoeing or weeding, Road sweepers
  
- ▶ Invest in alternatives and trial their effectiveness for different areas
- ▶ Re-direct the curb spraying contract costs to cover an in house member of staff to use/trial alternatives

### 3) Opt-Out Schemes

- ▶ Residents can opt-out of pesticide use on their street by committing to maintaining part, or all, of their road or street, through weeding
- ▶ People can do this either individually, or as part of a residential group
- ▶ Lambeth Councils Community Weeding Scheme had 130 streets involved
- ▶ Option to leave some beneficial weeds



## Leading the way

- ▶ In 2019 France banned the use and sale of all non-agricultural pesticides
- ▶ Germany and Austria have announced intentions to end the use of glyphosate over the next few years.
- ▶ Over 80 councils across the UK have either entirely stopped or significantly reduced use of using these chemicals

# Wales Aims

- ▶ This video is of Julie James, Welsh Governments Minister for Climate Change talking to the wildlife trust about the need for reduction of pesticides by local authorities
- ▶ [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/craig-bennett3\\_climate-cop15-montreal-activity-7009602443835527169-Ykk1?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_android](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/craig-bennett3_climate-cop15-montreal-activity-7009602443835527169-Ykk1?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android)
- ▶ Skip to 1:27



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Thank you for listening



## Flintshire County Council.

### Grass Cutting Policy (January 2018)

Biodiversity opportunity in red (Jan 2023)

#### 1. Roadside verges

a) Rural Verges (outside 40mph) - 1 cut per year in July (subject to weather conditions)

- 1 swathe widths on all principal roads
- 1 swathe width on all non-principal and unclassified roads

Visibility splays at junctions 4 cuts per year in –

- April
- June
- August
- September/October

Full width verge cutting for weed and self-sown sapling control on all classifications of rural roads once every 4 years in September/October

Additional cuts may be carried out on Health and Safety grounds in specific locations as identified by the Area Coordinators.

#### Rural Verges:

- Safety priority
- Limited opportunity
- Opportunity to collect cuttings when we cut on flat verges – looking into bank mowers

#### Visibility splays:

- Opportunity to collect cuttings – longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity

b) Urban verges (within 40 mph zones) – 4 cuts per year

- April
- June
- August
- September/October

- Option A – Reduced mow on all suitable verges (avoiding banks and visibility cuts)  
Letting the grass/wildflowers grow, with a cut and collect once a year between August and October  
(Targeted initial communities a possibility but adds complexities)
- Option B – retain cuts - collect all cuttings – on flat verges  
(longer term impact reduce vigour of grasses- less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity (Dorset approach))

c) Cyclic

Cyclic routes on county dual carriageways

Cyclic routes receive 2 cuts a year (1m swathe cut in April-July and a full cut in September)

- Option: Retain first cut as existing.  
Collect all cuttings on the second full cut where possible.  
Trial cyclic cut and collect 2023 on the most appropriate cyclic route (Gronant or DIP suggested).

## 2. Amenity Areas

Maximum of 13 cuts per year as required.

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions.

Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

(Removal of grass cuttings will only take place in exceptional circumstances i.e. First-Cut of the season)

### Option A:

- Increase area under reduced mow or wildflower management gradually through existing process.

### Option B:

- Opportunity to introduce collection of cuttings on flat areas – longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity

## 3. Public footpaths / Cycle Routes

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required, to prevent rural footways being lost to grass ingress and verge creep due to lack of usage.

## 4. Hedges

The majority of highway hedges are the responsibility of the adjacent land owner. Where the hedge has grown to an extent that it is causing an obstruction to the highway user, notice will be served on the land owner to cut the hedge accordingly. Highway hedges owned by the Council will be cut once a year after the nesting season has passed.

Highway hedges managed by the Council will be cut a maximum of once a year, outside of the nesting season.

Option: Management timed between Jan - Feb maintains the availability of berries and nuts as a food source for birds and other wildlife.

Allow 2 – 4 years between cuts where possible

## 5. Bus-stops

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required across the grassed areas either side of rural Bus-stops, up to 20 metres across the length of the stop.

- Retain cuts but introduce collection of cuttings– longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity

## 6. Village / Town Gateways

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required across the grassed areas either side of Village / Town

Gateways signs, up to 10 metres either side of the gateway.

- Retain cuts but introduce collection of cuttings – longer term impact less cuts needed, improvements in biodiversity

## 7. Recreation Sports Grounds

Up to 16 cuts per year March to October. Subject to separate procurement arrangements and direct liaison with the Schools.

## 8. Cemeteries

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions. Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

(Removal of grass cuttings will only take place in exceptional circumstances. i.e. First-Cut of the season)

Additional key dates outside of the cutting season to include Christmas and Mothering Sunday.

No change proposed continued implementation of wildflower areas in cemeteries

## 9. Tenants Gardens

Where tenants have requested and qualify for the assisted gardening service. The service is provided by contractors who will provide the following:

Maximum of 13 cuts per year as required.

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions.

Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

- Option A: Collection of cuttings when cutting tenants lawns if not already done
- Option B: Allow tenants to opt into a 'wildlife friendly' service for reduced mow to allow grass to grow (cut and collect once a year Aug - Oct).
- Additional offer for wildflower enhancement could be coordinated by biodiversity officer. Resident engagement could also be supported by the biodiversity team.

## 10. Reduced mow/Wildflower Areas

Allow to grow then 1 cut and collect per year between August – November

## 11. Natural regeneration Areas

Areas to be identified for natural regeneration for carbon capture and biodiversity only requiring essential management for safety.

# Next Steps

- Collate and share feedback
- FAQs / summary of responses
- Review of grass cutting policy and performance 2022
- Scrutiny – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Adopt new policy – April 2023



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March, 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23 (Month 10)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This monthly report provides the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position in 2022/23 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year and presents the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 10.

This report projects how the budget would stand at the close of the financial year, without new actions to reduce cost pressures and/or improve the financial return on efficiency planning and cost control is:

#### **Council Fund**

- An operating surplus of (£0.693m) (excluding the impact of the pay award which has been met by reserves), which is a favourable movement of (£0.810m) from the deficit figure reported at Month 9.
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 of £7.024m.

#### **Housing Revenue Account**

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £3.101m higher than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 of £3.373m

Hardship Funding from Welsh Government helped secure over £16m of direct financial help in 2021/22 and we have continued to claim payments totalling £4.8m in 2022/23 for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments and Winter Fuel Payments within their eligible periods.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2022/23 budget.
2	To approve the carry forward requests included in paragraph 1.11
3	To approve a transfer of £0.200m from the contingency reserve to replenish the Winter Maintenance Reserve as set out in paragraph 1.21

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23</b>
1.01	<p><b>Council Fund Projected Position</b></p> <p>The projected year end position, without mitigation to reduce cost pressures and improve the yield on efficiency planning, is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An operating surplus of (£0.693m) (excluding the impact of the pay award which has been met by reserves), which is a favourable movement of (£0.810m) from the figure reported at Month 9.</li><li>• A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 of £7.024m.</li></ul> <p>To assist with managing risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continues.</p>
1.02	<p>Hardship Funding from Welsh Government helped secure over £16m of direct financial help in 2021/22 and we have continued to claim payments totalling £4.8m in 2022/23 for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments and Winter Fuel Payments within their eligible periods.</p>



1.03

**Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio**

The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:

<b>Portfolio/Service Area</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>In-Year Over / (Under) spend</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Social Services	79.985	80.397	0.412
Out of County Placements	15.101	16.067	0.966
Education & Youth	10.299	9.888	(0.410)
Schools	108.401	108.401	0.000
Streetscene & Transportation	39.931	41.060	1.129
Planning Env & Economy	7.238	6.730	(0.508)
People & Resources	4.670	4.562	(0.107)
Governance	11.281	10.727	(0.555)
Strategic Programmes	6.116	6.177	0.061
Assets	1.034	0.963	(0.071)
Housing & Communities	14.964	14.963	(0.002)
Chief Executive	1.692	1.584	(0.107)
Central & Corporate Finance	25.971	24.471	(1.500)
<b>Total</b>	<b>326.682</b>	<b>325.989</b>	<b>(0.693)</b>

1.04

The reasons for the projected variances are summarised within Appendix 1 and shows the detail of all variances over £0.050m and a summary of minor variances for each portfolio.

**Significant Movements from Month 9**

1.05

**Social Services (£0.277m)**

The net favourable movement relates to:

**Children's Services (£0.234m):**

- Grants (£0.063m) – Projected advocacy costs less than previously anticipated
- Family Support (£0.034m) - Due to reduced levels of expected service activity.
- Legal and Third Party (£0.123m) - Legal costs for a specific case now funded from a Contingency Reserve contribution.
- Residential Placements (£0.113m) – Additional Welsh Government grant of £0.085m to support radical reform of the care of looked after children and additional RIF funding to fund costs of £0.030m.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Support £0.109m - This includes additional costs for a team of contract agency workers to maintain the service whilst vacancies for experienced social worker posts remain high.</li> <li>Minor Variances (£0.010m)</li> </ul> <p>Further minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder of the movement totalling (£0.043m).</p>
1.06	<p><b>Education &amp; Youth £0.110m</b></p> <p>The movement relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion &amp; Progression - A request for Carry Forward of a previously reported underspend of £0.114m (paragraph 1.11 refers).</li> <li>School Improvement Systems (£0.029m) - Movement in Early Entitlement due to utilising Early Years Pupil Development Grant against established staff. Also, the Non-Maintained Settings payments for January were lower than anticipated. Small movement in School Improvement due to additional income from the Adult Community Learning Engagement Grant which is being offset against core staff.</li> </ul> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder (£0.025m).</p>
1.07	<p><b>Planning Environment &amp; Economy (£0.061m)</b></p> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the favourable movement each less than £0.025m.</p>
1.08	<p><b>Governance £0.108m</b></p> <p>The movement relates to a request for Carry Forward of underspend £0.200m in Customer Services para 1.11 refers. The movement is mitigated by vacancy savings, higher than expected Registrars Fee Income and commitment challenge across the Service (£0.040m)</p> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder (£0.052m).</p>
1.09	<p><b>Central &amp; Corporate (£0.640m)</b></p> <p>As reported previously, the Council has not taken out any new short or long-term borrowing during the year resulting in the Council generating increased income from investments (which have increased in line with bank interest rates). This has continued for the remaining months of the financial year.</p> <p>A combination of this and the reduced borrowing interest costs has had the effect of a further favourable movement of £0.650m on the Central Loans and Investment Account. This is expected to be a temporary benefit as the Council is likely to revert to a borrowing requirement during 2023/24.</p> <p>Minor variances account for the remainder £0.010m.</p>
1.10	<p>There are a number of minor variances across the other Portfolios each below £0.035m that account for the remainder of the overall movement (£0.050m).</p>

1.11	<p><b>Carry Forward Requests</b></p> <p><u>Education &amp; Youth – Inclusion &amp; Progression</u></p> <p>The carry forward of a service underspend of £0.280m is requested to support the education of pupils who are not attending school either due to medical difficulties, including mental health and anxiety, permanent exclusion and the lack of available specialist provision.</p> <p>The current year costs have been covered by grant funding which will not be available in the coming year and this carry forward request would help to mitigate a large part of the projected pressure.</p> <p><u>Governance – Customer Services</u></p> <p>The carry forward of a £0.200m service underspend is requested to supplement Digital Strategy Board funding.</p> <p>The underspend has arisen due to salary savings across the service as a number of projects have been unable to be progressed/completed due to limited or no resource/capacity.</p> <p>The funding will provide additional resource for two x 2 year fixed contracts to retain the current digital higher-level trainees. Recruitment and retention of staff issues mean that securing the existing staff would ensure continuity of service operations.</p>
1.12	<p><b>Tracking of In-Year Risks and Emerging Issues</b></p> <p>Members were made aware when setting the budget that there were a number of open risks that would need to be kept under close review. An update on these is provided below.</p>
1.13	<p><b>Council Tax Income</b></p> <p>‘In-year’ Council Tax collection levels, up to January 2023, are 93.4% compared to 93.7% in the previous year. Collections remain challenging as the rising costs-of-living are impacting on the ability of some households to make payment of council tax on time. Current collections for 2022/23 are still 0.3% ahead of 2020/21 collections during the height of the pandemic.</p>
1.14	<p><b>Pay Award (Teacher and Non-Teacher)</b></p> <p>The offer from the National employers for NJC employees of £1,925 on all spinal column points has now been accepted with back pay made to employees in November. This equated to an increase of 2.54% on the highest scale point to 10.5% on the lowest point.</p> <p>The Minister for Education has confirmed the pay award for teachers at 5%.</p>

	<p>The Council has provided for an uplift of 3.5% for Teaching and Non-Teaching staff – the increase above this level requires the Council to utilise reserves to fund the difference in the current financial year.</p> <p><b>The impact on 2022/23 is as follows:</b>  The in-year additional cost of the 2022/23 pay awards that have been met from reserves is £3.955m after taking into account the reversal of the additional 1.25% rate of National Insurance (NI) from November.</p>
1.15	<p><b>Other Tracked Risks</b></p> <p>In addition, there are a number of risks being tracked which may be subject to change and these are summarised below.</p>
1.16	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Impact</b></p> <p>The Council met to approve a balanced budget for 2023/24 on 23 February 2023.</p> <p>The budget report included an updated medium-term position for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and work on this will continue over the coming months.</p> <p>All Portfolios consider their financial position, the risks within their service and the impacts on the Medium Term on a monthly basis as part of their Portfolio Management Team meetings.</p>
1.17	<p><b>Out of County Placements</b></p> <p>The risks include continued high demand for placements where children and young people cannot be supported within in-house provision, and market supply limitation factors and inflationary pressures leading to higher costs.</p> <p>There is a projected net overspend of £0.966m for the current cohort of placements. However, this is likely to increase if demand for new placements remains at the current levels. There have been 62 new placements in the year to date with costs totaling £3.3m within the total projected spend for the year of £16.1m, which amounts to over 20%.</p> <p>The service areas within this pooled budget will continue to do everything possible to manage these risks and additional investment has already been made to further develop in-house provision to help to mitigate against such financial pressures.</p>
1.18	<p><b>Benefits</b></p> <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) – Based on current demand, costs are currently projected to be £0.732m below budget, although this will be monitored closely throughout the year due to the potential for growth.</p> <p>There is continued high demand across the whole of the Benefits service which is expected to remain the case for the foreseeable future. There is a significant pressure on recovery of overpayments which is a combination of a shortfall of recovery against the level of income target budget which is partly</p>

	<p>influenced by lower number of overpayments occurring, and also the need to increase the bad debt provision on historic debt.</p> <p>The increased staffing levels are still required, and those costs are now being met in full from the additional funding of £0.300m previously approved to provide the service with the additional flexibility needed to adapt to and meet the sustained increase in customer demand.</p>
1.19	<p><b>Homelessness</b></p> <p>The risk is a consequence of the cessation of funding support from the Welsh Government COVID-19 Hardship Fund at the end of 2021/22.</p> <p>Although, there is continued support via the new Homelessness – No One Left Out grant, with a further allocation of £0.256m being confirmed recently, this still falls well below the amount of support the Council received via the Hardship Fund in 2020/21 and 2021/22.</p> <p>Although it has been possible to contain some of the expected pressure through prepaid accommodation to the end of September 2022, which has been funded by the COVID-19 Hardship Fund, the expected continued high demand for temporary accommodation including short term Bed &amp; Breakfast provision will continue to present significant challenges. There is a recent trend of increased numbers of households in Bed &amp; Breakfast accommodation with numbers increasing progressively month on month from 29 in October to 61 in January, so more than doubling over a period of three months. This is due to a combination of more new placements and fewer households moving on. At this rate of net growth there remains a clear risk of overspend despite additional in-year funding having been provided by Welsh Government.</p> <p>The service continues to strategically use increased allocations of Housing Support Grant working with external partners, but there remains a risk that the costs of statutory provision of support for Homelessness may exceed existing funding provision from base budget and available grant funding.</p> <p>The service demand currently impacting on 2022/23 outturn will continue into 2023/24 and a pressure of £1.000m has been included in the 2023/24 budget to reflect this.</p>
1.20	<p><b>School Transport</b></p> <p>Since the start of the Autumn school term from September 2022, there have been a number of transport pressures emerging relating to increased costs in the provision of additional key service routes for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Pupil Referral Units (PRU) from re-procurement increases and additional statutory provision that is necessary, as well as increased transport contractor costs due to fuel, insurance, driver costs etc. These increased costs currently impacting on 2022/23 outturn will continue into 2023/24 and a pressure has been included in the 2023/24 budget to reflect this.</p>

1.21	<p><b>Winter Maintenance</b></p> <p>Due to the amount of more severe winter weather encountered in January, in addition to the prolonged period of icy weather through December, spend is anticipated to exceed the £0.846m annual budget. Therefore, there is now likely to be a requirement of at least £0.200m from the Winter Maintenance Reserve in 2022/23 which will reduce the balance to £0.050m. It is recommended that consideration be given to replenishing the Winter Maintenance Reserve up to £0.250m from Contingency Reserve to mitigate the risk of increasing costs from more severe winters into the future.</p>
1.22	<p><b>Waste Recycling Infraction Charge</b></p> <p>Due to the Council not meeting the statutory minimum target for the percentage of municipal waste which must be recycled, prepared for re-use and composted, as specified in Section 3 of the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 (64%) in 2021/22, Welsh Government can now take steps to impose a penalty on the Council by way of an infraction fine. This has been confirmed as a penalty of up to £0.663m so is a very significant financial risk to the Council. Discussions are set to take place in early March between WG and the Council as to the reason for not achieving the target and whether the penalty will be levied.</p>
1.23	<p><b>Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies</b></p> <p>The 2022/23 budget contains £1.341m of specific efficiencies which are tracked and monitored throughout the year. The Council aims to achieve a 95% rate in 2022/23 as reflected in the MTFS KPI's and fully achieved all efficiencies in the previous financial year</p> <p>It is projected that all efficiencies will be achieved in 2022/23 and further details can be seen in Appendix 3.</p>
1.24	<p><b>Unearmarked Reserves</b></p> <p>The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2022/23 was £7.098m as detailed in the 2021/22 outturn report (subject to Audit). In addition, the Council has set-aside a further £3.250m to the carried forward £2.066m COVID-19 Emergency Reserve being a total of £5.316m as a safeguard against the continuing impacts of the pandemic (additional costs and lost income).</p> <p>Some claims for March 2022 were disallowed by WG and Internal claims for Quarter 1 and 2 have been made in 2022/23 relating to additional costs in Schools, Streetscene &amp; Transportation and for income losses within AURA and Holywell Leisure Centre. These currently total £1.684m and the balance on the COVID-19 Emergency Reserve is currently £3.632m.</p> <p>The earmarked reserve of £2.432m from the additional Revenue Support allocation received at the end of the 2021/22 financial year has been transferred to the Contingency Reserve to enhance the level remaining as reported at Month 9, together with the approved Contingency Reserve request of £0.250m for additional legal costs in Children's Services.</p>

	<p>After taking into account all of the above there is a projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 of £7.024m.</p> <p>Following the approval of the Local Development plan (LDP), a further amount of £0.127m can be released to the Contingency Reserve from the Local Development Plan (LDP) Earmarked Reserve after allowing for remaining commitments from the reserve to enable LDP adoption. This would increase the projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 to £7.151m.</p>
1.25	<p><b>Housing Revenue Account</b></p> <p>The 2021/22 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 12 July 2022 showed an un-earmarked closing balance at the end of 2021/22 of £3.616m and a closing balance of earmarked reserves of £1.622m.</p>
1.26	The 2022/23 budget for the HRA is £37.755m which includes a movement of £2.858m to reserves.
1.27	The monitoring for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £3.101m higher than budget and a closing un-earmarked balance as at 31 March 2023 of £3.373m, which at 9% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%. Appendix 5 attached refers.
1.28	<p>The monthly movement of (£0.107m) from Month 9 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income (£0.067m) – Revised Bad Debt Provision</li> <li>• Management &amp; Support Services (£0.020m) – reduction in Insurance costs</li> </ul> <p>Minor movements account for the remainder (£0.019m)</p>
1.29	The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £10.898m with the actual contribution projected to be £13.755m at outturn.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	As set out within the report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	The financial impacts as set out in the report are a combination of actual costs and losses to date and estimates of costs and losses for the future. There is the possibility that the estimates will change over time. The budget will be monitored closely, and mitigation actions taken wherever possible.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
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4.01	None specific.
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 9 Appendix 2: Council Fund – Budget Variances Appendix 3: Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies Appendix 4: Council Fund – Movement on Un-earmarked Reserves Appendix 5: Housing Revenue Account Variances

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Various budget records.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Dave Ledsham Strategic Finance Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704503 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk">dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p><b>Council Fund:</b> the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.</p> <p><b>Financial Year:</b> the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.</p> <p><b>Housing Revenue Account:</b> the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy.</p> <p><b>Intermediate Care Fund:</b> Funding provided by Welsh Government to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing.</p> <p><b>Projected Outturn:</b> projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.</p>



**Reserves:** these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.

**Revenue:** a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.

**Variance:** difference between latest budget and actual income or expenditure. Can be to date if reflecting the current or most up to date position or projected, for example projected to the end of the month or financial year.

**Virement:** the transfer of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virement decisions apply to both revenue and capital expenditure heads, and between expenditure and income, and may include transfers from contingency provisions. Virements may not however be approved between capital and revenue budget heads.

