

Public Document Pack

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To: Cllr Alasdair Ibbotson (Chair)

Councillors: Gillian Brockley, Steve Copple, Mared Eastwood, Chrissy Gee,
Ian Hodge, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Carolyn Preece, Dan Rose,
Jason Shallcross and Sam Swash

22 March, 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2023 at 2.00 PM

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 (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 MINUTES (Pages 3 - 18)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2023.

4 CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME REVIEW (Pages 19 - 38)

Purpose: To review and approve the areas of focus within the programme for the coming year.

5 HYDRO POWER AND MILWR TUNNEL

Purpose: Cllrs Healey & Bithell to lead discussion on Milwr tunnel and the potential of hydro power within Flintshire.

6 POLICY ON EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OFF STREET PARKING

Purpose: That the Cabinet Member for Streetscene be asked to report to this Committee and the Environment & Economy Committee on the feasibility of offering the installation of cable ducts between houses and the street to enable owners of electric vehicles without off street parking to safely run cables across pavements, with the cost of these to be met by the resident in the same way as dropped kerb installations. To ask the Cabinet to adopt a policy of enabling all council tenants to have install, or have installed on request, electric vehicle charging points at home.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE INQUIRIES (Pages 39 - 40)

Purpose: To approve Climate Change Inquiry question sets, and discuss timelines for inquiries in line with Officer capacity.

8 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 41 - 42)

Purpose: To consider the Forward Work Programme and inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE **25TH JANUARY 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a remote meeting on Wednesday, 25th January 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson (Chairman)

Councillors: Gillian Brockley, Steve Copple, Mared Eastwood, Chrissy Gee, Ian Hodge, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Carolyn Preece, Dan Rose, Jason Shallcross and Sam Swash.

SUBSTITUTION:

Councillor David Coggins-Cogan (for Councillor Mared Eastwood who had to leave the meeting).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy, Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy), Programme Manager (Climate Change and Carbon Reduction), Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Jason Shallcross for the first part of the meeting.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Copple declared a personal interest as a previous employee of Shell and received a pension contribution.

Councillor Hodge declared a personal interest as a previous employee of BP and received a pension contribution.

The Chair advised that Councillors who were members of the Clwyd Pension Fund would have a personal interest which would be noted by Democratic Services.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2022 were moved by Councillor Mared Eastwood and seconded by Councillor Gillian Brockley as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

10. CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS

The Programme Manager (Climate Change and Carbon Reduction) presented the report and provided a presentation which included detailed information on the following slides:-

- Context – following Welsh Government declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019 Flintshire County Council committed to developing a Climate Change Strategy and becoming carbon neutral by to 2030
- Achievements so far
- Development of the Strategy – Baseline
- Development of the Strategy – Engagement
- The Strategy sets out to achieve net zero carbon
- Climate Change Strategy
- Action Plan to Net Zero Carbon
- Current Staff Resource for Programme
- Governance Structure
- 2021/22 Progress Report
- Recommendations
- Priorities for 2023/24

The Cabinet Member congratulated the Programme Manager for the work she had undertaken. The Committee needed to be mindful of the workload of the Programme Manager and her apprentice.

In response to questions from Councillor Eastwood, the Programme Manager firstly confirmed that the increases in procurement was directly related to the increases in spend for 2021/22. Referring to the net zero school, she provided an overview of the requirements which had been put in place when building the school to ensure that more accurate carbon figures were obtained and that these were the figures that would be reported rather than the spend value of the contract.

In response to a question from Councillor Dan Rose, the Programme Manager explained the term “well to tank” referred to the emissions from the drilling and transportation of oil prior to it being sold at petrol stations. Once the use of fossil fuels was reduced then the “well to tank” emissions would also reduce.

The Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) referred to Councillor Eastwood’s point on hydrogen fuel, saying that as part of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board a hydrogen production site was sourced on the Deeside Industrial Park, focussing on using hydrogen for vehicles. Because of the number of businesses on the park there was a desire to switch with the focus on Green Hydrogen. He explained if renewable energy was used to create the hydrogen, there was no bi-product of carbon dioxide, and he outlined the differences between blue and green hydrogen. He suggested that this could be considered as an item on the Forward Work Programme.

In response to the question from Councillor Copple on best practice, the Programme Manager confirmed that best practice was always sought, providing details of the organisations she was involved with where best practice examples were shared. In addition, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) were working to develop a procurement toolkit which all local authorities could use. This would however require a dedicated officer to work with the commissioners and supply chain to gain a better understanding of what their carbon emissions were.

In response to a question from Councillor Mansell, the Programme Manager confirmed the baseline figure for emissions was for 2018/19. The 2019/20 data was pre-Covid. The 2020/21 data showed reduced travel and office use during the pandemic. In 2021/22 coming out of the pandemic, data had seen some increase in emissions from the previous year, but aside from procurement, still showed reductions from the 2018/19 baseline.

In response to a question from the Chair on procurement with larger contracts and offsetting emissions, the Programme Manager confirmed that the school referred to was a pilot and a learning curve for moving forward.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

11. MOTION CARBON FOOTPRINT OF HOMEWORKING

The motion was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Brockley.

Councillor Eastwood felt that there were several statements about what Flintshire County Council did or did not do but there was no report from officers to support it. She felt that the Committee was being asked to make a recommendation on unsubstantiated statements without any knowledge of what the resources or cost implications were and therefore could not support the motion as she could not be confident that all the required information had been captured.

Councillor Cople felt the Committee had a large workload and he was unsure how important this aspect was. He felt home working had its advantages in relation to reduced carbon emissions but questioned if there were more important things the Committee should be focussed on.

Councillor Marshall concurred with the comments made by Councillor Eastwood.

Councillor Rose said he had investigated how, as a