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## MONTH 10 - SUMMARY

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
<b>Social Services</b>		
<b>Older People</b>		
Localities	0.037	Domiciliary care costs have increased by £0.023m due to increased activity. Maternity cover has been built in on workforce budget resulting in a £0.015m increase. Net minor variance result in a decrease of £0.001m.
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>		
Resources & Regulated Services	0.065	Increased service demands have resulted in increased costs this month.
Transition & Disability Services Team	-0.050	Some Regional Integration Fund (RIF) grant has been allocated which is being used to fund a post previously funded from base budget.
Supporting People	-0.047	Additional allocation from Supporting People funding above the expected amount.
Residential Placements	-0.026	Decrease in service costs as a result of changes to care demand.
Minor Variances	-0.010	
<b>Children's Services</b>		
Grants	-0.063	An in-year reduction to expected advocacy costs has resulted in reduced expenditure
Family Support	-0.034	Due to reduced levels of expected service activity
Legal & Third Party	-0.123	Agreement for some legal costs for a specific case to be funded from a Contingency Reserve contribution.
Residential Placements	-0.113	There has been an additional grant from Welsh Government, £0.085m in value, to support radical reform of the care of looked after children. In addition some RIF funding has been made available to fund costs of £0.030m.
Professional Support	0.109	This includes costs for a team of contract agency workers required to prevent deterioration of the service whilst vacancies for experienced social worker posts remain high.
Minor Variances	-0.010	
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>		
Charging Policy income	0.039	Changes to forecasted charging policy income
Safeguarding Unit	-0.029	Additional in-year grant funding from Welsh Government for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
Impact of Covid-19	-0.020	
Minor Variances	-0.003	
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>-0.277</b>	
<b>Out of County</b>		
Children's Services	-0.016	
Education & Youth	0.014	
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>-0.003</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>		
Inclusion & Progression	0.114	The Service Manager for Inclusion has put in a carry forward request due to a significant potential cost pressure that has been identified as a portfolio risk. The carry forward of underspend is required to support the education of pupils who are not attending school either due to medical difficulties, including mental health and anxiety, permanent exclusion and the lack of available specialist provision. There is currently an in year pressure which has been covered by grant funding, however, the range of grants available to support this will not be available in the coming year. A range of strategies are being explored to reduce the need for this provision, however, this is unlikely to bring around significant reduction in need/cost. The carry forward of £0.280m would help to mitigate the majority of the 2023/24 pressure.
School Improvement Systems	-0.029	Movement in Early Entitlement due to utilising Early Years Pupil Development Grant against established staff. Also, the Non Maintained Settings payments for January were lower than anticipated. Small movement in School Improvement due to additional income from the Adult Community Learning Engagement Grant which is being offset against core staff.
Minor Variances	0.025	
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>0.110</b>	
<b>Schools</b>	<b>0.000</b>	
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>		
Other Minor Variances	-0.007	
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>-0.007</b>	
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>		
Minor Variances	-0.061	Cumulative minor positive movements across the portfolio
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>-0.061</b>	
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>		
HR & OD	0.026	Minor movements across the Service each less than £0.005m
Corporate Finance	-0.056	Schools Grant Income £0.015m higher than forecast, Pay Award budget allocation for Vacant Posts together with minor movements across the Service
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>-0.031</b>	
<b>Governance</b>		
Customer Services	0.160	The movement follows a request a carry forward of the sum £0.200m underspend to supplement the Digital Strategy Board funding. A result of salary savings across the service and a number of projects that have been unable to be progressed/completed due to limited or no resource/capacity this funding will provide the resources required to fund projects attached to the Digital Strategy. This additional funding will allow the Board to resource two 2 year fixed contracts to retain the current digital higher-level trainees. Recruitment and retention of staff issues mean that securing the existing staff would ensure continuity of service operations. This is mitigated by vacancy savings, higher than projected fee income levels and minor movements across the service (£0.040m)
Minor Variances	-0.052	Cumulative movements across the portfolio
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>0.108</b>	
<b>Strategic Programmes</b>		
Minor Variances	-0.013	
<b>Total Strategic Programmes</b>	<b>-0.013</b>	
<b>Assets</b>		
Caretaking & Security	0.025	Reduced vacancy savings
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>0.025</b>	
<b>Housing and Community</b>		
Minor Variances	-0.008	
<b>Total Housing and Community</b>	<b>-0.008</b>	
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>-0.012</b>	
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>-0.645</b>	As reported earlier in the year, the Council had not taken out new short or long term borrowing and has invested a significant amount of funds. This pattern has continued during the remaining months of this financial year resulting in no short term borrowing costs being incurred and the Council and generating increased income from investments, which have increased in line with bank interest rates.
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.005	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-0.810</b>	

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## Budget Monitoring Report - Month 10

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Social Services</b>							
<b>Older People</b>							
Localities	20.690	20.152	-0.538		-0.575	The commissioned Older People domiciliary and Direct Payment budget is projecting a £0.920m underspend based on current activity. There continue to be recruitment and retention challenges within the care sector which is limiting the amount of homecare which can be commissioned. The residential care budget is projecting a £0.329m overspend due to the cost of placements net of income such as Free Nursing Care, Regional Integration Fund contributions and property income. The Localities workforce budget is expected to overspend by £0.035m. There is an underspend on the Day Care budget of £0.031m and an overspend of the Minor Adaptations budget of £0.049m.	
Regional Integration Fund	0.000	0.151	0.151		0.151	The Step Down Regional Integration Fund (RIF) scheme, which enables quicker hospital discharges by placing people into short term care before they can return home safely, has been spent in full. At this time it seems unlikely that additional funding will be available to cover additional costs.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.269	1.265	-0.004		-0.005		
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>							
Resources & Regulated Services	29.316	29.776	0.461		0.396	The PDSI (Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired) budget is reporting a £0.171m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.302m overspent and will likely increase further a recruitment challenges continue and service demand increases. This is offset by Learning Disability day services and work scheme budget being £0.006m underspent. In addition, the care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability Services is a £0.006m underspend.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.951	1.066	0.115		0.134	These are the costs of care for young adults who are transferring to Adult Social Care from Childrens Services within this financial year. Care costs are initially estimated but once services have been confirmed the actual costs may be different.	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.903	0.845	-0.058		-0.008	The underspend is due to the use of RIF funding to pay for a post.	
Supporting People	-0.323	-0.417	-0.094		-0.047	The in-year allocation of Supporting People funding has increased above the expected amount.	
Residential Placements	1.956	2.452	0.496		0.522	The overspend is due to the current care cost of commissioned care packages to support people with mental illness.	
Minor Variances	3.576	3.498	-0.078		-0.088		
<b>Children's Services</b>							
Family Placement	2.862	2.725	-0.136		-0.120	Due to current spend for in-house Foster Placements and Special Guardianship Orders.	
Family Support	0.375	0.469	0.094		0.128	Costs are based upon the current activity levels over the last few months and projected forward for the rest of the year. Employee costs, mostly sessional staff, are the primary cost driver for this service.	
Legal & Third Party	0.232	0.639	0.407		0.530	Legal costs are overspent by £0.207m due to the number of cases through the courts and some use of legal professionals. Direct Payment demand and resulting costs continue to be in excess of the budget by £0.200m. Funding from Contingency Reserve has reduced this pressure at Month 10.	
Residential Placements	1.312	0.682	-0.630		-0.517	The in-year opening of in-house Childrens Residential Care settings will mean one off cost savings. There are also a number of time limited Welsh Government Grants being used to offset expenditure.	

## Budget Monitoring Report - Month 10

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Professional Support	6.193	6.781	0.588		0.480	To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies need to be minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges and demands of Childrens Services.	
Minor Variances	0.676	0.673	-0.003		0.053		
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>							
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.831	0.890	0.059		0.073	There are additional one off costs of £0.018m for an IT system upgrade. In addition there are additional staff costs due to temporary uplift in hours and additional support assistants. These additional posts are fund using the underspend from the Business Support Services.	
Charging Policy income	-3.104	-3.185	-0.081		-0.120	Income results from the demand for chargeable services and is based upon each individuals ability to pay resulting from a financial assessment.	
Business Support Service	1.195	1.123	-0.072		-0.050	Due to decreasing staff costs from vacant posts which are unlikely to be appointed to this financial year.	
Safeguarding Unit	1.302	1.086	-0.216		-0.187	A consultation for updated Liberty Protection Safeguard legislation continues to be undertaken. Due to the delay in implementing the legislation there will be an in-year saving. In addition there is some Welsh Government grant funding.	
Commissioning	0.686	0.634	-0.052		-0.056	The underspend is a result of posts being vacant during part of the financial year.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.020	-0.020	-0.020	-0.000		
Minor Variances	0.166	0.181	0.015		-0.014		
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>79.985</b>	<b>80.397</b>	<b>0.412</b>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>0.689</b>		
<b>Out of County</b>							
Children's Services	10.097	11.423	1.325		1.342	The projected overspend reflects significant additional demands on the service in the year to date with 37 new placements having been made in the year to date - most of which are high cost residential placements - there is provision for a contingency sum of £0.100m, for net impacts of further new placements and other placement changes, but this may not prove to be enough.	
Education & Youth	5.004	4.644	-0.360		-0.373	The latest underspend reflects projected costs for the current cohort of placements and there have been 26 new placements in the year to date with further new placements also likely to emerge in the remainder of the year, for which contingency provision of £0.050m has been made.	
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>15.101</b>	<b>16.067</b>	<b>0.966</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.969</b>		
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>							
Inclusion & Progression	5.472	5.466	-0.005		-0.119	The £0.119m variance as reported at Month 9 has been removed on the assumption that the budget c/f request will be agreed for reasons outlined in Appendix 1.	
Integrated Youth Provision	1.042	0.974	-0.068		-0.073	The projected underspend is mainly due to staffing savings	
School Improvement Systems	1.909	1.693	-0.216		-0.187	Favourable variance relates to several Welsh Government grants that are being used against core staff within the Early Entitlement service and School Improvement.	
School Planning & Provision	0.694	0.617	-0.078		-0.069	Projected underspend on insurance liability claims costs and some salary savings	
Minor Variances	1.181	1.137	-0.044		-0.071		
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>10.299</b>	<b>9.888</b>	<b>-0.410</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.520</b>		
<b>Schools</b>	<b>108.401</b>	<b>108.401</b>	<b>0.000</b>		<b>-0.000</b>		
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							

## Budget Monitoring Report - Month 10

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Service Delivery	9.277	9.550	0.273		0.273	The service has a recurring pressure of £0.100m for security costs due to vandalism/break-ins at the Household Recycling Centres. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.070m pressure on the community council income budget. The remaining £0.100m is attributable to high sickness levels/agency costs. The service is also expected to cover costs of £0.060m related to the State Funeral and Proclamation Events. The overall overspend is partially offset by additional income achieved through in-house construction work.	
Highways Network	8.096	8.574	0.478		0.492	Highways is incurring a pressure of £0.400m in Fleet services as a result of increased fuel costs. An additional £0.050m is due to an increase in contractor costs for weed spraying following a recommendation from Scrutiny Committee, which cannot be covered by existing budgets.	
Transportation	10.031	10.481	0.450		0.456	Local bus subsidy is incurring additional overspend of £0.100m due to the Park and Ride Service and Service 5 re-procurement. School Transport is incurring a pressure of £0.090m, due to a shortfall in budget for 3 school days related to Easter timelines in this financial year. Since Month 5, there has been an additional pressure of £0.200m in School Transport due to 6 additional routes (PRUs/ALN) in total equating to £2,700 extra per day. School transport is also facing an additional revenue pressure of £0.030m from Month 7 due to capacity issues on a commercial bus service. There may be further cost increases up to the end of the financial year end due to rising transport operator costs (fuel, driver wages, insurance, energy etc.).	
Regulatory Services	12.527	12.455	-0.072		-0.085	The Service is incurring £0.060m revenue pressure due to increased residual waste tonnages, which is creating a risk in achieving WG Recycling Targets. The overspend is largely offset by an underspend of £0.053m due to vacancies within the service, increased rebate rates for the sale of electricity, recycling income and car parking income, which has increased income by £0.064m, including other minor variances with a reduction in recycling disposal costs of £0.030m.	
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000		
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>39.931</b>	<b>41.060</b>	<b>1.129</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>1.136</b>		
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Community	0.979	1.040	0.061		0.077	Fee income shortfalls in Licensing and Pest Control and historic business planning efficiency £0.024m not realised	
Development	0.180	-0.493	-0.673		-0.693	Favourable variance based on projected over recovery of Fee Income which includes the receipt of two high value one off Planning Fee each approx £0.300m	
Access	1.522	1.652	0.130		0.154	Adverse variance relates to the projected costs of Ash Die Back to March, 2023, together with historic grant income target not realised	
Regeneration	0.841	0.753	-0.089		-0.069	Revised projection in Markets Fee Income over recovery, minor variances across the Service	
Management & Strategy	1.445	1.497	0.052		0.069	The new Agile Case Management System requiring a commitment for a potential renewal of the contract with Civica for a further one year use of Flare.	
Minor Variances	2.269	2.281	0.012		0.015		
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>7.238</b>	<b>6.730</b>	<b>-0.508</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.446</b>		
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>							
HR & OD	2.412	2.436	0.024		-0.002		
Corporate Finance	2.257	2.126	-0.131		-0.075	Variance includes the receipt of a 50% Welsh Government Admin Grant for administering the Free School Meals Programme together with staff savings from vacant posts	
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.670</b>	<b>4.562</b>	<b>-0.107</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.077</b>		

## Budget Monitoring Report - Month 10

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Governance</b>							
Legal Services	0.934	1.030	0.097		0.074	Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	
Democratic Services	2.468	2.384	-0.084		-0.076	Variance as a result of the Members Allowances new rate not being implemented until May, 2022 and lower than anticipated take up of both Broadband and Pension Allowances (£0.108m) ; mitigated by the inception of the new Climate Change Committee Chair person Allowance plus minor variances across the service	
Internal Audit	1.050	0.964	-0.086		-0.063	Vacancy savings together with revised/reduced projected cost for Postage within Central Despatch	
ICT	5.095	5.009	-0.086		-0.064	Vacancy Savings	
Revenues	0.295	-0.079	-0.374		-0.351	The variance results from the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.320m) based on current information; minor variance across the service	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001		
Minor Variances	1.439	1.418	-0.022		-0.182		
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>11.281</b>	<b>10.727</b>	<b>-0.555</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>-0.663</b>		
<b>Strategic Programmes</b>							
ADM's & CAT's	6.069	6.130	0.061		0.074	Adverse variance as a result of an agreed £0.050m contribution to support the Aura Pay award, £0.011m minor variances.	
Minor Variances	0.047	0.047	-0.000		-0.000		
<b>Total Strategic Programmes</b>	<b>6.116</b>	<b>6.177</b>	<b>0.061</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.074</b>		
<b>Assets</b>							
Caretaking & Security	0.314	0.259	-0.055		-0.080	Savings on staffing due to vacancies	
Industrial Units	-1.527	-1.591	-0.064		-0.058	Reduced costs of Repair and Maintenance plus some additional rent income	
Minor Variances	2.247	2.295	0.047		0.042	Cumulative minor movemens across the portfolio	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1.034</b>	<b>0.963</b>	<b>-0.071</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.096</b>		
<b>Housing and Community</b>							
Minor Variances	14.964	14.963	-0.002		0.006		
<b>Total Housing and Community</b>	<b>14.964</b>	<b>14.963</b>	<b>-0.002</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.006</b>		
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>1.692</b>	<b>1.584</b>	<b>-0.107</b>		<b>-0.096</b>	Variance relates to vacant post and not all staff at top of scale	
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>23.188</b>	<b>21.628</b>	<b>-1.560</b>		<b>-0.915</b>	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recouperment against actuarial projections based on the current level of contributions together with a further revised projection on the Central Loans and investment Account (CLIA) at Month 10 where as reported earlier in the year, the Council had not taken out new short or long term borrowing and has invested a significant amount of funds. This pattern has continued during the remaining months of this financial year resulting in no short term borrowing costs being incurred and the Council and generating increased income from investments, which have increased in line with bank interest rates.	The benefit on the Central Loans & Investment Account is expected to be a temporary benefit as the Council is likely to revert to a borrowing requirement during 2023/24.
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.778	-0.005		-0.005		
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.000	0.065	0.065		0.060	IFRS 9 requires that for soft loans interest is accrued at the Effective Interest Rate (EIR) rather than the Contract Interest Rate. Capital financing regulations require that soft loan accounting doesn't impact on Council Tax levels.	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>326.682</b>	<b>325.989</b>	<b>-0.693</b>	<b>-0.020</b>	<b>0.117</b>		



2022/23 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - Month 10

Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Efficiency - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed
		2022/23 £m	2022/23 £m	2022/23 £m		
<b>Portfolio</b>						
<b>Corporate</b>						
Increase in Reserves	Rachel Parry Jones	0.471	0.471	0.000	C	G
Utility Inflation	Rachael Corbelli	0.085	0.085	0.000	C	G
Efficiency from Restructure	Corporate Policy	0.025	0.025	0.000	C	G
Recharge to HRA	Chief Executive post to HRA 50%	0.027	0.027	0.000	C	G
<b>Total Corporate Services</b>		<b>0.608</b>	<b>0.608</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Housing &amp; Assets</b>						
Connahs Quay Power Station	Neal Cockerton	0.290	0.290	0.000	C	G
Rent Newydd	Neal Cockerton	0.020	0.020	0.000	C	G
<b>Total Housing &amp; Assets</b>		<b>0.310</b>	<b>0.310</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Social Services</b>						
Sleep in Pressure not Required	Neil Ayling	0.123	0.123	0.000	C	G
<b>Total Social Services</b>		<b>0.123</b>	<b>0.123</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Governance</b>						
Single Person Discount Review (One Off)	Gareth Owens	0.300	0.300	0.000	O	G
<b>Total Governance</b>		<b>0.300</b>	<b>0.300</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies</b>		<b>1.341</b>	<b>1.341</b>	<b>0.000</b>		

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	%	£
Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies	100	1.341
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	0	0.000
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	100	1.341
<b>Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions)</b>		
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	100	0.000
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	0	0.000

Corporate Efficiencies Remaining from Previous Years

Income Target Remaining		£m	
Income Target Efficiency remaining from Previous Years	All Portfolios	0.041	
Fees and charges increase 1st October, 2022	Full Year effect 1st April 2023	(0.026)	
<b>Total Income Efficiency Remaining</b>		<b>0.015</b>	(0.015)

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**Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves**

	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2022	18.438	
Less - Base Level	(5.769)	
<b>Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet</b>		12.669
Less - COVID-19 Emergency Funding Allocation		5.316
Less - Childrens Services Social Work Costs (approved 21/22)		0.157
Less - Children's Services front door service - agency workers (approved by Cabinet on 28th June)		0.300
Add - Total Balances Released to Reserves (Month 5)		1.208
Add - Additional Revenue Support (Month 8)		2.432
Less - impact of the final pay awards		3.955
Less - Children's Services Legal Costs (Month 9)		0.250
Less - Month 10 projected outturn		(0.693)
<b>Total Contingency Reserve available for use</b>		<b>7.024</b>

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**Budget Monitoring Report**  
**Housing Revenue Account Variances**

**MONTH 10 - SUMMARY**

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>						
Income	(37.755)	(37.228)	0.526	0.593	Currently projecting a variance of £0.526m due to loss of rental income in relation to void properties. Of this, £0.395m relates to void properties, £0.096m relates to utilities costs on void properties and £0.049m relates to void garages. Additional income in respect of new properties transferred into the stock during the year (£0.045m). Pressure relating to the draw down of grant in respect of delayed SHARP schemes £0.158m. We are forecasting a reduction in the requirement to top up the Bad Debt Provision of (£0.150m). The remaining £0.023m relates to other minor variances.	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	6.723	6.723				
Estate Management	2.263	1.998	(0.266)	(0.253)	Additional cost of agency positions of £0.180m, which is offset by vacancy savings of (£0.240m) and additional funding from the Housing Support Grant of (£0.120m). Other minor variances of (£0.086m).	
Landlord Service Costs	1.265	1.348	0.083	0.084	Salary savings of (£0.054m) are currently being projected within the service which offset agency costs of £0.023m. There is a forecasted pressure on utilities costs of £0.079m. The remaining variance of £0.035m is down to other minor movements.	
Repairs & Maintenance	10.908	10.968	0.060	0.065	Additional net cost of £0.066m in relation to vacant trades positions currently being covered by agency. Admin Vacancy savings of (£0.034m) due to delayed recruitment. Savings on the cost of materials of (£0.102m). Additional cost of fleet forecasted to be £0.154m. Other minor variances of (£0.024m).	
Management & Support Services	2.716	2.557	(0.159)	(0.139)	Savings of (£0.067m) have been projected based on current vacancies within the service and a further (£0.171m) efficiency has been identified through a review of central support recharges. Costs of legal advice in respect of the Renting Homes Wales Act £0.019m. Pressure in relation to insurance costs currently forecasted to be £0.077m. Other minor variances of (£0.017m).	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	10.898	13.755	2.857	2.857		
HRA Projects	0.122	0.123	0.000	(0.000)		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	2.858	2.858				
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>3.101</b>	<b>3.101</b>	<b>3.208</b>		

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Business Rate Write Offs in excess of £25,000
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Governance)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For individual bad debts more than £25,000, Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) requires Cabinet to approve recommendations to write off debts.

Two Business Rates debts totalling £112,526 are deemed to be irrecoverable and write offs are necessary due to Insolvency. A C Canoe Products (Chester) Limited owe £37,856 and FTS Hatswell Limited owe £74,670.

Both companies have ceased trading, are insolvent and are officially in administration or liquidation and in the final stages of being wound up at Companies House. The Business Rate liabilities have now ended in both cases and since unpaid Business Rates are classed as non-preferential debts, there is little or no assets available for non-preferential creditors and successful recovery of the business rates debts is no longer possible.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Approve the two write offs totalling £112,526, consisting of £37,856 for A.C Canoe Products (Chester) Limited and £74,670 for FTS Hatswell Limited.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE WRITE OFFS</b>
1.01	<b>A.C. Canoe Products (Chester) Limited</b> was a company involved in the manufacturing and wholesale distribution of canoe and sports equipment, trading from Unit 102, Zone 3, Deeside Industrial Park.
1.02	The company had always paid their Business Rates liabilities in full since 2003. In total they paid more than £656k in Business Rates up to 2021/22.
1.03	The directors of the company contacted the Council in November 2020 to advise the business was experiencing cash flow problems due to the pandemic and were seeking support from the Council to maintain payments. A non-statutory payment arrangement was set up to support the company and through these negotiations the Council successfully secured a further payment totalling £51k against the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Business Rate liabilities.
1.04	In early 2021/22, the company failed to maintain these payments and failed to contact the Council, therefore, a summons for non-payment of Business Rates was issued against the company to appear before Mold Magistrates Court on 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. In response to the summons the company entered into a further repayment plan at the rate of £4k per month. Two further payments, totalling £8k, were received with the final payment in March 2022.
1.05	In May 2022, the company went into administration. The company ceased trading and subsequently the lease on the property was surrendered by the administrators in June 2022. Kay Johnson Gee Corporate Recovery Limited are appointed to oversee the winding-up of the company. The insolvency report shows the company has little to no assets and debts more than £747k.
1.06	As a non-preferential creditor there is very little prospect of the Council receiving any further payment in respect of the outstanding Business Rates of £37,856.44 and a write off is necessary.
1.07	<b>FTS Hatswell Limited</b> was a company involved in logistics, transportation and haulage and traded from Deeside Industrial Park before moving in August 2019 to Deva 100, Chester West Employment Park, Chester.
1.08	The company always paid their Business Rates liabilities in full since trading and have paid more than £1.8m in Business Rates up to and including 2021/22.
1.09	In April 2022, the company failed to pay their 2022/23 Business Rates instalments and the company were summonsed to appear before Mold Magistrates Court in July 2022. The company directors failed to respond or appear before the court and following the award of a Liability Order, debt recovery was undertaken using the in-house Enforcement Agents (Bailiffs).



1.10	The Enforcement Agents visited the trading premises at Chester West Employment Park, but the property was found to be empty and there was no sign of trading. Further enquiries were undertaken, and a Companies House search confirmed the company has been subject to a compulsory liquidation order through the High Court on 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2022. As part of the liquidation the lease for the premises was also disclaimed on the same day.
1.11	The Council have submitted a proof of debt form to the Insolvency Service to register the outstanding Business Rates. However, as a non-preferential creditor there is very little prospect of the Council receiving any further payment in respect of the outstanding Business Rates of £74,669.52 and a write off is necessary.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no direct financial implications for the Council or local taxpayers by writing off these debts as business rates losses are borne by the National Collection Pool for Wales. As the Collection Pool is supported by Welsh Government, non-payment of rates does though have a wider impact on the Welsh taxpayer.
2.02	Writing off these two debts, amounting to a £112,526 loss of income to the National Collection Pool, is being recommended as a last resort and only on the basis that there is no prospect of successfully recovering these debts.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	For those businesses who fail to pay, recovery action is always taken to secure payment. Measures include taking legal action to secure a Liability Order at the Magistrates Court, and in certain circumstances, the use of enforcement agents/bailiffs to take control of goods.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	All write offs must be approved by the Corporate Finance Manager, but in the case of write offs over £25,000, Cabinet must be consulted before a decision is taken.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Finance Act 1988</li> <li>• Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2)</li> <li>• Companies House – A.C. Canoe Products (Chester) Limited – Company Number 01125961</li> <li>• Companies House – FTS Hatswell Limited – Company Number 01850518</li> </ul>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> David Barnes, Revenues &amp; Procurement Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 703652  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk">david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Business Rates:</b> are a property based local tax on businesses calculated on the rateable value of the property. Although the rate of tax is set by Welsh Government, rates are administered and collected locally by each local authority and paid into a national collection pool for Wales.</p> <p><b>National Collection Pool for Wales:</b> all business rates are collected and paid into the Welsh Government’s Non-Domestic Rates Collection Pool. Councils in Wales receive a redistributed share based on a formula set by Welsh Government called the Local Government Funding Formula. The formula makes a theoretical comparative judgement on what each council needs according to its population size, its wealth and poverty, and its rurality.</p> <p><b>Administration:</b> effectively means a company is taken under the management of an administrator who must be a licensed insolvency practitioner (IP). During the time the company is in administration, the appointed IP will consider whether the company has the potential to trade successfully in the future (often following a period of restructuring), or whether its problems are so serious that the company needs to be liquidated. Once a company enters administration, it is given protection from creditors</p> <p><b>Liquidation:</b> is the legal process that occurs when a company becomes insolvent, meaning it cannot meet its payments obligations as and when they become due. The purpose of liquidation is for an appointed liquidator to investigate the financial affairs of a company, realise all the assets and then pay a return to creditors so they receive some or all of their money back. However, not all liquidations result in creditors getting money back in the form of a dividend.</p>



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14th March, 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Streetscene Standards Review 2022-23
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2012, multiple services were combined to create a new Streetscene and Transportation (S&T) portfolio. At this time, Cabinet approved a set of Streetscene Performance Standards which formed the basis of the new portfolio's quarterly performance report. This was then heavily scrutinised by both the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet at the time. These Streetscene Standards were last reviewed in 2019 and have been subject to minimal change since inception.

This report outlines our intention to review the existing standards and recommend changes that link more closely to the council plan and portfolio business plan. We wish to ensure that the service continues to meet the needs and expectations of the public and residents we serve, whilst making the most efficient use of the available resources.

The uncertainty of future years' financial settlements, the changing demands of our environmental and climate change agenda and the need to provide clear and measurable performance data, will all influence the way Streetscene and Transportation (S&T) deliver services over the coming years. As a service that touches people's lives every day, it is vital we demonstrate real value to the people of Flintshire, but also measure our performance in a way that is meaningful and enables continuous improvement.

The purpose of this report is to illustrate the inadequacies of the existing document and request support from Cabinet for S&T to review and retire the existing Standards. This would be in favour of a more robust and relevant suite of performance metrics that can be measured, monitored and reported more effectively.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

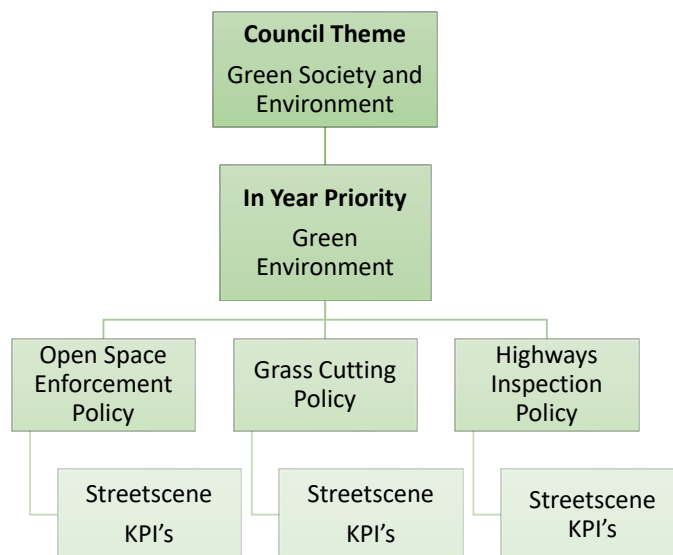
1	That Cabinet notes the proposal to retire the existing Streetscene Standards document, and supports the intended review to replace them with a revised suite of performance metrics that support service standards in order to measure performance against existing statutory obligations, the Council Plan and
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	existing policies. A further report will be presented once the review has been completed.
2	That Cabinet supports the recommendation of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee that a Member Task & Finish (T&F) Group be set up to support the review of the Streetscene Standards with a view to presenting a further report to both the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet later in the year outlining the details of the review process, any conclusions drawn and subsequent recommendations.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND FOR REVIEWING THE STREETSCENE STANDARDS</b>
1.01	Streetscene & Transportation service delivery teams are responsible for waste and recycling collections, household recycling centres, street cleansing, highways and grounds maintenance, grass cutting, winter maintenance, street lighting and trunk road operations. These services are key to ensuring that Flintshire remains safe, clean and accessible to all. To ensure that resources are allocated and prioritised in the most effective manner, in 2012 a set of 'Streetscene Standards' were agreed and adopted.
1.02	These Standards have not changed significantly since 2012, despite significant changes to the scope of the portfolio. Some of the Standards are no longer relevant, and some areas of the new Streetscene and Transportation services are not represented at all. In addition, many Standards are now covered by new or existing policies, which now supersede the original 2012 document.
1.03	In 2019, the updated Council Plan included a new performance measure of Streetscene Standards, under the <i>Safe and Clean Council</i> theme and, as a result, the direct output of the portfolio was reported through the Scrutiny process. This was updated to " <i>A well-connected, safe and clean local environment</i> " in the Council Plan for 2022-2023.
1.04	<p>Upon review, it has been found that many of the current Standards are covered by either national guidance or existing policy, and in some instances contradict or confuse our obligations and commitments. The Standards describe how services are delivered and provided rather than providing a measure of the portfolio's performance.</p> <p>As a result, the current Standards do not offer sufficient clarity to the service provider or the service recipient, which often causes conflicting priorities for all stakeholders. Service standards are important for customers, members and employees, as well as the management of the service in that they help to define what everyone can expect and they provide a reminder of the challenges and obligations that they face. The Standards will be of little value if performance cannot be measured against them.</p>

1.05	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> provides a list of the current Streetscene Standards for illustration purposes; however, the table below gives examples of some redundant sections of the document: -</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Contact Centre Response Times</td> <td>No longer controlled by Streetscene</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pest Control</td> <td>No longer controlled by Streetscene</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smoke Nuisance – Domestic</td> <td>No longer controlled by Streetscene</td> </tr> </table>	Contact Centre Response Times	No longer controlled by Streetscene	Pest Control	No longer controlled by Streetscene	Smoke Nuisance – Domestic	No longer controlled by Streetscene
Contact Centre Response Times	No longer controlled by Streetscene						
Pest Control	No longer controlled by Streetscene						
Smoke Nuisance – Domestic	No longer controlled by Streetscene						
1.06	<p><b>Future Impacts on the Streetscene Standards</b></p> <p>Even without the proposed revision, the existing ‘Standards’ may be subjected to change in light of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Future years MTFs Proposals</i> – Changes to services in light of the current economic climate will need to be considered and some ‘Standards’ may no longer be financially viable in the short to medium term.</li> <li>• <i>Waste Strategy Review</i> - The ongoing review of waste strategy will have considerable impact on the existing standards, particularly if collection frequency or receptacle sizes are to be amended to achieve national recycling targets and avoid fines from Welsh Government.</li> <li>• <i>Grass Cutting Policy Review</i> - The pending review of the Flintshire Grass Cutting Policy and the work being undertaken by the Biodiversity Team could contradict or even undermine the current standards, rendering many more of them outdated.</li> </ul>						
1.07	<p><b>Desired Outcome</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to advise members of the intended review of the standards and allow the portfolio to produce a suite of operational indicators and measures, which will demonstrate our performance against statutory obligations and Council policies.</p> <p>Each ‘Theme’ within the Council Plan is supported by specific policies and it is our performance against these policies which should be measured. The metrics need to demonstrate to the public that we are meeting our commitments, whilst also driving operational improvements.</p> <p>In addition, we must establish a priority matrix which allows teams to schedule work according to impact and available resources, giving staff and customers a clear understanding of how and when services will be delivered.</p> <p>One option could be to mirror the Housing Repairs priorities to give consistency across the authority. For example:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Emergency</b></td> <td><b>Urgent</b></td> <td><b>Standard</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Up to 24 hours</td> <td>Up to 5 Days</td> <td>Up to 28 Days</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Standard</b>	Up to 24 hours	Up to 5 Days	Up to 28 Days
<b>Emergency</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Standard</b>					
Up to 24 hours	Up to 5 Days	Up to 28 Days					
1.08	<p><b>The Structure of Delivery</b></p> <p>The intention is that the new metrics, or Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), will be operational tools to measure our effectiveness in delivering the services expected by Flintshire policies or statutory obligations.</p>						



The image above illustrates where the new metrics would sit in the hierarchy of Flintshire's service model.

1.09

**Benefits of change**

Replacing the 2012 Standards represents a proactive and future focused mindset, demonstrating our desire for continual improvement. It gives opportunity to ensure that our Standard Operating Procedures are reviewed and stress tested against the current financial and social climate. It will also instil confidence that we are delivering on our statutory duties in the most efficient and effective way and confirm that performance is being achieved and sustained consistently.

As part of the review, areas of the business that are not currently being measured will be identified and the change will bring focus on work streams that can be improved or streamlined.

Where we are able to identify strong performance, we will be able to promote and enhance the reputation of Streetscene & Transportation and the authority as a whole by sharing relevant data with members and the wider public.

1.10

**Outcome of Scrutiny Committee Meeting**

At the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, it was recommended that a Member Task & Finish (T&F) Group be set up to support the review of the Streetscene Standards with a view to presenting a further report to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet outlining the details of the review process, any conclusions drawn and subsequent recommendations.

It was made clear at the Scrutiny Committee that the T&F group would not be redrafting the standards to be achieved, but would support the development of performance measures against existing approved policies or assist with identifying gaps where the policy does not currently set a specific standard or performance target.

It is intended that the Task & Finish Group will be set up by the end of April 2023 and we aim to conclude the review by the end of September 2023.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	In order to measure and record performance, the portfolio will need to fully review historic working practices and introduce new ways of working at all levels of the business.
2.02	The new standards are intended to have a positive impact on resources within the service allowing a more efficient distribution of work through clearly defined priorities and structured working practices where performance is measured and reported on internally and externally.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	By continuing with the existing 'Standards' we are effectively making commitments we are not able to deliver. In addition, we risk reputational damage by placing measures on business functions that are no longer controlled within the portfolio.
3.02	The impact of failing to measure the business correctly can have an impact on our ability to demonstrate true value for money and be able highlight efficiencies over the medium to long term.
3.03	It is intended that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following completion of the review and recommendations made as to how the new metrics and Standards should be measured and reported.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy.
4.02	Trade Unions and workforce.
4.03	Senior Management Team and Operational Managers.
4.04	Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Streetscene Standards 2019 pdf.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Christopher Goddard – Service Manager Streetscene <b>Telephone:</b> 07867 192311 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Christopher.Goddard@Flintshire.gov.uk">Christopher.Goddard@Flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	None.



## REVISED STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS 2019

Shaded Grey indicates measure no longer appropriate, Shaded Blue are new measures

Measure Type	Description	Target
Abandoned Cars	Time taken to inspect and respond to abandoned vehicles on the highway	2 working days
Household Recycling Centres and Bring Sites	Length of time taken to respond to requests about Recycling Parks (neighbourhood or household recycling centres) or let the customer know what has happened	24 hours
Waste Missed Black/Brow/Food Bins	Time taken to collect bin missed due to the fault of the Service - weather permitting	1 working day
Waste Bulky Items	Time taken to collect bulky items (following customer request)	6 working days
Waste Assisted Collection	Time taken to process applications for assisted bin collections (from receipt of application).	10 working days
Waste Requests for new receptacles	Time taken to deliver new bins, recycling sacks/boxes, caddies etc.	
	Black/Blue Bin	6 working days
	Food waste bins / caddies	6 working days
	Brown Bin	6 working days
	Recycling Bag	6 working days
Missed Collections	Number of bins missed per 100,000 collections	80
Children's Play areas	Time taken to respond (i.e. complete job or contact customer) to service requests about enclosed play areas or fixed play provision	same working day
Dead Animals	Time taken to remove reported dead animals from highway or other Council land (excluding trunk roads)	24 hours
Dog Fouling Children's play areas	Time taken to remove dog fouling at enclosed play areas, or areas of fixed play provision.	Within Working Day
Dog bins	Frequency of inspection/emptying of dog bins	Minimum 2 working days
Litter Bins	Respond to requests for new litter bins	10 working days
Fly posting / Graffiti	Time taken to remove graffiti from council owned property (including Housing)	2 working days
Offensive /Hate Graffiti	Time taken to remove hate graffiti from time of reporting - 24/7 service	Within Working Day
Fly tipping	Time taken to remove fly tipping from council owned land (including Housing land)	24 hours
Grass Cutting & Hedges	Compliance with standards for grass cutting	100% As Policy
Gully Emptying	Frequency of gully cleaning	Minimum one per annum
Gully Emptying	Frequency of gully and soakaway cleaning in known flooding areas	Site dependant - Minimum 2 per annum
Public Conveniences	Time taken to attend and clean a reported dirty/damaged toilet in Council operated facility	24 hours
Reactive Highway	Time taken to inspect non- emergency highways requests	1 working day
Sharps	Time taken to remove sharp objects/needles from Council land (including Housing and school land)	2 hours
Street Cleansing	Footways - Frequency of sweeping Town and shopping areas	Daily - including Saturdays/Sundays and Litter Picking
Street Cleansing	Footways - Frequency of sweeping All other locations	1 per annum
Street Cleansing	Mechanical Sweeping A Roads and Urban B class Roads	4 per annum
Street Cleansing	Mechanical Sweeping other B class Roads	1 per annum
Street Cleansing	Mechanical Sweeping All other Roads	1 per annum
Street Cleansing	Mechanical Sweeping of Council maintained Car Parks	1 per annum

<b>Street Cleansing</b>	Inspect and empty litter bins (as required)	Minimum: Rural = 2 working days / Urban = 1 working day
<b>Street Furniture</b>	Response time to make safe a reported dangerous item of street furniture	2 hours
<b>Street Furniture</b>	Inspection response time to customers regarding repairs to Street Furniture	10 working days
<b>Street lighting</b>	Time taken to repair street lighting (non mains supply fault) - where it is the Council's responsibility	3 working days for locations assessed as vulnerable, CCTV sensitive, traffic calming, traffic sensitive or (speed) illuminated traffic signs and 10 working days for all other locations (except major faults).
<b>Street Name Signs</b>	Time taken to replace a missing street name plate (if replacement is required within policy)	8 weeks
<b>Beach Cleansing</b>	Frequency of beach cleansing (Talacre)	Summer = daily inspection & visit / Winter = inspection & visit 3 times per week
<b>Contact Centre</b>	Percentage of calls Answered in under 15 Seconds	75%
<b>Contact Centre</b>	Percentage of Calls dealt with at first point of contact	80%
<b>Contact Centre</b>	Percentage of 'lost' calls	5%
<b>Bus Shelters</b>	Time taken to respond following a requests/complaints about bus shelters	10 working days
<b>Bus Shelters</b>	Compliance with standards for cleaning bus shelters - 3 times/year urban 2 times/year rural	100%
<b>Environmental Visual Audits (EVA)</b>	EVA's protocol in place in Council Wards	100%
<b>Environmental Visual Audits (EVA)</b>	Ward Priority Agreed	70%
<b>Member Satisfaction</b>	Percentage of Members rating performance of Streetcene Coordinators Service in ward as acceptable or better	90%
<b>Cleanliness</b>	Maintaining the Cleanliness index above the average figure for Wales	100%
<b>P&amp;D Machines</b>	Respond to non working Pay & Display machines	1 working day
<b>Parking Contraventions</b>	Respond to parking complaint	Corporate standard
<b>Environmental Crime - Dog control</b>	Respond by undertaking site inspection to dog control complaint	2 working days
<b>Environmental Crime - Side waste</b>	Monitor side waste presentation	Daily by crews
<b>Noise Nuisance - Domestic PP</b>	Time taken to despatch an acknowledgement letter and noise logging form	5 working days
<b>Smoke Nuisance - Domestic PP</b>	Time taken to visit a report of domestic smoke nuisance	5 working days
<b>Pest Control PP</b>	Time taken to attend Nuisance Pests, e.g. Wasps	3 working days
<b>Pest Control PP</b>	Time taken to attend Public Health pests. e.g. rats	same working day







## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	HyNet Carbon Capture Project; Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and Consenting Process Update
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Liverpool Bay CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) Limited (the Developer) is proposing to construct and install a new carbon dioxide pipeline between Ince, near Stanlow, (Cheshire) and Flint, and repurpose an existing natural gas pipeline between Flint and Talacre (the 'Connah's Quay to Point of Ayr Pipeline'). This project is known as the HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The consenting process is different for an NSIP and an application has been made under the Planning Act 2008 for a permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the proposed Carbon Dioxide Pipeline NSIP.

Integral to the HyNet North West project is the redevelopment and works at the Point of Ayr Gas Terminal, works between the Gas terminal and the Mean Low Water Spring mark, and the construction of three Blocked Valve Stations along the existing 'Connah's Quay to Point of Ayr Pipeline'. The developer will seek consent for these works under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The report seeks delegated authority to allow officers to respond to matters arising during the examination of the NSIP, represent the Council in the hearings, provide a response on the Statement of Common Ground, answer questions that arise, and to provide a Local Impact Report.

This report provides details with regards to the project, the two consenting processes and the role of the Local Planning Authority.

## RECOMMENDATION

1	<p>The Council's response to the Examining Authority with respect to the Local Impact Report on the HyNet Northwest Carbon Dioxide Pipeline be delegated to officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection.</p> <p>Responses relating to providing comments on the Statement of Common Ground, providing Written Representations, addressing questions and any matters arising as part of the subsequent Examination and during hearing sessions will be delegated to the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy.</p>
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	HyNet is an industrial decarbonisation project. The Northwest and North Wales region was selected by Government to lead the UK's industrial decarbonisation.
1.02	<p>From mid-2020's, if consented HyNet will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ produce, store, and distribute low carbon hydrogen to replace fossil fuel consumption in transport and industry,</li><li>▪ capture and store carbon dioxide emissions from industry,</li><li>▪ Build new infrastructure and reuse pre-existing infrastructure</li></ul>
1.03	<p>Elements of the HyNet project that are proposed in North Wales comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Underground cross county pipeline to transport carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by constructing a new carbon dioxide pipeline to connect to the existing underground gas pipeline from Point of Ayr,</li><li>▪ Compress and transport the CO<sub>2</sub> to permanent storage in depleted gas cavities in the Liverpool Bay area by modifications at the existing Point of Ayr Oil and Gas Terminal.</li></ul>
1.04	A blue hydrogen production plant is proposed at Stanlow in Cheshire. At present, the project does not propose to produce green hydrogen as currently, there is insufficient green energy available within the grid to produce green hydrogen. Therefore, the hydrogen would be produced by using fossil fuels. This project is part of the move towards decarbonisation, and would contribute to carbon reduction targets, as the proposal is to capture the carbon dioxide and transport the captured CO <sub>2</sub> .
1.05	If consented, the CO <sub>2</sub> would be captured and compressed, then transported in a pipeline under the sea to an offshore platform, located approximately 30km offshore in Liverpool Bay. The CO <sub>2</sub> would be transported to the Point of Ayr Terminal, compressed, injected and stored. The proposed new pipeline would be buried underground at a minimum of 1.2 metres. Above ground installations are proposed for the maintenance and operation of the pipeline. 'Block valves' are also proposed to allow isolation of sections of the pipeline.

1.06	If consented, the entire new build pipeline would take approximately 12 months to construct. There would typically be 1-2 months of construction at a particular location. Once installed, land would be reinstated the land as close as possible to its original condition. For much of the pipeline construction, an open trench technique would be used. In more complex areas, methods such as horizontal directional drilling or auger boring would be used.
	<b>Consenting Process</b>
1.07	As the Proposed Development constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), an application has been made under the Planning Act 2008 for a permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the proposed Carbon Dioxide Pipeline. As the DCO / NSIP process is not devolved to the Welsh Government, the DCO Application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (England) (PINS) who will administer the DCO Application on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
1.08	The DCO application covers full length of the pipeline (new build and existing in terms of the change of use of the existing pipeline, and the construction of the new pipeline. The application also includes three Block Valve Stations (BVSs) on the existing pipeline.
1.09	Two inspectors have now been appointed as the Examining Authority who will examine the DCO Application and make a recommendation to the SoS, who will then decide on whether development consent should be granted, or not.
1.10	The Local Planning Authority are not the decision maker for the DCO application; however, we have a role to play as a stakeholder.
1.11	The Local Planning Authority's role includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-examination/Examination stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing a Local Impact Report</li> <li>• Providing an important local perspective</li> <li>• Written Representations and Statement of Common Ground</li> <li>• Attending and participating in hearing sessions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Post consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharging many of the requirements (akin to planning conditions) associated with the Pipeline if development consent is granted.</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.12	There are elements of the HyNet Northwest project that lies in Flintshire which cannot be consented through the DCO consent process as they are considered to be 'associated development' which is not included in the Planning Act 2008.
1.13	Works and modifications proposed at the Point of Ayr gas terminal, and cabling works from the terminal to the foreshore, along with the construction of three blocked valve stations along the existing pipeline route (at Cornist Lane, Pentre Halkyn, and Babell) are proposed to be applied for under the Town and Country Planning Act. Therefore, two

	planning applications are proposed to be submitted for Flintshire County Council's Planning Committee to determine.
	<b><i>Timescales</i></b>
1.14	The examination period for the DCO application is likely to start Spring 2023, Flintshire County Council will be required to produce a Local Impact Report, provide written representations, comment on the Statement of Common Ground and participate in the hearing sessions. The DCO Decision is likely to be Q4 2023. The planning applications for the modifications at the Point of Ayr Terminal, and consent for the three blocked valve stations are expected to be submitted early March 2023.
1.15	The project is in the pre-examination period and two Planning Inspectors have been appointed to be the Examining Authority. The Preliminary Meeting is likely to set place on 20 March. This meeting will start off the Examination Period where the Examining Authority will set out the deadlines for the various stages in the Examination and the deadlines for submissions of the Local Impact Report, any Written Representations, responses to questions and comments on the Statement of Common Ground.
1.16	The Council's response on matters related to the Planning Act 2008 are an executive function and are not a delegated function as stated within the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
1.17	Due to the limited timescales prescribed with the Planning Act 2008 to respond to matters arising from the Examining Authority, and also to produce a Local Impact Report, it is necessary to raise this matter at Cabinet to seek a resolution to permit officers to respond to the various stages within the examination of the project on behalf of the Council.
1.18	The sole definition of a Local Impact Report is given in s60(3) of the 2008 Act as 'a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area (or any part of that area)'. The Local Impact Report sets out the local perspective. It is considered that the matters that will arise during the examination are of a technical nature and more suited to officers to address and provide a response.
1.19	In producing a Local Impact Report, the local authority is not required to carry out its own consultation with the community. The report should consist of a statement of positive, neutral, and negative local impacts, but it does not need to contain a balancing exercise between positives and negatives; nor does it need to take the form of a formal committee report. The Examining Authority will carry out a balancing exercise of relevant impacts, and these will include those local impacts specifically reported in the Local Impact Report. Therefore, as the Local Authority is not the decision maker, it is requested that the matters arising from the Examining Authority, and the production of the Local Impact Report is delegated to Officers. The Local Impact Assessment is a matter of fact and of a technical nature, and more suited to officers to address and provide a response.



	<b>Member engagement</b>
1.20	A view on this matter is sought as to whether a corporate view on the project should be established. However, as the Local Planning Authority will be determining a planning application for the modifications at the Point of Ayr, and three blocked valve stations, care must be taken to avoid any risk of pre-determination of these planning applications which are an integral part of the project, but not permitted to be consented under the Planning Act 2008.
1.21	Should Members wish to be kept up to date with the HyNet project, they can sign up to receive electronic updates on the whole of the HyNet project. <a href="https://hynethub.co.uk/#signup">https://hynethub.co.uk/#signup</a>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p><b>Revenue:</b> there are no implications for the approved revenue budget for this service for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> there are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years</p> <p><b>Human Resources:</b> there are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	N/A

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	The DCO process requires developer led pre-application consultation which has taken place.
4.02	Once the planning applications have been submitted for the proposed works and modifications at the Point of Ayr Terminal and the blocked valve stations, consultations will be carried out in accordance with the Development Management Procedure Order.

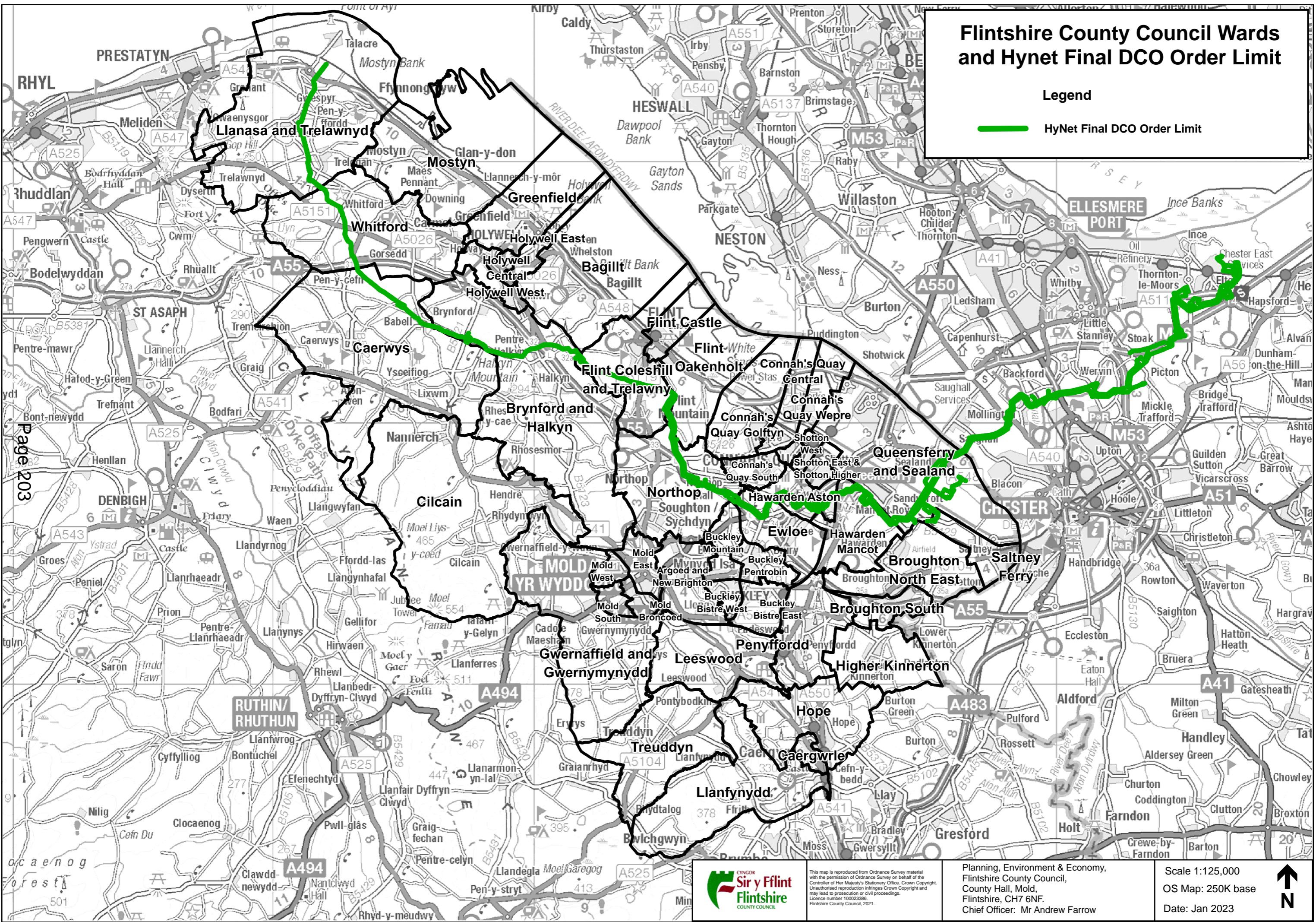
<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Development Consent Order Limit for the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline showing ward areas.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Short video of the proposals at the Point of Ayr Terminal  <a href="https://hynethub.co.uk/eni_poa_final_film.mp4">https://hynethub.co.uk/eni_poa_final_film.mp4</a></p> <p>Development Consent Order application documents:  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/hynet-carbon-dioxide-pipeline/?ipcsection=overview">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/hynet-carbon-dioxide-pipeline/?ipcsection=overview</a></p> <p>Advice notes on the Development Consent Order application process:  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/</a></p> <p>Sign-up to HyNet’s newsletter to be kept up to date with all HyNet related projects: <a href="https://hynethub.co.uk/#signup">https://hynethub.co.uk/#signup</a></p>
<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Hannah Parish, Planning Manager (Minerals and Waste)  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 703253  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hannah.parish@flintshire.gov.uk">hannah.parish@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p>DCO (Development Consent Order)</p> <p>NSIP (Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project)</p>

# Flintshire County Council Wards and Hynet Final DCO Order Limit

## Legend

 HyNet Final DCO Order Limit



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Planning, Environment & Economy,  
Flintshire County Council,  
County Hall, Mold,  
Flintshire, CH7 6NF.  
Chief Officer: Mr Andrew Farrow

Scale 1:125,000  
OS Map: 250K base  
Date: Jan 2023



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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	School Admission Arrangements 2024/25
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for 2024/25 and to recommend approval.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the proposed admission arrangements for 2024/25 be approved.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS</b>																																			
1.01	In accordance with the School Admissions Code, the Council is required to undertake a statutory consultation exercise on its admission arrangements for the following year. Consultation must be complete by 1st March and the admission arrangements must be determined by 15th April each year. Statutory consultees include all schools in the area, the diocesan authorities and neighbouring authorities.																																			
1.02	Consultation must cover the full admission arrangements including the admissions policy, oversubscription criteria, the timetable for admissions and admission numbers (i.e. the maximum number of pupils to be admitted by the admissions authority in to each year group). This information is attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3.																																			
1.03	<p>The current admission arrangements have been in place since 2003 and the majority of parental preferences continue to be met (approximately 96%). For information, the number of admission appeals in recent years is detailed in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Year</u></th> <th><u>Secondary Appeals</u></th> <th><u>Primary Appeals</u></th> <th><u>Total Appeals</u></th> <th><u>Total appeals upheld by Panel**</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>20</td> <td>61</td> <td>81</td> <td>40/50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>85</td> <td>56</td> <td>141</td> <td>88/62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>50</td> <td>39</td> <td>89</td> <td>48/54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>44</td> <td>47</td> <td>91</td> <td>52/57%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>52</td> <td>35</td> <td>87</td> <td>64/73%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23*</td> <td>18</td> <td>26</td> <td>44</td> <td>78/58%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*to date **i.e. appeal lost by parent</p> <p>It is anticipated that oversubscription will continue at secondary level in some areas of the County as a consequence of parental preference.</p>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Secondary Appeals</u>	<u>Primary Appeals</u>	<u>Total Appeals</u>	<u>Total appeals upheld by Panel**</u>	2017/18	20	61	81	40/50%	2018/19	85	56	141	88/62%	2019/20	50	39	89	48/54%	2020/21	44	47	91	52/57%	2021/22	52	35	87	64/73%	2022/23*	18	26	44	78/58%
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1.04	The consultation process took place between 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023 and no comments were received. There are no changes proposed to the admission arrangements. The proposed admissions timetable has been drawn up in consultation with neighbouring authorities and takes in to account factors such as allowing parents sufficient time to visit/research schools and express their preferences, the time needed to process applications, etc. The timetable also incorporates the “common																																			

	offer dates” prescribed by the School Admissions Code (i.e. 1 March for secondary and 16 April for primary).
1.05	As part of the consultation, Headteachers were asked if there have been any changes to the accommodation at their Schools which could necessitate a review of their Admission Number. No requests have been received. There are changes to the capacity and admission numbers at a number of schools as a result of extensions and/or new builds. These revised figures are included in Appendix 2 and 3.
1.06	There are between 1,700 and 1,800 applications each year in each of the three admissions phases, i.e., for Year 7, Reception and Nursery. In addition, there are more than 1,200 applications received during the academic year to transfer schools, many because of house moves into the area. All applications are made online, and assistance is provided by Admissions Officers and Flintshire Connects staff for any parents experiencing difficulties completing the form.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no revenue/capital implications.  There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.
2.02	The Admissions Team manages the Council’s Admission process and is appropriately resourced for these proposals.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	The annual determination of admission arrangements must be carried out in accordance with the framework and timetable in the School Admissions Code. Consultation has been completed and approval is being sought within the deadlines set out in the Code. Adherence to the Code minimises the risk of challenge to the Public Services Ombudsman or by way of judicial review.
3.02	There are no direct anti-poverty, environment or equalities issues arising from this report. The admissions policy is applied consistently in all cases in accordance with the Code.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	All statutory consultees have been consulted in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Admission Arrangements 2024/25.
5.02	Appendix 2 – Primary Admission Numbers.
5.03	Appendix 3 – Secondary Admission Numbers.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	School Admission Code – July 2013  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Natalie Summers, Team Leader <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704187 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:natalie.summers@flintshire.gov.uk">natalie.summers@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>School Admission Arrangements</b> – the overall procedure and practices about how to apply for a school place, including the criteria to decide how places are allocated, application procedures, the timetable for the admissions process, how late applications are handled, waiting lists and the appeal process.</p> <p><b>School Admissions Code</b> – a Code issued by Welsh Government in respect of the discharge of admissions functions. All admission authorities have a statutory duty to act in accordance with the Code.</p> <p><b>Oversubscription criteria</b> – a list of criteria which an admission authority must adopt to be used for the allocation of places if there are more applications received than there are places available.</p> <p><b>Admission Number</b> – the number of school places that an admission authority can admit in each year group.</p>



## **Admissions Timetable 2024/25**

<b>Admission Phase</b>	<b>Admission forms available to parents w/c</b>	<b>Parents' consideration period</b>	<b>Closing date for receipt of completed forms</b>	<b>Allocation period by LA/ admitting authority</b>	<b>Parents informed by ("Offer date")</b>
<b>Secondary</b>	04/09/23	04/09/23-06/11/23	06/11/23	07/11/23-08/01/24	01/03/24
<b>Reception</b>	25/09/23	25/09/23-17/11/23	17/11/23	17/11/23-23/02/24	16/04/24
<b>Nursery</b>	25/09/23	25/09/23-16/02/24	16/02/24	19/02/24-22/03/24	07/05/24

Application forms must be returned to the Local Authority by the closing date. Your child may have less opportunity to be allocated to your preferred school if your application is received after the closing date. Late applications received after the end of the allocation period will not be processed until after the "offer dates".

### **1. How to apply**

Arrangements must be made to enable parents to express a preference for a school they wish their child/children to attend. By law, parents who express a preference are given priority for admission over those who do not. In the case of sixth form admissions, expression of a preference can be made by either a parent or a young person or both and should be done by contacting the School concerned.

You can access the applications forms in accordance with the above timetable on the Flintshire County Council web site ([www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions)). This is the preferred method of application. This form should be used if you are a resident in Flintshire and you wish to express a preference for a Flintshire school OR if your child currently attends a Flintshire school. If you wish to apply for a school in Cheshire West and Chester, you must use their application form as we are unable to process applications for schools in Cheshire West and Chester. Parents are strongly advised to express more than one preference. They must be listed in a preferred order. Only the highest preference that can be met will be used to offer a place. **Listing the same school multiple times does not result in a better chance of being offered that school.**

### **2. Neighbouring Authorities**

Flintshire works closely with neighbouring Local Authorities to coordinate admission arrangements in Wales. Information will be passed on to the appropriate admissions authority. Please note that neighbouring local authorities' timetables may be different to that above. If the school for which you wish to express a preference is in another County please contact the respective Local Authority to ensure you do not miss the closing date:

Denbighshire County Council – [admissions@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@denbighshire.gov.uk); Tel : 01824 706000

Wrexham County Borough Council – [admissions@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@wrexham.gov.uk); Tel: 01978 298991

Cheshire West & Chester Council\* – [admissions@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk); Tel: 0300 123 7039

\* If you wish to apply for a school in Cheshire West and Chester, you must use their application form as we are unable to process applications for schools in Cheshire West and Chester.

### **3. Late Applications**

Late applications will be considered after those received by the closing date. If the Local Authority considers that there are good reasons for the application form being late it will be considered with the "on time applications". In all cases, supporting evidence must be provided.

All late applications will be ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria and any places which are available will be offered to the highest ranking applicants up to the end of the allocation period. If the Admission Number for the requested school has been reached, parents will be offered the right to an appeal. A waiting list will also be maintained for that school if necessary and any places that become available will be offered to the highest ranking applicant on the list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

#### **4. The Process for offering school places**

All pupils will be admitted if the Admission Number has not been reached. The Admission Number for each school relates to the number of children that can be admitted to each year group during the school year. The Admission Number for a school is calculated using the capacity assessment method in the Welsh Government's guidance document 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'. All school Admission Numbers are included on the 'Schools List' ([www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)).

If more parents express a preference for a school than there are places available and the Admission Number is reached, the Local Authority applies the published oversubscription criteria to rank all preferences expressed to see who can be offered a place. All preferences received will be considered on the basis of equal preferences. This means that in the first instance, all preferences will be considered against the relevant oversubscription criteria only, ie without reference to the preferred ranking. If a place can be offered at more than one of the preferences expressed (because a preferred school is undersubscribed or because the applicant has a high enough priority against the criteria for an oversubscribed school, or because a school receives the same number of applications as the number of places available), the place offered will be for the school ranked highest on the application.

#### **Please Note:**

**Expressing a preference does not guarantee a place at your preferred school if that school is oversubscribed. If more parents apply for places at the school than the number of places available, the Local Authority will apply the oversubscription criteria for allocating places as set out in the policy.**

#### **5. Voluntary Aided Faith and Foundation Schools**

If you express a preference for a voluntary aided school (Catholic or Church in Wales) or foundation school in Flintshire the relevant school will be sent your details. You may also be required to complete a Supplementary Information Form which is available direct from the school. The timetable for admissions (above) also applies to voluntary aided and foundation schools. These schools are responsible for considering your child's application against others received in accordance with their own oversubscription criteria. The school governors should use the school's own oversubscription criteria to rank applications and make offers of places. Any preferences not met will be returned to the local authority and will be treated equally with other preferences expressed for Flintshire Community Schools.

#### **6. Policy for Admissions to Schools**

The County Council, as the Local Authority, is responsible for determining the arrangements for admissions to all Community Primary, Welsh Medium Primary, Secondary, Welsh Medium Secondary, Special Schools and Voluntary Controlled Schools. The Local Authority will consult annually with school Governing Bodies and the Diocesan Education Authorities in relation to admissions.

The Local Authority will comply with statutory requirements and the Welsh Government School Admissions Code and will take account of the expression of parental preference in the context of its duty to ensure the provision of effective education and the efficient use of education resources. When considering applications, the Local Authority will observe the provisions of the School Admissions Code which states that admission authorities should admit to the school's admission number and will rarely be

able to prove prejudice as a ground for refusing an additional pupil while the numbers remain below the admission number.

Under the School Admissions Code, it may be reasonable in exceptional circumstances for the local authority, with the agreement of the Headteacher, to exercise discretion to admit more pupils than the admission number indicates, subject to such admissions not adversely affecting the school in the longer term including but not exclusively the duty to comply with infant class size legal requirements.

The Local Authority will comply with its duty to ensure the provision of effective education and the efficient use of resources. In so doing, the Local Authority will have regard to the total resources, including accommodation and staffing, available to each school and any constraints imposed by the school organisation and curriculum. It will also consider the resource implications for the authority and impact on other education policies.

When a parent gives fraudulent or intentionally misleading information in order to obtain a place at a school for their child, the Local Authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, the application must be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

## **7. Welsh Language Policy for all schools**

The Authority's Welsh Language Policy aims to ensure that all pupils reach a standard of bilingualism. It will be the responsibility of the Authority, in conjunction with the Headteacher and the School Governors, to ensure the teaching of both Welsh and English is in accordance with National Curriculum requirements.

Primary Education will be provided for all children mainly through the medium of English, or mainly through the medium of Welsh. Secondary Education will be provided for all children mainly through the medium of English, or mainly through the medium of Welsh. To ensure continuity with the primary schools, Welsh will be taught as a second language in all secondary schools where the main medium of instruction is English.

Flintshire County Council, working in partnership with schools will provide parents with full information and understanding of the advantages of Welsh medium education and the opportunities which exist within Flintshire, explaining clearly that:

- there is no need for parents to be Welsh speakers for their children to take advantage of this opportunity;
- receiving education in a designated Welsh medium school enables pupils to become fully bilingual;
- there are intellectual advantages to being equally fluent in two languages.

Pupils who have received their education through the medium of Welsh in primary school transfer to the Welsh medium Secondary School (Ysgol Maes Garmon) at Key Stage 3. Pupils can transfer from English medium primary schools to the Welsh medium Secondary School where they will be offered the immersion scheme that is available at the end of Year 6 and all the way through Year 7. For further details about the scheme please contact Ysgol Maes Garmon Tel: 01352 750678.

## **8. Admission Phases**

### **8.1 Early Entitlement to Education**

A part-time education place is available for every child the term after his/her third birthday.

<b>Children born in...</b>	<b>Entitled to...</b>
----------------------------	-----------------------

Autumn Term	2 terms of educational provision (Spring and Summer)
Spring Term	1 term of educational provision (Summer)

Children born in the Summer term receive their education entitlement in the school nursery classes in the Autumn term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Parents may state a preference for an approved setting which may be a pre school playgroup (English or Welsh), a private day nursery, a 'network' childminder or school nursery class. Applications for early entitlement are made directly to the setting. Forms are available all year.

**Notes:**

- 1. Admission to an Early Entitlement setting at a particular school does not guarantee subsequent admission to nursery at that school. A fresh application will be required.**
- 2. No transport is provided.**

For further information on approved settings please contact:  
Family Information Service Tel: 01352 703500.

### **8.2 Nursery**

Local Authorities in Wales have a duty to provide sufficient nursery places in their area. A child becomes eligible for a place at a nursery class in the September following the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Nursery education is not compulsory and parents have no right of appeal regarding nursery admissions under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Nursery schooling in all schools/units will be provided on the basis of 5 x 2.5 hour sessions per week for each child. Places are available in Nursery classes at all Flintshire primary schools, up to the Admission Number for each school.

Parents may express a preference for any nursery irrespective of where the child's home is in relation to the school. However, expressing a preference does not guarantee a place at that nursery. In the event of oversubscription, applications for nursery places will be dealt with by applying the oversubscription criteria in respect of primary schools as set out in this Guide.

**Notes:**

- 1. Admission to a nursery class at a particular Primary School does not guarantee subsequent admission to reception class at that school. A fresh application will be required.**
- 2. No transport is provided.**

### **8.3 Primary**

The Authority will admit a child to a maintained primary school at the beginning of the school year if the child has achieved his/her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before August 31<sup>st</sup> of that calendar year.

Once a reception place has been offered and accepted, parents may defer their child's entry until the start of the term following the child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Parents are not able to defer entry beyond this point, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

In accordance with legislation, infant class sizes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are restricted to a limit of no more than 30 per school teacher. In respect of junior classes (Year 3 to Year 6), the target is no more than 30 per school teacher.

### **8.4 Secondary**

Pupils will normally be transferred from a primary to a secondary school in the September following their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **9. Oversubscription Criteria**

All pupils will be admitted if the Admission Number has not been reached. However, if the Admission Number has been reached, applications will be considered against the oversubscription criteria, which are listed in priority order.

**Criteria to be applied in order of priority by the Local Authority for admission to Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools:**

- a) Looked after children (children in care) and previously looked after children;
- b) pupils for whom the preferred school is the nearest appropriate school to the pupil's home address;
- c) pupils who will have a sister or brother attending the preferred school on the expected admission date. The 'sibling rule' will only be applied for the statutory period of education i.e. up to Year 11;
- d) pupils for whom the preferred school is not the nearest to their home address. Pupils will be admitted in order of proximity to that alternative school and up to its Admission Number.

**Tie-breaker**

If there are more applicants than places in any of the above categories, priority will be given to applicants living nearest the school, measured from the child's home address to the recognised main entrance of the school.

If the authority is unable to comply with the parental preference(s) expressed then the parent will be asked to consider available places at alternative schools.

Where a school is named in a Statement of Special Educational Needs, the local authority has a duty to admit the child to that school.

**For the allocation of places, the nearest appropriate school is interpreted as:**

- (a) the school nearest to the child's home measured from child's home address to the centre point of the school building;**
- (b) the nearest Welsh medium school where parents wish their children to receive their education through the medium of Welsh;**
- (c) the nearest Denominational school where parents wish to have their children educated in a denominational school.**

**When making a decision about the 'nearest suitable school' the Local Authority will accept only the pupil's home address and not that, for example, of childminder or grandparents.**

**10. Definitions**

**10.1 Home Address**

The address on the application form must be the child's current permanent place of residence.

Permanent means where your child physically resides and sleeps for the majority of the week. This will usually be the Parents' address.

PLEASE NOTE: only the person(s) with parental responsibility for a child ("Parents") can apply for admission. Where there is shared parental responsibility all Parents should be in agreement about the preferences listed in the application. It is the Parents' responsibility to come to this agreement. If there is equal, shared custody of the child, it is left to the parents to decide which address to use but we may ask to see a valid Court Order or other evidence to confirm this arrangement exists. If you cannot agree which school your child should attend with another Parent, you should immediately take your own legal advice regarding making an urgent application to the Court.

Addresses may be checked against records held on the Council Tax Database. In addition, Parents may be asked to prove residency at an address using, for example, any of the following documentation: Solicitor's correspondence confirming that completion has taken place on the purchase of a property, Tenancy Agreement, Mortgage Statement, Council Tax correspondence, Utility Supplier correspondence or such other evidence as the Local Authority deems appropriate. Please note any documents provided must be relevant, current and relate to the address noted on the application form. The documents must also identify you by name and must be the most recent ones available and no older than 3 months when stated.

It is strongly recommended that photocopies of documents are provided in all cases as the Council cannot guarantee the safe return of original documents through the return post.

If the Local Authority is not satisfied with the evidence provided including, but not exclusively, if you have not followed the terms of this policy then your child's application will not be accepted and will be withdrawn.

Parents are advised that a school place may be lawfully withdrawn if the information given on their application form is fraudulent and/or misleading. Please be advised that intentionally providing false information on an application form can be a criminal offence under the Fraud Act 2006. All applications where there is doubt about the address being given will be investigated by the Local Authority. The responsibility lies with the Parents to provide sufficient documentary evidence to support permanent residence at the address used. The use of false, misleading, or inaccurate information including omissions may lead the Local Authority to also withdraw an offer of a place in the event an offer had previously been made.

Should you move after applying but during the allocation period you must provide us with proof of your new address. Acceptable evidence includes for example: a solicitor's letter confirming that completion has taken place on the purchase of a property, or a copy of the current rental agreement, signed by both the Tenants and the Landlords, showing the address of the property and the start date of the tenancy. Please note any documents provided must be relevant, current and relate to the address noted on the application form. The documents must also identify you by name and must be the most recent ones available and no older than 3 months when stated.

## **10.2 Distance**

The Council uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate the shortest home to school distance in miles. This is integrated into the Capita ONE software. The co-ordinates of an applicant's home address are determined using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and Ordnance Survey (OS) Address Point Data. The starting point for a route assessment is determined as the nearest point on the walking route network from the pupil's address (usually the main entrance to the property), to the centre point of the school building. The network is updated annually.

**It should be noted that transport will only be provided in accordance with the Council's Transport Policy. Where, as a result of parental preference, a pupil attends a school other than the nearest appropriate school, as recognised by Flintshire County Council, it must be understood that parents accept full responsibility for transport costs and arrangements.**

## **10.3 Sibling (brother/sister)**

A sibling is defined as a full, half, step, foster or adopted brother or sister living together as one household at the same address and where the elder sibling is of statutory school age and will still be registered at the preferred school when the younger child is eligible to attend. In considering siblings, first priority will be given to applications from multiple birth children.

## **10.4 Multiple Birth Children**

Twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc, residing at the same address and applying for places in the same year group will be given priority for admission in the main admissions round under the 'sibling' criteria. If it is not possible to offer places to all multiple birth children residing at the same address and applying for places in the same year group, the Authority will offer places for all of those multiple birth children at the next nearest appropriate school with available places.

### **11. Admissions to schools other than those maintained by the Local Authority**

Parents wishing to express a preference for a school in a County other than Flintshire should still use the Flintshire preference form and it will be passed to the relevant Local Authority, with the exception of Cheshire West and Chester Council who request you contact them directly. Please be aware of each Authority's admission time table and closing dates.

### **12. Notifying Parents**

The outcome of an application for admission will be notified to parents in writing by letter/email. Where the application has been refused, the letter/email will set out the reasons for the decision and the right of appeal and a return proforma will be sent. Parents will be asked to decide by a specified date one or more of the following options:-

- Place child's name on a waiting list;
- proceed to appeal and place child's name on a waiting list;
- accept the place offered at an alternative school for which preference has been expressed;
- make a new application for an alternative school.

### **13. Waiting Lists**

Waiting lists for oversubscribed schools will consist of those children whose parents have specifically requested in writing, preferably email, to be placed on the school's waiting list and those for whom an appeal form has been received. Waiting lists will be maintained until 30 September in the school year concerned. After that date, any parents still wishing to be considered for a place must specifically request in writing to remain on a waiting list. If places become available they will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria and not according to the date when the application was submitted or when a child's name was added to the waiting list.

In the main admissions round, waiting lists will be prepared and any secondary places which become available after 1 March (offer date) will be allocated after 1 April. The waiting lists will then be updated and any further places which become available will be allocated after 1 May. For primary, any reception places which become available after 16 April (offer date) will be allocated after 16 May. The waiting lists will then be updated and any further places which become available will be allocated after 16 June.

Where applications to transfer between schools outside the normal admission stages are refused, the Local Authority will, in agreement with the parent, place the child's name on a waiting list which will remain open until the end of the school term\* for which the application was made. After that date, parents must specifically request that their child's name remains on the waiting list for an additional school term otherwise the name will be removed.

\*If the application is made at the end of a school term, the child's name may remain on the waiting list until the end of the following term.

### **14. Admission of Pupils from outside Flintshire**

Pupils applying for admission to a school in Flintshire who do not reside in Flintshire will be offered a place at a school in accordance with the admissions policy.

### **15. Change of School within Flintshire during the year**

Schools in Flintshire have agreed a protocol with the local authority for transfers from one nominated school to another other than at the normal transition point (Reception and Year 7). A parent seeking such a transfer should initially speak to the headteacher of the child's current school to discuss the reasons for that transfer. If, following this discussion, the parent wishes to continue the process, the parent must make an online transfer application. If the admission number for the year group in the requested school has already been reached, the application may be refused and parents will be offered a place at an alternative school. In such circumstances a parent would also have the right of appeal, as outlined below.

#### **16. Admissions other than in September each year**

For pupils moving into the area at times other than the normal admission round (September of each year), the Local Authority will endeavour to meet parental preferences as far as possible. Where a school is oversubscribed, parents will be offered a place at an alternative school. The parent may then accept the alternative placement, or may give notice of appeal.

**The Local Authority does not encourage transfers between schools, and a change of school mid-term can seriously disrupt the continuity of a child's education. If parents feel that a problem at school is so serious as to necessitate a change they are urged to take all reasonable steps to resolve the issue with the school first and then to seek advice from the Admissions Team if necessary before applying for a transfer. In cases involving school transfer requests that do not involve a house move the Local Authority reserves the right to arrange for the child to start the new school at the beginning of the next half term to minimise disruption to their own and other children's education. All secondary schools have mid-year transition programmes that will support pupils who are undertaking a mid-phase transfer. The programmes include extended visits to school by parents/carers and pupils.**

#### **17. Appeals Procedure**

If the Authority is unable to comply with the parental preference the parent will be given the reason in writing and advised about available places at an alternative school. The parent may then accept the alternative place and may give notice of appeal. Information on how to appeal will be provided. Details describing the appeals procedure are also available on [www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooladmissions). Alternatively, please contact the Admissions Team via the email address - [admissions@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@flintshire.gov.uk)

Appeals must be made in writing giving reasons, and sent to the Admissions Team. Appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the appeal being received in writing (or within 30 working days if received during the school summer holidays). Every effort will be made to hear appeals as quickly as possible. The parent, accompanied by a friend if desired, will be given an opportunity to appear before an Independent Appeal Panel. The decision of the Independent Panel will be notified to the parent in writing and is final and binding on all parties.



## APPENDIX 2

School Name	Welsh Indicator	Type of School: Community/ VC/VA/ Foundation	Age Range	MCSW Capacity Full Time	AN for Sept 2024	
Abermorddu Juniors and Infants C.P.	EM	C	3-11	206	29	
Bagillt (Merilyn C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	176	25	
Bagillt (Ysgol Glan Aber C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	146	20	
Broughton Primary	EM	C	3-11	538	76	
Brynford C.P.	EM	C	3-11	75	10	
Buckley (Mountain Lane C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	409	58	
Buckley (Southdown C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	382	54	
Buckley (Westwood CP)	EM	C	3-11	246	35	
Caerwys (Ysgol yr Esgob Aided)	EM	VA	3-11	86	12	
Carmel (Ysgol Bro Carmel C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	180	25	
Cilcain (Ysgol y Foel C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	84	12	
Connah's Quay (Bryn Deva C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	283	40	
Connah's Quay (Golfryn C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	404	57	
Connah's Quay (Wepre Lane C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	307	43	
Connah's Quay (Ysgol Cae'r Nant)	EM	C	3-11	356	50	
<b>Drury C.P.</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>3-11</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>17*</b>	
Ewloe Green C.P.	EM	C	3-11	349	49	
Ffynnongroew (Ysgol Bryn Garth C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	119	17	
Flint (St.Mary's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	317	45	
Flint (Ysgol Croes Atti C.P.) (Flint site only)	WM	C	3-11	207	29	
Flint Cornist C.P.	EM	C	3-11	289	41	
Flint Gwynedd C.P.	EM	C	3-11	492	70	
Greenfield C.P.	EM	C	3-11	228	32	
Gronant C.P.	EM	C	3-11	144	20	
Gwernaffield (Ysgol y Waun C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	107	15	
Gwernymynydd C.P.	EM	C	3-11	81	11	
Gwespyr Picton (Ysgol Gymraeg Mornant C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	81	11	
Hawarden (Ysgol Penarlag C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	196	28	
Hawarden Village Primary School	EM	VA	3-11	429	60	
Higher Kinnerton	EM	F	3-11	201	28	
Holywell (St.Winefride's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	187	26	
Holywell (Ysgol Gwenffrw C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	256	36	
Holywell (Ysgol Maes Y Felin)	EM	C	7-11	315	45	
Hope (Ysgol Estyn C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	216	30	
Leeswood (Ysgol Derwenfa C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	143	20	
Lixwm C.P.	EM	C	3-11	71	10	
Mold (St.David's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	144	20	
Mold (Ysgol Bryn Coch C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	599	85	
Mold (Ysgol Bryn Gwalia C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	210	30	
Mold (Ysgol Glanrafon C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	356	50	
Mostyn (Ysgol Bryn Pennant C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	129	18	
<b>Mynydd Isa, Ysgol Mynydd Isa</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>3-11</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>73**</b>	
Nannerch Controlled	EM	VC	3-11	111	15	
Nercwys Voluntary Aided	EM	VA	3-11	42	6	
Northop (Ysgol Owen Jones C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	138	19	
Northop Hall C.P.	EM	C	3-11	210	30	
Pentrobin Aided	EM	VA	3-11	110	15	
<b>Penyffordd County Primary School</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>3-11</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>45***</b>	
Queensferry C.P.	EM	C	3-11	180	25	
Rhosesmor (Rhos Helyg C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	168	24	
Saltney (St.Anthony's R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	152	21	
Saltney (Wood Memorial C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	216	30	
Saltney Ferry C.P.	EM	C	3-11	236	33	
Sandycroft C.P.	EM	C	3-11	320	45	
Sealand C.P.	EM	C	3-11	215	30	
Shotton (Ysgol Ty Ffynnon)	EM	C	3-11	270	38	
Shotton (St.Ethelwold's Aided)	EM	VA	3-11	107	15	
Shotton (Venerable Edward Morgan R.C.)	EM	VA	3-11	281	40	
Sychdyn C.P.	EM	C	3-11	177	25	
Trelawnyd Aided	EM	VA	3-11	109	15	
Trelogan C.P.	EM	C	3-11	72	10	
Treuddyn (Ysgol Parc y Llan C.P.)	EM	C	3-11	111	15	

Treuddyn (Ysgol Terrig C.P.)	WM	C	3-11	93	13	
Whitford Aided	EM	VA	3-11	109	15	

\* Extensions due to be completed September 2024 . Proposed capacity increase to 180 and AN of 25

\*\* New school building due to be completed November 2024. Propsoed capacity increase to 600 and AN of 85 - to be confirmed

\*\* Extensions due to be completed September 2023. Capacity increase to 375 and AN of 50 - to be signed off when complete.

**APPENDIX 3**

School Name	Welsh Indicator	Type of School: Community(C)/ RC	Age Range	MCSW Capacity	AN for Sept 24
Alun High School	EM	C	11-18	1,768	250
<b>Argoed High School</b>	<b>EM</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>11-16</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>116*</b>
Castell Alun High	EM	C	11-18	1,240	211
Connah's Quay High	EM	C	11-16	1,200	240
Elfed High	EM	C	11-16	983	197
Flint High	EM	C	11-18	797	143
Hawarden High	EM	C	11-18	1,145	195
St. David's High	EM	C	11-16	725	117
St. Richard Gwyn High	EM	RC	11-18	969	166
Ysgol Maes Garmon	WM	C	11-18	711	120
Ysgol Treffynnon	EM	C	11-16	600	120

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CABINET	
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Report back from the Call In of Decision No.4056 - Waste Strategy Review
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation
<b>Report Author</b>	Democratic Services Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A decision of the Cabinet - Record No 4056 *Waste Strategy Review* was called in.

The call-in meeting of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 10am.

Having considered the decision, the committee chose Option 3: to refer it back to the decision-making person or body (i.e. Cabinet) for reconsideration.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That the cabinet notes the decision of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting with regard to Record No 4056 Waste Strategy Review.
2	The Cabinet is invited to confirm or amend its previous decision, having regard to the decision of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CALL IN
1.01	<p>At the meeting of the Cabinet which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the <a href="#"><u>Waste Strategy Review</u></a> report was considered.</p> <p>The recommendations of that report, which were approved by Cabinet were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) That Cabinet notes the Council’s current recycling performance against statutory targets along with the associated risks.</li><li>(b) That Cabinet considers the options presented for alternative waste collection delivery models in order to achieve the statutory recycling targets set by Welsh Government and supports the proposal to pilot a reduction in collection frequencies in one area of the county.</li><li>(c) That Cabinet approves the proposal to increase the garden waste subscription fee to recover increasing operational costs.</li></ul>
1.02	<p>The decision of the Cabinet, which was published as Record No 4056 is as follows:</p> <p><i>As detailed in the recommendations.</i></p>
1.03	<p>That decision was called in by Councillors Bernie Attridge, Helen Brown, David Richardson, Carol Ellis, Richard Jones, and Glyn Banks on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>We consider the decision as foolhardy given that the cost of the pilot was unknown.</i></li><li>2. <i>The data that could be provided from the pilot has the potential to lack integrity.</i></li><li>3. <i>The present collection frequency has worked in the past, why change it?</i></li></ul>
1.04	<p>The call in was heard by the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee at the 10am meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.</p> <p>The decision of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee was option 3, referral back to Cabinet.</p> <p>The Cabinet is therefore invited to reconsider this issue at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 in the light of the call-in.</p> <p>To assist Cabinet in its reconsideration of the previous decision, a <b><i>draft</i></b> copy of the minutes is included at Appendix 2.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – Report of the Chief Officer (Streetscene &amp; Transportation) on <i>Waste Strategy Review</i> considered at Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – <b><i>Draft</i></b> minutes: Call In, Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Report of the Chief Officer (Streetscene &amp; Transportation) on <a href="#">Waste Strategy Review</a> considered at Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Steven Goodrum, Democratic Services Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702320  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Steven.Goodrum@flintshire.gov.uk">Steven.Goodrum@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	Call in: under section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview & Scrutiny committee can review a decision which has been made but not implemented. This is known as a 'call in'.

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January, 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Waste Strategy Review
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Ordinarily, the waste strategy would be reviewed every three years. Over the last five years, we have reviewed our waste strategy three times with the most recent review being the 'Target 70' report in July 2021. These reviews have allowed us to implement major service changes, which have contributed to improving the way we deliver our waste and recycling services.

The reviews have always ensured that the Council aligns and operates to Welsh Government policy and strategy, and as an authority, we currently follow the collections blueprint as set out in the Municipal Waste Sector Plan. In its current waste strategy 'Beyond Recycling', the Welsh Government set statutory targets for local authorities in Wales to reuse, recycle or compost a minimum of 64% of waste by 2022-23, and 70% of waste by 2024-25.

However, from being at a peak in performance in 2018-19 at 69.16%, our recycling performance levels in Flintshire have progressively decreased, year on year. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions have had a significant impact. The purpose of this review is to focus on achieving the statutory recycling targets and avoiding financial penalties if we fail to achieve them.

Following two all-Member workshops in November 2022, this report outlines how we propose to minimise waste and maximise recycling in order to improve our recycling performance and achieve the statutory recycling targets.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Cabinet notes the Council's current recycling performance against statutory targets along with the associated risks.
2	That Cabinet considers the options presented for alternative waste collection delivery models in order to achieve the statutory recycling targets set by Welsh Government and supports the proposal to pilot a reduction in collection frequencies in one area of the county.
3	That Cabinet approves the proposal to increase the garden waste subscription fee to recover increasing operational costs.

**REPORT DETAILS**

1.00	REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL’S COLLECTION WASTE STRATEGY										
1.01	<p>In 2010, Welsh Government (WG) published its policy for dealing with municipal waste in Wales ‘Towards Zero Waste’ (TZW). The policy set out statutory recycling targets for all Councils in Wales to meet.</p> <p>In June 2010, the Council adopted its own Municipal Waste Strategy. The strategy contained a number of key actions, which were required to meet the challenging targets set out in TZW.</p> <p>In 2011, WG published its Municipal Sector Plan, a partnering document to TZW, which provided guidance to Welsh Councils in the form of a Collections Blueprint, which outlines WG’s recommended service profile for the collection of waste from households. The Blueprint provides a system that, if adopted across the whole of Wales by all local authorities, would result in high rates of high quality recycling, significant cost savings and improved sustainable development outcomes. The Blueprint aims to help local authorities achieve the recycling targets set in the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 and ensure that we provide the best overall service for the people of Wales and future generations.</p>										
1.02	<p>In 2021, WG published its strategy ‘Beyond Recycling: Making the Circular Economy a Reality in Wales’, which aims to create an economy where we value resources and materials by keeping them in use for as long as possible and avoid all waste. Central to this strategy is The Waste Hierarchy, which ranks waste prevention and waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to waste prevention and reduction in the first place, followed by re-use, then recycling and composting, then other recovery (e.g. energy from waste), and last of all disposal (i.e. landfill).</p> <p>The Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 sets out the progressive annual targets for Welsh local authorities in relation to recycling, preparation for re-use and composting and The Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Definitions) (Wales) Order 2011 and The Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Monitoring and Penalties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 set out the obligations for local authorities in Wales to comply with the requirements.</p> <p>The targets set in the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 are minimum recovery (i.e. recycling, preparation for re-use and composting) targets. Which are detailed in the table below: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2012-2013</th> <th>2015-2016</th> <th>2019-2020</th> <th>2024-2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Recovery Target %</td> <td>At least 52%</td> <td>At least 58%</td> <td>At least 64%</td> <td>At least 70%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2012-2013	2015-2016	2019-2020	2024-2025	Recovery Target %	At least 52%	At least 58%	At least 64%	At least 70%
	2012-2013	2015-2016	2019-2020	2024-2025							
Recovery Target %	At least 52%	At least 58%	At least 64%	At least 70%							
1.03	<p>In response to these challenging targets, over the last five years alone, we have reviewed our waste strategy three times with the most recent review being the ‘Target 70’ report in July 2021. These reviews have allowed us to implement major service changes, which have contributed to improving the way we deliver our waste and recycling services. The reviews have always ensured that the Council aligns and operates to Welsh Government policy and strategy. As an authority, we currently follow the Collections Blueprint as set out in the Municipal Waste Sector Plan for the delivery of domestic waste and recycling collections.</p>										

1.04	<p>However, from being at a peak in performance in 2018-19 at 69.16%, our recycling performance levels in Flintshire have progressively decreased, year on year. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions have had a significant impact.</p> <p>The table below details our actual performance levels over the last 4 years against the statutory recycling targets set by Welsh Government: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual Performance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>58%</td> <td>69.16%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>64%</td> <td>65.85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>64%</td> <td>63.98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22</td> <td>64%</td> <td>60.08%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Target	Actual Performance	2018-19	58%	69.16%	2019-20	64%	65.85%	2020-21	64%	63.98%	2021-22	64%	60.08%													
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1.05	<p>Under the legislation, Welsh Government has the powers to levy fines, which are known as infraction fines. The amount of financial penalty to which a local authority is liable under section 3(7) of the Measure is £200 per tonne by which a local authority falls short of the target amount.</p> <p>Where a local authority is liable to a penalty under section 3(7) of the Measure or under the Regulations, the Welsh Ministers may either waive the penalty, or assess the amount due by way of penalty and notify the local authority accordingly.</p>																												
1.06	<p>In 2020-21, in Flintshire we missed the recycling target by just 17 tonnes, which, had Welsh Government chosen to use their powers, could have resulted in infraction fines of £3,400.</p> <p>In 2021-22, the recycling target has been missed by 3,314 tonnes, which could equate to a potential infraction fine of £662,888 if Welsh Government chose to levy a financial penalty.</p> <p>The table below outlines current overall waste arising, recycling performance and potential fines that could levied by Welsh Government to Flintshire for failing to achieve the statutory recycling targets: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th rowspan="2">Total MSW (t)</th> <th colspan="2">Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting Actual Performance</th> <th colspan="2">Target</th> <th rowspan="2">Difference to Target (t)</th> <th rowspan="2">Penalty liable (£)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>(%)</th> <th>(t)</th> <th>(%)</th> <th>(t)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>81,333</td> <td><b>63.98</b></td> <td>52,036</td> <td><b>64</b></td> <td>52,053</td> <td>-17</td> <td><b>3,400</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>84,496</td> <td><b>60.08</b></td> <td>50,763</td> <td><b>64</b></td> <td>54,077</td> <td>-3,314</td> <td><b>662,800</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For the first two quarters of 2022/23 reported municipal waste arisings have showed an improvement in our recycling performance to 63.17%. If this performance was to be sustained to the end of the reporting year then the estimated shortfall in tonnage is estimated be circa 622 tonnes, which could result in a potential infraction fine of £124,428. However, since September 2022 we have seen increases in the amount of residual waste collected following a sustained decrease in the months April-August. This, along with the seasonal decreases in tonnage of recyclable waste, such as garden waste, means that the performance of 63.17% is unlikely to be sustained to the end of the reporting year thus decreasing recycling performance against the statutory target and increasing potential fines.</p>	Year	Total MSW (t)	Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting Actual Performance		Target		Difference to Target (t)	Penalty liable (£)	(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)	2020/21	81,333	<b>63.98</b>	52,036	<b>64</b>	52,053	-17	<b>3,400</b>	2021/22	84,496	<b>60.08</b>	50,763	<b>64</b>	54,077	-3,314	<b>662,800</b>
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1.07	<p>Since the implementation of our managed weekly collection we have seen a year on year decrease in the amount of residual waste collected at the kerbside. This had been progressive and demonstrated our continual improvement in reducing residual waste sent for final disposal.</p> <p>However, in the year 2020/21 we had observed that this trend has been reversed and we saw an unprecedented increase in residual waste tonnages of over 9% due to the pandemic and people’s lifestyle changes. This change in trend meant that the level of residual waste collected had returned to that last seen in 2016/17.</p> <p>Since 2021/22, we have begun to see decreasing residual waste tonnages year on year. The following table outlines the total residual waste tonnages collected: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Residual Waste Collected (Year)</th> <th>Residual Waste Collected (Tonnage)</th> <th>Percentage Decrease/Increase from Previous year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>33,733.74</td> <td>-4.45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>32,846.37</td> <td>-2.63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>31,300.74</td> <td>-4.71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>30,843.96</td> <td>-1.46%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>33,728.65</td> <td>+9.35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>32,963.27</td> <td>-2.27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>31,010.78*</td> <td>-5.92%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*estimated tonnage for Dec 2022 to March 2023, which could increase if current trend continues.</i></p>	Residual Waste Collected (Year)	Residual Waste Collected (Tonnage)	Percentage Decrease/Increase from Previous year	2016/17	33,733.74	-4.45%	2017/18	32,846.37	-2.63%	2018/19	31,300.74	-4.71%	2019/20	30,843.96	-1.46%	2020/21	33,728.65	+9.35%	2021/22	32,963.27	-2.27%	2022/23	31,010.78*	-5.92%
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1.08	<p>For the year 2021/22, whilst Flintshire did not meet the statutory target, three Welsh local authorities did exceed the minimum target of 70% for 2024/25 and twelve authorities surpassed the target of 64%.</p> <p>As a result, it has been key for us to understand why our performance has progressively decreased and consequently, a recent compositional analysis has been undertaken in partnership with Welsh Government. This involves a physical waste compositional analysis where samples are collected from kerbside collections, including residual waste, food waste and recycling.</p>																								
1.09	<p>Whilst work is still underway to verify the analysis, the initial results have shown that up to 50% of what is placed in the residual waste (black) bins by residents in Flintshire is recyclable material. Furthermore, 27% of the black bin contents was found to be food waste, a significant amount of which was considered to be in an edible condition.</p> <p>With a separate weekly kerbside collection service available for food waste and weekly collection for recycling, the current situation is not sustainable and remains a significant risk to the local authority.</p>																								
1.10	<p>With the Welsh Government target of 70% approaching in 2024-25, further consideration has to be given as to how this target will be achieved.</p> <p>In response, two all-Members workshops were held on 9 November 2022 (10am and 5pm) in order to explore the options. The agenda for those workshops is detailed in <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>																								

1.11	<p>The workshops were delivered in two parts: first, a presentation was provided by officers to give an overview of the current recycling and waste collection operations, the legislative background, current policy and procedures, statutory targets and the council's recycling performance.</p> <p>The second part was allocated for members to consider a number of questions and provide their comments, suggestions and ideas as to how as a local authority we could achieve the statutory targets. The questions asked of members included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are we going to achieve the 70% recycling target by 2024-2025?</li> <li>• How are we going to reduce the amount of residual waste produced by residents?</li> <li>• How are we going to ensure that we do not receive substantial infraction fines?</li> <li>• What more can we do?</li> </ul> <p>A copy of the slide deck presented to members at the workshop is detailed in <b>Appendix 2.</b></p>
1.12	<p>The feedback received by members was comprehensive and some of the general themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving education and engagement to change behaviours;</li> <li>• Members sharing information in newsletters to residents</li> <li>• Improving engagement with schools to promote recycling to children</li> <li>• Learning from those local authorities that are already achieving the targets</li> <li>• Appealing to Welsh Government for support on achieving the targets</li> <li>• Improving availability of replacement bags and boxes for recycling</li> <li>• Promoting repair and reuse as well as schemes like reusable nappies to reduce waste</li> <li>• Using information from the crews and enforcement teams to focus campaigns in areas where there is low participation in recycling</li> <li>• Taking robust enforcement action if residents do not recycle or comply</li> <li>• Expanding the use of RFID technology to monitor participation and performance</li> <li>• Introducing a chargeable trade waste collection service to improve recycling yields</li> <li>• Changing waste collection frequencies or reducing the capacity of the black bin, which would require financial investment.</li> </ul>
1.13	<p>The individual comments, suggestions and questions gathered from elected members during the workshops are being collated into an action plan and will be used to produce a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to assist with information and understanding. Where possible, any changes will be considered in line with current policy and within available resources.</p>
1.14	<p>Given that it has been demonstrated that nearly 50% of the contents of the residual waste bin is filled with materials that could have been recycled and that the current target of 64% is not being achieved, the risk of not achieving the 70% target by 2024-25 remains significant and has been documented as a red risk on the portfolio's risk register.</p>

1.15	<p>The Welsh Government's priorities for collection are stipulated as the provision of kerbside collection services that reduce residual waste arisings, collect high levels of clean recyclables in ways that can be recycled 'closed loop' and locally (preferably in Wales or elsewhere in the UK) and at lowest overall financial cost, and in ways that help elicit the desired behavioural changes amongst householders, whilst at the same time providing convenience. A key measure introduced by a number of other local authorities across Wales is to limit how much waste households can throw away. By restricting the capacity of the residual waste bin, people are encouraged to make more use of the recycling kerbside collection service.</p>
1.16	<p>As a result of the deteriorating recycling performance levels and increasing residual waste tonnages, consideration now needs to be given to changing the provision of kerbside collections with a view to reducing residual waste arisings, which can be achieved by either changing the capacity of the residual waste bin or by changing the frequency of waste collections.</p> <p>In order to maximise financial efficiency and sustainability outcomes, as well as increase recycling performance, a comparative assessment of service delivery options has been undertaken of local authorities across Wales, the findings for which are detailed as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four weekly collections with a 240 litre bin (60 litres/week)</li> <li>• Three weekly collections with 180 litre bin (60 litres/week)</li> <li>• Two weekly collections with a 140 litre bin (70 litres/week)</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four weekly collections with 4 waste sacks (60 litres/week)</li> <li>• Three weekly collections with 3 waste sacks (60 litres/week)</li> <li>• Two weekly collections with 2 waste sacks (60 litres/week)</li> </ul>
1.17	<p>A comparison of a number of waste collection models across Wales has taken place previously and it was clear that restricting residual waste improves recycling levels, which in turn has a significant impact on recycling performance.</p> <p>Looking across the different types of models, the average improvement was found to be as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Overall reduction in household residual waste (incl. HWRCs) of 18%</li> <li>➤ Increase in kerbside dry recycling of 13%</li> <li>➤ Increase in food waste capture of 21%</li> </ul> <p>However, it has been determined that a 60 litres/week residual waste restriction has the highest impact on reducing residual waste and improving recycling performance. Reducing residual waste capacity to 60 litres/week has seen the following average improvements: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Overall reduction in household residual waste (incl. HRC) of 30%</li> <li>➤ Increase in kerbside dry recycling of 17%</li> <li>➤ Increase in food waste capture of 28%</li> </ul> <p>To demonstrate what this would mean in relation to the waste arising seen in Flintshire for the two-year period during which we have not achieved target, <b>Appendix 3</b> provides an indication of the potential improvement in recycling performance using the previously observed improvements.</p>

1.18	<p>As well as ensuring that we meet the statutory targets set by Welsh Government, a reduction in waste arising and increased recycling performance would bring financial savings, as the cost of disposing residual waste is significantly higher than that of recyclable waste, which can bring an income for recyclable materials.</p> <p>For the two options highlighted in 1.11 <b>Appendix 4</b> details the potential savings associated with recycling residual waste and increasing recycling.</p>																				
1.19	<p><b><u>Considerations</u></b></p> <p>If the collection frequency changed from the current fortnightly model, this would have an impact on required resources to deliver the collection services.</p> <p>The following table outlines the estimated operational costs for the provision of the current model and those for a three or four-weekly collection cycle: -</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2 Weekly Collections</th> <th>3 Weekly Collections</th> <th>4 Weekly Collections</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Properties per Week</td> <td>36,210</td> <td>27,176</td> <td>18,124</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vehicles per Day</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operatives per Week</td> <td>22</td> <td>16</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labour Cost per Year</td> <td>£770,000</td> <td>£560,000</td> <td>£455,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Operational savings would be realised through a reduction in the number of operatives required per week on residual waste rounds. These operatives would be allocated to alternative areas of the Service Delivery team to reduce the reliance on agency staff. The reductions above could potentially save up to £210,000 (three-weekly collections) or £315,000 (four-weekly collections) per year.</p>		2 Weekly Collections	3 Weekly Collections	4 Weekly Collections	Properties per Week	36,210	27,176	18,124	Vehicles per Day	5	4	3	Operatives per Week	22	16	13	Labour Cost per Year	£770,000	£560,000	£455,000
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1.20	<p>A change in collection frequency may require consideration of changes to the container size or container types, which would involve further considerations, including funding, health and safety impact on crews, compatibility with vehicles and storage for residents.</p> <p>Capital funding would be required to procure alternative sized residual waste containers should a change in container size be required. This is estimated to be in the region of £1million. Consideration would need to be given to what happens to the old bins/containers and whether these should be collected and provision made for their resale or disposal. Changing to a sack collection could present health and safety risks to the workforce in terms of manual handling, sharps/needle stick injuries, slips, trips and falls, personal injury and hygiene. There would be a need for our residents to control and contain the waste securely and safely on their own properties, which if contained within sacks which could attract vermin and produce odour. This option would also present the need to collect all existing containers and make provision for their resale or disposal.</p>																				

1.21	<p>At the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, members discussed the various options for alternative collection frequencies and proposed running a pilot for a reduced frequency collection service in one area of the county.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that Cabinet considers the proposal to pilot a reduction in collection frequencies in one area of the county.</p>
1.22	<p>Regardless of any changes to collection frequencies or container sizes, side waste enforcement would need to continue to ensure that only residual waste is presented for collection in the residual waste (black) bin and that residents are fully participating in recycling.</p> <p>As approved by Cabinet in the 2021 'Target 70' report, an option was included to introduce enhanced enforcement to address the issue of those residents who habitually do not present any, or some of the recycling, expected on the weekly collection. This would require the contents of the black bin to be inspected and, if recyclable materials were to be found in the residual waste bin, such as food waste, then the enforcement process would begin.</p>
1.23	<p>In addition to the above options, it is proposed that an increase in the charge for garden waste collections is considered as part of the review. One of the main reasons for including this as an option is due to the fact that portfolio currently has a budget pressure of £50k due to increasing operational costs, which come about as a result of not increasing the garden waste subscription fee since 2018-19.</p> <p>The current fees are detailed below: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £32.00 for ALL online payments</li> <li>• £32.00 for payments made on or before 28th February</li> <li>• £35.00 for payments made after 1st March 2022*</li> </ul> <p><i>*This fee applies to residents paying over the phone and using payment kiosks at Flintshire Connects</i></p> <p>On average, the Council receives approximately 32,000 garden waste subscriptions per year. An option for consideration would be to increase the rate from £32/subscription (online/early payments) to £33/subscription, which could deliver an additional income of £32k/year.</p> <p>At the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, members supported the proposal to increase the subscription rate by £1.00 as outlined above.</p>
1.24	<p>In addition to the above options, it is intended that work would continue to raise awareness and educate residents about what can and can't be recycled. Although a significant amount of work has taken place over the last three years to improve the information available on the Flintshire website and carry out education campaigns, such as food waste / recycling wrapping paper at Christmas time, more targeted campaigns will be explored around the use of RFID technology to monitor participation levels or where take-up of the kerbside recycling collection service is low, subject to available resources and funding. Members at the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 requested that a leaflet is issued with the Council tax notices to all properties to highlight the financial and environmental risks associated with not recycling.</p>



<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There would be an impact on resources and the operational workforce if the policy was changed, such as reduced frequency residual waste collections.
2.02	Capital funding would be required to procure alternative sized residual waste containers should collection frequencies or container change.
2.03	Implementing a significant service change on this scale would require additional service project management support.
2.04	Additional revenue funding would be required for targeted publicity campaigns, such as the leaflet suggested by members for distribution with the Council tax bill.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
3.01	<b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b>	
	Long-term	The proposals will drive improvements to recycling performance and achieving a Circular Economy.
	Prevention	The proposals will help prevent the increasing amounts of waste generated and therefore reduce the Council carbon footprint.
	Integration	No impact
	Collaboration	The proposal requires further work with Welsh Government, and partners, to find sustainable solutions for none recyclable materials.
	Involvement	Improved engagement with Flintshire residents to ensure they understand their responsibilities and ensure waste minimisation, reuse and recycling before disposal
	<b>Well-being Goals Impact</b>	
	Prosperous Wales	Positive – improving waste minimisation, reuse and recycling of recycling materials resulting in world leaders in recycling performance
	Resilient Wales	Positive – Less demand for raw materials, promoting circular economy
	Healthier Wales	Positive – reducing vehicle movements and emissions and allowing for the responsible management of controlled waste
	More equal Wales	No impact
	Cohesive Wales	No impact
	Vibrant Wales	Positive – improving waste minimisation, reuse and recycling of recycling materials and working towards carbon reduction
	Globally responsible Wales	Reducing the reliance on the extraction of raw materials and destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems by the reprocessing of recyclable materials.

3.02	We are highly unlikely to achieve the statutory recycling targets without making significant changes to improving our recycling performance and reducing the amount of waste presented in the residual waste bin.
3.03	The risk of not achieving the statutory recycling targets could result in a significant financial penalty for the Council (£200 for every tonne not recycled) if Welsh Government were to choose to levy the infraction fines.
3.04	Continuing to accept the volume of residual waste at the current rates has resulted in increased expenditure on disposal costs (£103/tonne). Diverting this waste to recycling would reduce the gate fee on some recycling streams (e.g. food) and would create an income for others (e.g. paper/glass/metal/plastic).
3.05	The lack of appetite to improve recycling performance and implement changes for reducing waste could result in the loss of grant funding and confidence from Welsh Government to invest in Flintshire. Limiting the amount of residual waste that is taken at each collection increases the amount of material that can be sorted for recycling, which helps to boost recycling yields and reduce residual waste generation.
3.06	Changing to a sack collection would present health and safety risks to the workforce in terms of manual handling, sharps/needle stick injuries, slips, trips and falls, personal injury and hygiene.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
4.02	Elected Members - Two workshops held on 9 November 2022
4.03	Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 10 January 2023

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<b>Appendix 1</b> Workshop Agenda.
5.02	<b>Appendix 2</b> Workshop Presentation.
5.03	<b>Appendix 3</b> Potential improvement in recycling performance .
5.04	<b>Appendix 4</b> Potential improvement in financial savings on disposal costs.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<a href="#">Stats Wales - Recycling Information</a> <a href="#">WasteDataFlow - Waste Tonnages</a> <a href="#">My Recycle Wales - Waste data and end destinations</a> <a href="#">Towards Zero Waste</a> <a href="#">Municipal Waste Sector Plan - Collections blueprint</a> <a href="#">Beyond Recycling Strategy</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Ruth Tulley, Regulatory Services Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704796  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ruth.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk">ruth.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Residual Waste</b> = non-recyclable waste placed in the black bin, which is not sent for recycling thus has no future benefits.</p> <p><b>Statutory Recycling Targets</b> = Targets set in legislation, which all local authorities must reach for waste reused, composted or recycled.</p> <p><b>WG</b> = Welsh Government  <b>TZW</b> = Towards Zero Waste (Policy document)</p>

## Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio

### Member's Seminar – Waste Strategy Review, Target 70 (2022)

Welcome – Chair of Scrutiny / Cabinet Member

- Introduction and Purpose
- Where are we now
  - Current collection policy
    - What we collect
    - How we collect it (frequency/containers)
    - What happens to the recycling and waste
  - Current performance
    - National Strategy and Policy (now and future)
    - Targets and statistics
    - Impact of missing targets (financial)
    - Compositional analysis (where we can improve)
    - Welsh local authority approach
  - Key Funding Investment
    - Greenfield development
    - RFID
    - Electric recycling vehicles ~(including charging points)
    - AHP collection resources
    - Future funding application requirements
- Considerations
  - How are we going to achieve the 70% recycling target by 2024-2025?
  - How are we going to reduce the amount of residual waste produced by residents?
  - How are we going to ensure that we do not receive substantial infraction fines?
  - What more can we do?
- Breakout Session / feedback
- Close out and thank you

# Waste Strategy Workshop Target 70%

## 9 November 2022



Cadwch **Sir y Fflint** yn Daclus  
Keep **Flintshire** Tidy

# Agenda

- Introduction and purpose of workshop
- Context and background
- Where are we now?
  - Current collection policy
  - Current performance
  - Key funding investment
- How are we going to achieve the 70% recycling target by 2024-2025
- Feedback session and questions
- Next steps
- Close out and thank you

# Context / Background

- The council's waste and recycling services are highly valued by local members and the wider community.
- In the last 12 years we have moved from a backdoor collection service to a modern, controlled kerbside collection service with the emphasis on recycling.
- Largely driven by Welsh Government (WG) Statutory Recycling Targets and the possibility of infraction fines if we do not achieve them i.e. 70% by 2024/2025
- The percentage of our total waste arisings recycled, composted or re-used increased to 69.16% in 2018/2019
- However, since the pandemic in 2020, we are seeing a year on year decrease and we are now at 60.08% irrespective of the improvements made to our services
- Over the last five years, we have reviewed our waste strategy three times, with the most recent review being the 'Target 70' campaign in July 2021.
- These reviews have allowed us to implement changes, which have attributed to improving the way we deliver our household recycling centre services.
- We are also facing additional budget risks e.g. Sustainable Waste Management Grant, along with potential additional responsibilities

# How We Collect Waste

Waste Stream (Kerbside Collections)	Frequency	Containers
Residual	2-weekly	Black wheeled bin (180L)
Food Waste	Weekly	Biodegradable bags / food waste caddies
Dry recyclables (glass, plastic, cans, paper, card)	Weekly	Reusable Sacks / blue box
Garden Waste	2-weekly*	Brown wheeled bin (140L)
Batteries	Weekly	Sealable Bags
Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP)	Weekly	Orange box / bags
Clinical / medical	Weekly	Specialist containers/bags

\* From 1<sup>st</sup> March until mid-December



# Enforcement Arrangements

Enforcement side waste was introduced March 2018

Side waste is classified as non recyclable waste not contained in the black bin

Three stage process:

1<sup>st</sup> Stage – Informal - Education and Awareness (letter & sticker on bin)

2<sup>nd</sup> Stage – Formal - Section 46 Notice

3<sup>rd</sup> Stage – Formal - Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)



## Page 241 Bulky Waste Collections / Deconstruction

Bulky waste is a chargeable service offering a collection for items that are too large to dispose of via the kerbside collection service or to take to a HRC

Local not-for-profit charity **Flintshire Refurbs** collect furniture and electrical items on behalf of the Council

Items can be refurbished and offered for re-sale in Refurbs outlet in Flint

If items are not suitable for refurbishment, they are deconstructed into component parts (wood/metals) and recycled.

# Kerbside Dry Recycling

Plastic, metal cans, paper/cardboard, food and domestic batteries are all collected on one vehicle on a weekly basis

- 3,400 tonnes of plastics
- 700t of steel and aluminium cans
- 4,900t of paper and cardboard
- 5,250t of glass
- Household batteries



# What Happens to Food Waste?

Food waste is sent to an anaerobic digestion plant in Rhualt Partnership with Welsh Government, Denbighshire and Conwy  
4,700 tonnes of food is collected annually



Typical food types accepted are:

- ✓ Page 243 Vegetables and peelings
- ✓ Bread, rice, pasta
- ✓ Meats, fish, bones
- ✓ Tea bags, coffee grounds
- ✓ Egg shells, dairy products

- The process produces:
  - Biogas (electricity)
  - Organic fertiliser



# What Happens to Garden Waste?

Green waste from Flintshire households, HRCs and parks and gardens is taken to the Greenfield composting facility



- 17,000+ tonnes of material is processed via open windrow composting
- Produces 6,000+ tonnes of high nutrient soil conditioner
- PAS100 accredited
- Used as fertiliser on farmland and in horticulture



# What Happens to Residual Waste?

- 32,800+ tonnes of residual waste was collected last year (2021-2022)
- 24,000 tonnes via the black bin
- Annual budget of £3.2M to dispose of residual waste
- Parc Adfer Waste to Energy Plant on Deeside Industrial Park
- Five Authorities form the North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Partnership



- Electricity (30,000 properties)
- Bottom Ash (aggregate)
- Metal Recovery

# Polices, Legislation, Guidance and Changing Times

- Towards Zero Waste: Our Waste Strategy 2010
  - Municipal Waste Sector Plans, Collections Blueprint
- Recycling, Preparation for Re-use and Composting Targets (Monitoring and Penalties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Wales Waste Measure
  - Waste classification, Household/Municipal Waste
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- End Destinations
  - proximity principle , market stability, reporting regimes
- Wales Circular Economy – Beyond Recycling Strategy
  - Repair and reuse, carbon reduction, closed loop
- Waste Compositional Analysis
- Grant funding applications for new initiatives

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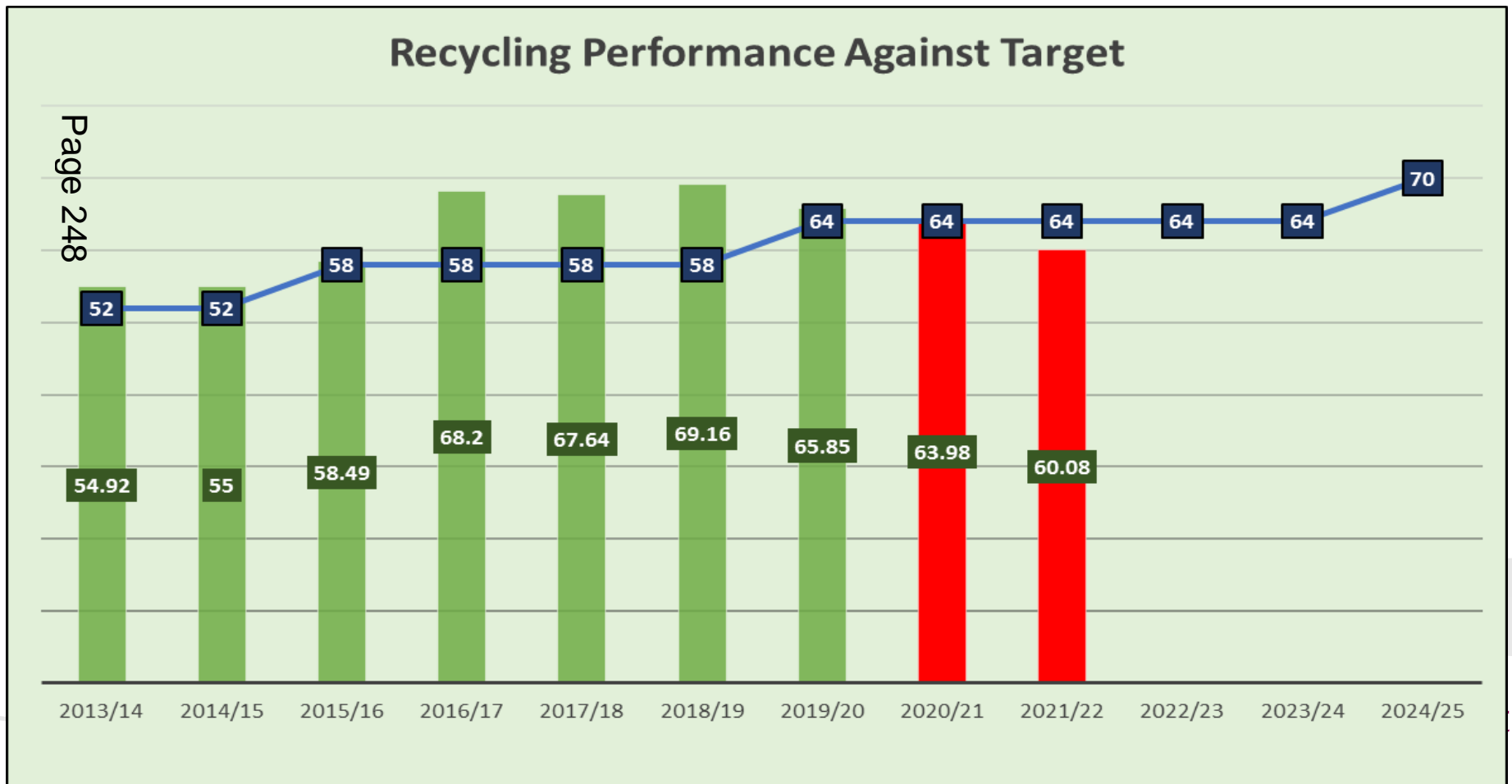
# Collections Blueprint

The collections blueprint is Welsh Government's preferred service configuration for the waste collected from households in order to comply with the policies, outcomes and targets laid down in Towards Zero Waste.

- ✓ Reduced residual waste container capacity
- ✓ Reduced residual waste collection frequency
- ✓ Do not collect side waste for residual waste
- ✓ Provide a weekly collection of dry recyclables, separated at the kerbside (kerbside sort system)
- ✓ Use modern lightweight, multi-compartment vehicles
- ✓ Promote home composting/ treatment for garden waste
- ✓ Apply charging for a garden waste collection
- ✓ Food waste collected separately once a week (not co-mingled with green waste)
- ✓ Run a bulky waste collection service focusing on reuse and recycling

# Recycling Targets and Performance

Municipal Waste Collected by Local Authorities	2012-13	2012-13	2015-16	2019-20	2024-25
Target	40%	52%	58%	64%	70%





# Financial Impact of Not Recycling

If we do not achieve the set target, we could face fines of £200 per tonne of waste not recycled.

Year	Total MSW (t)	Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting Actual Performance		Target		Difference to Target (t)	Penalty liable (£)
		(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)		
2020/21	81,333	<b>63.98</b>	52,036	<b>64</b>	52,053	-17	<b>3,400</b>
2021/22	84,496	<b>60.08</b>	50,763	<b>64</b>	54,077	-3,314	<b>662,800</b>
	84,496	<b>60.08</b>	50,763	<b>70</b>	59,147	-8,384	<b>1,676,840</b>

- Cost of disposal of the 3,314t is in excess of **£330,000**
- Cost to the authority of not recycling to meet the statutory target is over **£1,000,000**
- When at target 70% the cost would be over **£2,500,000**

# Why are we not achieving the target?

- Residual waste increased by 3,000t during the pandemic
- Recycling did increase initially, but is now returning to pre-pandemic levels
- Up to 50% of the black bin contains recyclable materials

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Majority of the recyclable waste in the black bin is food waste

AHP/nappy collections have inadvertently allowed for increased capacity in the black bin

- Side waste enforcement was suspended from March 2020 until September 2021

Authority	Average Reuse, Recycling & Composting Rate 2021/22	Residual Waste Collection Regime		Recycling Collection Regime	
Pembrokeshire County Council	73.24%	3 Sacks	3 weekly	Weekly	Blueprint
Bridgend CBC	72.58%	Sacks	Fortnightly	Weekly	Blueprint
Vale of Glamorgan Council	70.19%	2 Sacks	Fortnightly	Weekly	Co-mingled
Conwy CBC	70.17%	240l bin	Monthly	Weekly	Blueprint
Ceredigion County Council	69.62%	No defined limit	3 Weekly	Weekly	Co-mingled
Monmouthshire CC	69.53%	2 sacks	Fortnightly	Weekly	Blueprint
Wrexham CBC	67.89%	240l	Fortnightly	Weekly	Blueprint
Newport City Council	67.11%	120l	Fortnightly	Weekly	Co-mingled
Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC	67.23%	2 Sacks	Fortnightly	Weekly	Blueprint
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	66.82%	140l	Fortnightly	Weekly	Blueprint
Powys County Council	66.77%	180l	3 Weekly	Weekly	Blueprint
Neath Port Talbot CBC	66.01%	140l	Fortnightly	Weekly	Blueprint
City and County of Swansea	65.07%	No defined limit	3 Weekly	Fortnightly	Blueprint
Blaenau Gwent CBC	64.94%	No defined limit	3 Weekly	Weekly	Blueprint
Denbighshire County Council	64.82%	140l bin	Fortnightly*	Fortnightly	Co-mingled*
Gwynedd Council	64.17%	240l bin	3 Weekly	Weekly	Blueprint
Torfaen CBC	62.61%	140l bin	Fortnightly	Weekly	Blueprint
Isle of Anglesey CC	62.30%	240l bin	3 Weekly	Weekly	Blueprint
Carmarthenshire County Council	61.82%	3 sacks	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Co-mingled
<b>Flintshire County Council</b>	<b>60.08%</b>	<b>180l bin</b>	<b>Fortnightly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	<b>Blueprint</b>
Caerphilly CBC	59.68%	No defined limit	Fortnightly	Weekly	Co-mingled
Cardiff County Council	58.19%	3 sacks	Fortnightly	Weekly	Co-mingled

\* Denbighshire have approval to change to a monthly collection with a kerbside sort system for dry recycling

# Funding Investments

- Greenfield redevelopment (welfare/traffic management/composting site)
- RFID – garden waste sticker/permit replacement
- Electric recycling vehicles
- Electric vehicle charging points
- AHP/nappy collections (containers/vehicle/infrastructure)
- Future funding application requirements

How are we going to achieve the 70% recycling target by 2024-2025?

How are we going to reduce the amount of residual waste produced by residents?

How are we going to ensure that we do not receive substantial infraction fines?

What more can we do?

# Next Steps

- Collate all feedback from workshops
- Review the feedback
- Identify any operational and policy changes required
- Report to E&EOSC in January 2023 for scrutiny
- Present to Cabinet in January 2023 for consideration

# Thank You

### Appendix 3 - Potential Improvement in Recycling Performance

Performance based on 2020/21 tonnages

Actual Recycling Performance 2020/21	Total Waste Arising	Target		Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting actual performance	
	(t)	(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)
	81,333	64	52,053	<b>63.98</b>	<b>52,036</b>

Potential performance on 60l/week residual waste collection restriction	Total Waste Arising	Target		Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting Potential performance	
	(t)	(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)
	75,958	64	48,613	<b>74</b>	<b>56,018</b>
75,958	70	53,170	<b>74</b>	<b>56,018</b>	

Potential performance on average residual waste collection restriction	Total Waste Arising	Target		Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting Potential performance	
	(t)	(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)
	76,610	64	49,030	<b>72</b>	<b>55,060</b>
76,610	70	53,627	<b>72</b>	<b>55,060</b>	

Performance based on 2021/22 tonnages

Actual Recycling Performance 2021/22	Total Waste Arising	Target		Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting actual performance	
	(t)	(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)
	84,496	64	59,147	<b>60.08</b>	<b>50,763</b>

Potential performance on 60l/week residual waste collection restriction	Total Waste Arising	Target		Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting Potential performance	
	(t)	(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)
	79,319	64	51,212	<b>69</b>	<b>54,495</b>
79,319	70	56,013	<b>69</b>	<b>54,495</b>	

Potential performance on average residual waste collection restriction	Total Waste Arising	Target		Total Recycling, Reuse, Composting Potential performance	
	(t)	(%)	(t)	(%)	(t)
	80,019	64	49,030	<b>67</b>	<b>53,598</b>
80,019	70	53,627	<b>67</b>	<b>53,598</b>	



#### Appendix 4 - Potential Improvement in Financial Savings on Disposal Costs

Expenditure based on 2020/21 tonnages

Potential saving on 60l/week residual waste collection restriction	2020/21 Actual Tonnage			Potential Tonnage		
	Residual Waste (t)	Food Waste (t)	Dry Recycling (t)	Residual Waste - 30% decrease	Dry Recycling - 17% increase	Food Waste - 28% increase
	31,190	5,079	15,057	21,833	17,616	6,501
	Tonnage Variation (t)			-9,357	2,560	1,422
	Saving (£)			-£ 963,775.64	-£ 127,980.93	£ 103,099.62
	Potential Saving @ 60l			-£ 988,656.95		

Potential saving on average residual waste collection restriction	2020/21 Actual Tonnage			Potential Tonnage		
	Residual Waste (t)	Food Waste (t)	Dry Recycling (t)	Residual Waste - 18 % decrease	Dry Recycling - 13% increase	Food Waste - 21% increase
	31,190	5,079	15,057	25,576	17,014	6,145
	Tonnage Variation (t)			-5,614	1,957	1,067
	Saving (£)			-£ 578,265.38	-£ 97,867.77	£ 77,324.71
	Potential Saving @ average			-£ 598,808.44		

Expenditure based on 2021/22 tonnages

Potential saving on 60l/week residual waste collection restriction	2021/22 Actual Tonnage			Potential Tonnage		
	Residual Waste (t)	Food Waste (t)	Dry Recycling (t)	Residual Waste - 30% decrease	Dry Recycling - 17% increase	Food Waste - 28% increase
	29,697	4,684	14,240	20,788	16,661	5,996
	Tonnage Variation (t)			-8,909	2,421	1,312
	Saving (£)			-£ 917,636.99	-£ 121,043.69	£ 95,088.16
	Potential Saving @ 60l			-£ 943,592.52		

Potential saving on average residual waste collection restriction	2021/22 Actual Tonnage			Potential Tonnage		
	Residual Waste (t)	Food Waste (t)	Dry Recycling (t)	Residual Waste - 18 % decrease	Dry Recycling - 13% increase	Food Waste - 21% increase
	29,697	4,684	14,240	24,352	16,092	5,668
	Tonnage Variation (t)			-5,345	1,851	984
	Saving (£)			-£ 550,582.19	-£ 92,562.82	£ 71,316.12
	Potential Saving @ average			-£ 571,828.89		

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**ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**1 FEBRUARY 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a remote attendance meeting on Wednesday 1 February, 2023

**PRESENT: Councillor David Evans (Chairman)**

Councillors: Mike Allport,

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Carol Ellis (one of the initiators of the call in)

**SUBSTITUTIONS:** Councillor Tina Claydon (for Councillor Richard Lloyd)

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Glyn Banks, Helen Brown, Richard Jones and David Richardson (initiators of the call in)

Councillor Richard Lloyd attended as an observer

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy); Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation); Regulatory Services Manager; Streetscene Service Manager and Waste Operations Manager

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Democratic Services Manager and Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

**48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**49. CONSIDERATION OF A MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THE CALL IN ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that the Cabinet had considered a report on 'Waste Strategy Review' at a meeting held on 17 January 2023. The decision (Record of Decision 4056) had been called in by Councillors Bernie Attridge, Helen Brown, David Richardson, Carol Ellis, Richard Jones and Glyn Banks. Copies of the Cabinet report, Record of Decision and Endorsement of Call in, which identified three reasons for the call in, were included in the agenda pack.

The Democratic Services Manager explained the procedure for the call in of a Cabinet decision as detailed in the supporting document which was included in the agenda.

The Chairman invited the signatories to present the reasons for the call-in to the Committee.

**50. WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW**

Representations from call in signatories

Councillor Richard Jones outlined the reasons for the call in as detailed within the Agenda. Whilst commenting on the reasons relating to the proposed pilot, he outlined the comments made by Cabinet Members during consideration of the Waste Strategy Review report, which had been around the need for better education and the fact that residents had worked with the Council in the past in ensuring high recycling rates and that this could happen again. The signatories of the call in did not support the introduction of a pilot scheme without knowing the costs, especially given the Chief Officer's comments that this could be tricky, logistically challenging and would add additional cost and feel that education and awareness for residents could work again.

Councillor Jones referred to data provided to Members during the Waste Strategy Workshop held on 9 November, 2022 which showed that the Council had the same collection frequencies as 2 other Council's with the highest recycling collection rates across Wales. He commented on the recycling collection rates at Wrexham Council which currently stood at 68% and that they had 240lr bins and a 2 weekly collection frequency. He felt that this demonstrated that achieving a better recycling rate had nothing to do with the frequency of collections or the size of the black bin and everything to do with education around recycling.

Councillor Glyn Banks recognised that at present the recycling collection rates were disappoint but felt that the 70% target rate was not only achievable but passable by implementation of the proposals put forward to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet back in September 2021 and without the need to change the frequency of collections. In outlining each of the proposals included within the September 2021 report, he did not believe that they had been fully implemented, especially around education and enhanced enforcement. He said that the Council was following the WG Strategy to the letter but was not implement it and did not feel that the WG could fine the Council for not hitting the target, especially given the increase in home working as a result of the Pandemic.

In relation to Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP), Councillor Banks welcomed the collection of these products but raised concern that they were being taken to Parc Adfer and not being recycled. He said that the weight of this collection could have a positive increase on the recycling rates and cited Gwynedd Council as an example of a Council who sent their produce to South Wales for recycling. He felt that this was an area that the Council could improve on. He also commented on the Household Recycling Centres and whilst praising the staff at the centres, more work needed to be done to ensure all general waste was being checked for recycling. He said that before any consideration was given to moving to 3 or 4 weekly waste collection service, he wanted to see that all of the proposals within the September 2021 report had been implemented and a further report brought back to the Committee. If these proposals were implemented and they had no effect on the recycling targets then he appreciated that the frequency of collections may need to be considered further.

Councillor Helen Brown commented on the AHP and felt that if this was recycled the Council could be reaching its recycling target. She said that many

residents were complaining about the length of time taken to receive caddies which were not always available and that residents were also not aware that this waste was not being recycled.

Councillor David Richardson asked why changing the frequency of collections was being considered as part of the pilot when areas, such as, education and enforcement could be improved. He said that since becoming a Councillor he had not seen any enforcement within his ward and commented on enforcement within the private sector which he said was proactive instead of reactive. He felt that the Council should make recycling easier for residents, commenting on the recycling bags which many residents complained about and also the opening times of Household Recycling Centres which were not accessible for residents working full time.

Councillor Bernie Attridge felt that there was a lack of consistency with waste collections, commenting on cardboard and side waste being collected at some properties and not at others. He commented on the partnership working between the Council and Housing Associations and the lack of recycling being carried out at Housing Association flats due to the lack of communal bins provided. He suggested that the Council withhold the Social Housing Grant to Housing Associations until they provided adequate bins for recycling as he felt that this was assist with the Council's recycling target. He said that he had been proud during his time as Deputy Leader that the Council was one of the top performing Council's across Wales in terms of recycling targets and said he was confident that the Council could meet the targets again without changing the frequency of collections which he felt penalized residents.

#### Responses from the decision makers

The Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) gave a detailed presentation in response to the concerns and comments made by the signatories of the call-in, which covered the following areas:-

- Reasons provided for call-in
- Response to the Call-In
- Education
- Enforcement
- Other local authority performance

The Regulatory Services Manager responded to the comments around the volume of AHP collected and reported that the volume was 470 tonnes per annum which was not a significant enough volume to meet the 64% recycling target rate let alone the future target of 70%. She said that whilst the service had been embraced by members of the public and that they continued to work with WG to look for long term sustainable recycling solutions, this waste alone would not be sufficient to reach the recycling targets. She advised that the recycling waste being placed in black bins should be targeted and reported that 27% of food waste was being placed in black bins. This amounted to 6,620 tonnes of food waste last year where only 4,470 tonnes of food waste was collected through the weekly collection service provided to residents. Ensuring this type of waste was placed out for recycling would have a significant impact on recycling collection rates.

The Regulatory Services Manager also reported that, following a commitment to increase the number of Enforcement Officers, 3 additional Officers had been appointed to assist with tackling additional fly tipping issues.

The Chief Officer commented on the suggestion to send AHP waste to South Wales as was being carried out by Gwynedd Council and advised that early cost benefit analysis carried out suggested that it was not economical for the Council to send this waste to South Wales. She reported that the waste sent to Parc Adfer did count towards the recycling collection figures. All options on how this waste was disposed would continue to be explored.

The Chief Officer also reported that providing that cardboard was flat packed and not contaminated this would be collected for recycling by the operatives.

The Chairman invited Members of the Committee to ask questions of the decision makers.

Councillor Mike Peers said that it seemed Cabinet voted to support the proposal to pilot a reduction in the frequency of collections without considering a detailed report on the pilot scheme. He said that during consideration of the report at the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 January Members were advised that reducing the weekly capacity in the black bin would force residents to recycle. He said that he had not agreed with this statement at the time and did not agree with it now having done further research and cited the recycling collection rates at Wrexham Council as an example of why he felt this statement was flawed. He commented on the enforcement of side waste and that 6 fixed penalty notices had been issued since September 2021, which he felt gave the impression that side waste wasn't a significant issue.

In referring to the Waste Strategy Review report to Scrutiny and Cabinet in January, Councillor Peers commented on the blueprint, as outlined within the report, which stated that if adopted, would result in high rates of high quality recycling and questioned whether the blueprint was not working or not being followed, as the high rates and high quality recycling was not being met. On a composite analysis, he felt that the problem lied with household not recycling properly and not about reducing bin capacity and changing the frequency of collections was not the answer. He said that if residents currently put food waste in an 180lr black bin with 2 weekly collections, they will still do the same with a 3 weekly collection.

The Chief Officer said that Councillor Peers was correct that Cabinet would not have supported a pilot without detail and that Cabinet had recommended that a further report be brought back to a future meeting to outline specific details of the proposed pilot prior to a decision being made on whether to proceed. She said that she could not comment on the collection rates at Wrexham Council as they did not operate their service in-house but she said that she could approach them to ascertain what they did differently as they were the only Council bucking the trend of all Local Authorities across Wales. From the data collected all 4 best performing Councils had reduced the size of the black bin to 60lr with 1 Council increasing their recycling rates by 11%.

The Chief Officer also agreed with the comments made by Councillor Peers that the reason the Council were not meeting their recycling target was because some members of the public were not recycling properly and that residual waste had increased by 9% and therefore it was necessary for the Council to look at restrictions to encourage recycling.

The Regulatory Services Manager responded to comments that members of the public who recycled regularly could feel punished unnecessarily through the changes to waste collection frequency. She did not feel that this was a valid argument as they would not need the capacity within their black bin. She said that all members of the public should be encouraged to use the comprehensive recycling service, provided weekly, to its full capacity.

Councillor Richard Jones commented on food waste being the densest waste and the concern around the weight of the waste if residents continued to place this waste in their black bin. He commented on the recommendation made by the Scrutiny Committee in January around the pilot but said Members were not aware that there would be a change to the frequency of collections without further information being presented.

Councillor Glyn Banks commented on the number of residents using the AHP service which he said worked out less than 0.1kg per person per week. He said that even allowing for that weight of 470 tonnes, this was still a £61,000 gate fee at Parc Adfer and felt that looking at sending this waste to South Wales in conjunction with Gwynedd Council should be considered.

Councillor David Richardson asked whether officers enforced side waste only or whether they also checked waste within the black bins. He said that some families had 6 members in one household and others lived on their own and that those that lived on their own may continue to put all waste in the black bin even with smaller bins.

Councillor Roy Wakleman said that when he seconded the proposal for a pilot at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in January, the discussion had been around educating residents and he questioned how the change in frequency of collections to 3 weekly had been included in the pilot when considered by Cabinet. The Chairman said that his recollection from the Committee meeting was that there wasn't a one size fits all solution but it was also suggested that a pilot be considered.

Councillor Chris Dolphin supported the comments of officers around food waste and said that there needed to be more education and enforcement. He spoke of his personal experience of being able to recycle fully with 4 adults and 2 babies in one household and the need for education which could be carried out through leaflets to residents outlining the fines which could be imposed on the Council if recycling targets were not met. He spoke in favour of Option 3 as a recommendation from the Committee, that the decision should be reconsidered by Cabinet as he was not in favour of a pilot and felt that the Council should get on with introducing a 3 weekly collection as those residents who currently recycle would not be affected.

Councillor Ian Hodge spoke on the need for education, citing a recent situation where he had visited schools and was disappointed with the lack of education at schools and at home, when questioning children on their knowledge of recycling.

The Chairman said that education would be a great thing but the 70% recycling target was coming around quicker than all of the education could be carried out.

Councillor Mared Eastwood asked where reducing the black bins to 60l sat within the blueprint that WG expected the Council to deliver on. The Chief Officer advised that the size of the bins did not sit within the blueprint as WG did not specify litres per week. The Council had collected a great deal of data and evidence that those Councils who had moved to reducing the black bins to 60l had higher recycling rates. WG were reviewing the blueprint but additional responsibilities, such as the AHP waste collection, had been placed on Local Authorities as part of the current blueprint.

Councillor Dan Rose said that when proposing the pilot at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in January, the Committee were discussing education and that the methodology used for the pilot was an important detail for Members to know. He said that the Council needed to look at all options available in order to give Officers confidence when meeting with WG Ministers to demonstrate what actions were being considered/taken. He felt that the purpose of the pilot should be to dig deeper in understanding why residents were not recycling and that the area chosen would be important given the 47% of recycling waste currently being put in the back bin. He asked if the 47% of recycling waste was based on weight or volume.

The Regulatory Services Manager advised that the data was based on weight. The Chief Officer also added that during consideration of the Waste Strategy at the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet meetings, it was not specified what the frequency of collections would be during the pilot. The intention of presenting a further report to Cabinet on the pilot would be to consider various options around frequency and size of bin.

The Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy outlined the financial implications to the Council in not meeting the recycling targets which equated to 0.7% of Council Tax. He said that no decision had been made to pilot a 3 weekly waste collection service but said that a pilot, once agreed by Cabinet, would provide data and evidence on the impact any changes would have.

The Chairman invited the initiators of the call in to sum up.

Councillor Richard Jones, in summing up, said that it was unfair for officers to say that other options, alongside changing the frequency of collections was being considered by Cabinet, as during the Cabinet meeting, piloting a 3 weekly collection was all that was discussed. During the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Officer had offered to bring back a report on the pilot but this would include information on the area selected and other data relating to 3 weekly collection and not different types of pilot schemes. He did not feel that changing the



frequency of collections would have a positive effect as this could antagonise and disenfranchise residents to do the right thing. He also felt that the signatories of the call in had provided enough evidence that there was doubt with the Cabinet decision around the pilot and that there was a need to change residents behaviour which would be a better course of action to increase recycling rates.

Councillor Glyn Banks asked the Committee to consider Option 3 or 4 as a recommendation and said that if Cabinet were minded to go ahead with a pilot, all options around frequency of collections and size of bins should be considered in order to provide accurate data to the Council.

The Chief Officer, in summarising, said that regardless of what action the Council took it was still facing a fine of £663,000 for not achieving the recycling targets set by WG last year and were likely to be fined further within this financial year. She advised that the Council was educating people and carrying out enforcement but members of the public who refused to recycle were not changing their behaviour and this posed a significant financial risk to the Council.

The Chairman invited the Democratic Service Manager to remind Members of the options for decision-making as detailed in item 3 of the agenda.

Councillor Mared Eastwood asked if Members wanted to see detailed proposals on how the pilot would work, which Option would this be for the recommendation. The Chairman advised that this would be Option 3 to ask Cabinet to look at the decision again.

Councillor Mike Peers proposed Option 3 and this was seconded by Councillor Ian Hodge. When put to the vote the proposal was carried.

Councillor Mike Peers asked that the nature of Members concerns be set out in writing to Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:**

That having considered the decision, the Committee is still concerned about it and refers this decision back to Cabinet to be reconsidered at the earliest scheduled meeting.

**51. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE**

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.35 am)

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**Chairman**

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## EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN REPORTED TO CABINET – 14.03.23

### Revenues

- **Write Offs**

Financial Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources to write off debts between £10k and £25k.

There are three outstanding debts totalling £33,068.40. One relating to outstanding Business Rates and two relating to Corporate Debt invoices. Recovery options have been exhausted in all cases and the outstanding balances are deemed irrecoverable and a write off is considered necessary.

- **Business Rates – Adoption of Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief (RLHRR) Scheme for 2023/24**

Welsh Government (WG) have extended the business rate relief scheme aimed at supporting businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. Eligible ratepayers will be provided with 75% rate relief during 2023/24.

The scheme is a temporary measure to support businesses and is fully funded by WG. There is also requirement for individual local authorities to adopt the schemes and determine which businesses can be awarded relief using the scheme guidance provided by WG.

### Housing and Assets

- **Community Asset Transfer**

The report relates to the Community Asset Transfer of Former Scout Hut Premises and Land, Park Avenue, Mold.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are retained by the Team Leader – Committee Services and available to view on request by Members.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS  
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY  
1 March 2023 TO 31 August 2023**

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
March					
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee  Page 269	2/03/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&amp;HC OSC)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2/03/23	Social Services	<b>Social Work and OT Students (Growing our Own)</b> To receive a report on the development of Social Workers and Occupational Therapists from within the workforce.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2/03/23	Social Services	<b>How to become a Micro Carer</b> To raise awareness of the Micro Care initiative.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2/03/23	Social Services	<b>Update on Children's residential care</b> To receive an update on Children's residential care.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2/03/23	Social Services	<b>Flintshire Provider Services – Regulatory Issues, Service Effectiveness and Development</b> To update Members on the role of the responsible individual and the in-house regulated services performance over the last 12 months.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/03/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&amp;E OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
<span style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); position: absolute; left: -40px; top: 50%; font-weight: bold;">Page 271</span> Environment & Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee	7/03/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<p><b>Local Toilet Strategy</b></p> <p>The advise Scrutiny that the next statutory formal review point for our Local Toilet Strategy is required to follow the local government elections that were held in May 2022, and we now have one year from the date of the elections to review, revise, consult upon and publish updated strategies for our local area. This report sets out the approach being taken and the timescales of the review. This revised Local Toilet Strategy will be presented in March 2023.</p>	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/03/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Grass Cutting Policy</b> To advise Scrutiny of the revised Grass Cutting Policy.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/03/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Streetscene Standards</b> The Streetscene Standards have not been reviewed since 2019. This reports reviews the existing standards and recommend amendments to ensure that the service continues to delivers to the needs and expectations of the public.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/03/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Bereavement Services</b> To advise the committee on the services provided and challenges faced.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/03/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/03/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Void Management</b> To provide a further update on voids management and delivery.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/03/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Dynamic Resource Scheduler (DRS) System Update</b> To provide an update following implementation of the DRS System.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/03/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Results of the Tenants Survey and Developing our Customer Involvement Strategy</b> To provide comments on both the results of the STAR survey and the draft strategy aim and objectives.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/03/23	Governance	<b>Sheltered Housing Review – Task &amp; Finish Group</b> To consider the establishment of a Task & Finish Group to move forward with the Sheltered Housing Review.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/03/23	Housing and Communities	<b>North East Wales (NEW) Homes Business Plan 2023/2052</b> To consider the NEW Homes Business Plan 2023/2052.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	9/03/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Action Tracking</b> To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	9/03/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	9/03/23	Governance	<b>Corporate Self-Assessment 2021-22</b> To report on the findings and improvement plan following the completion of the Corporate Self-Assessment 2021/22.	All Report Types	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	9/03/23	Governance	<b>Joint Corporate Procurement Unit - Annual Report for 2021/22</b> To receive a performance update report on the Joint Procurement Service with Denbighshire County Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	9/03/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 10)</b> To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 10) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	14/03/23	Education and Youth	<b>Admissions Consultation 2024/2025</b> To advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for 2024/25 and to recommend approval.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Cabinet	14/03/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 10)</b> This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2022/23 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 10, and projects forward to year-end.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	14/03/23	Governance	<b>Business Rate Write Offs in excess of £25,000</b> For cabinet to approve the write off of Business Rate balances in excess of £25,000 where it is no longer possible to collect the debts	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	14/03/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>HyNet Carbon Capture Project; Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and Consenting Process Update</b></p> <p>To provide an update on the cross border hydrogen and carbon capture storage (CSS) project called HyNet North West, the consenting processes for the project, and to establish if a corporate view is required on the project as a whole.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Cabinet	14/03/23	Governance	<p><b>Report back from the Call In of Decision No. 4056 - Waste Strategy Review</b></p> <p>To report back from the Call In.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	14/03/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<p><b>Streetscene Standards Review 2022-23</b> To review the existing Streetscene standards and consider a new set of measures and performance indicators that link more closely to the Council Plan, portfolio business plan and policies.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Cabinet	14/03/23	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Approach to pay for leavers</b> To discuss and agree on the approach to be taken to pay for leavers.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	14/03/23	Housing and Communities	<p><b>North East Wales (NEW) Homes Business Plan 2023/2052</b> To consider the NEW Homes Business Plan 2023/2052.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	14/03/23	Housing and Communities	<p><b>Plas Bellin (Local Solutions) Contract Extension</b> To note the change in service delivery model linked to services of housing support for vulnerable families presently delivered from Plas Belin Supported Housing Project for vulnerable families.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Cabinet	14/03/23	Housing and Communities	<p><b>Housing Support Grant - Extension of Contract for The Wallich, Homeless Hub</b> To extend the contract for The Glanrafon – Emergency Homeless Hub for 1 year (end of 23/24) with an option to extend for an additional year (end of 24/25).</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Cabinet	14/03/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<p><b>Grass Cutting Policy – Managing Road Verges and Amenity Grasslands to Support Biodiversity</b> To consider the opportunities available to increase biodiversity in the management of road verges and amenity grasslands through the Council’s grass cutting policy.</p>	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	14/03/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2021/22</b> To present the 2021/22 annual report for the Strategic Equality Plan.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Governance and Audit Committee Page 280	22/03/23	Governance	<b>Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 Mid-year Progress Report</b> To provide the Governance and Audit Committee with an update of the progress made against managing the issues identified within the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<b>Corporate Self-Assessment 2021-22</b> To report on the findings and improvement plan following the completion of the Corporate Self-Assessment 2021/22.	All Report Types	



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Q4 Treasury Management Update 2022/23</b> To provide an update on matters relating to the Council's Treasury Management Policy, Strategy and Practices to the end of February 2023.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<p><b>Risk Management Update</b> To be assured that the updated risk management framework is comprehensive and functional.</p>	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<p><b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee Self-Assessment</b> To present the results of the Committee's self-assessment which will feed into the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement. It will also form the basis for the provision of any further training required by the Committee.</p>	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<b>Action Tracking</b> To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Governance and Audit Committee meetings.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<b>Annual Audit Summary for Flintshire County Council</b> To receive the Annual Audit Summary from the Auditor General for Wales and note the Council's response.	All Report Types	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<b>Internal Audit Progress Report</b> To present to the Committee an update on the progress of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<b>Internal Audit Strategic Plan</b> To present the proposed Internal Audit Plan for the three year period 2023/24 to 2025/26 for Members' consideration.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Governance	<b>External Regulation Assurance</b> To endorse the summary of all external regulatory reports received during 2021/22 along with the Council's responses.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/03/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Audit Wales 2023 Audit Plan</b> To review the Audit Wales - Audit Plan 2023 for the Council which sets out the proposed audit work for the year along with timescales, costs and the audit teams responsible for carrying out the work.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23/03/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&amp;C OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth &amp; Culture Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23/03/23	Education and Youth	<p><b>Anti-racist Wales Action Plan</b></p> <p>To outline how the Council is meeting the requirements of the Welsh Government Anti-racist Wales Action Plan in line with the development of the new Curriculum for Wales.</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23/03/23	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Theatr Clwyd Business Plan</b></p> <p>To consider the Theatr Clwyd Business Plan for 2023-2029.</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23/03/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28 Development (EY&amp;C OSC)</b> To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
April					
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Housing regeneration grants and loans policy</b> to ask the Scrutiny Committee to review the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy and to recommend approval to Cabinet.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/04/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28 Development (E&amp;E OSC)</b> To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&amp;E OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>North Wales Energy Strategy &amp; Action Plan and Local Area Energy Plan</b></p> <p>Adoption of Regional Energy Strategy &amp; Action Plan and support for development of Local Area Energy Plans</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community &amp; Housing Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Temporary Accommodation Audit Update</b> To provide a progress report on the action plan for service improvement following the audit of the Temporary Accommodation.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28 Development (C&amp;H OSC)</b> To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Action Tracking</b> To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Community Foundation in Wales Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022</b> To share the Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022 which has been produced by the Community Foundation in Wales (CFIW).	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	<b>NEWydd Business Plan 2023/24</b> To present the NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd Business Plan 2023/24 for endorsement.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28 Development</b> To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Employment and Workforce End of Year Update</b> To present end of year workforce statistics and their analysis.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Delivering public services through outsourcing or shared services</b> To explore the benefits and limitations of outsourcing and/or creating shared services as a means to deliver Council services - as requested at the July meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&amp;HC OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social &amp; Health Care Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/06/23	Social Services	<p><b>Social Services Annual Report</b></p> <p>For Members to view the draft Annual Social Services Report and feedback on the draft content considered for inclusion, which include the key developments of the past year and our priorities for next year.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Council Plan 2023-28 Development (S&amp;HC OSC)</b></p> <p>To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.</p>	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	25/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy</b> To ask Cabinet to review and approve the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	25/04/23	Chief Executive's	<b>Delivering public services through outsourcing or shared services</b> To explore the benefits and limitations of outsourcing and/or creating shared services as a means to deliver Council services	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	25/04/23	Social Services	<b>Maes Gwern</b> To provide an update on progress at the new Maes Gwern development in Mold.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Cabinet	25/04/23	Chief Executive's	<b>NEWydd Business Plan 2023/24</b> To present the NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd Business Plan 2023/24 for endorsement	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	25/04/23	Internal Audit	<b>Corporate Self-Assessment 2021-22</b> To report on the findings and improvement plan following the completion of the Corporate Self-Assessment 2021/22	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	25/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>North Wales Energy Strategy &amp; Action Plan and Local Area Energy Plan</b> To approve adoption of the Regional Energy Strategy & Action Plan and support for development of Local Area Energy Plans.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
May					
Flintshire County Council	4/05/23	Governance	<b>Constitutional Issues including Committees</b> To approve the constitutional arrangements for the Council for the forthcoming year		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&amp;C OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth &amp; Culture Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 293	16/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&amp;E OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&amp;H OSC)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (CROSC)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Action Tracking (CROSC)</b> To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	23/05/23	Governance	<b>Flintshire Connects Annual Report</b> To provide an update on current service delivery and developments within Flintshire Connects Centres.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
June					
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1809 295	8/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&amp;HC OSC)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Social Services	<b>Social Services Annual Report</b> For Members to view the draft Annual Social Services Report and feedback on the draft content considered for inclusion, which include the key developments of the past year and our priorities for next year.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Page 2 of 96 Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&amp;E OSC)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Governance and Audit Committee	14/06/23	Governance	<b>Internal Audit Charter</b> To outline to Members the updated Internal Audit Charter.	All Report Types	



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&amp;H OSC)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Action Tracking (CROSC)</b> To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme (CROSC)</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	

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COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire County Council	20/06/23	Governance	<b>Rolling Review of the Councillors Code of Conduct</b> To approve the changes to the Code of Conduct for Councillors that have been recommended by the Standards Committee as part of the rolling review of the Constitution.		
Flintshire County Council	20/06/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Draft Statement of Gambling Policy Review</b> To seek Flintshire County Council approval for the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2023 – 2026		
July					

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&amp;E OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
<span style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 2 of 299</span> Environment & Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee	11/07/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>FCC Social Enterprise Update Report</b></p> <p>To provide an update of social enterprise activity, achievements and future priorities</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&amp;H OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community &amp; Housing Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&amp;C OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth &amp; Culture Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
<span style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); position: absolute; left: -40px; top: 50%; font-weight: bold;">P S C O S</span> Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Action Tracking (CROSC)</b></p> <p>To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme (CROSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&amp;HC OSC)</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social &amp; Health Care Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Cabinet	18/07/23	Social Services	<p><b>Annual Social Services Report</b></p> <p>Cabinet to view the draft Annual Social Services Report and feedback on the draft content considered for inclusion, which include the key developments of the past year and our priorities for next year.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
August					

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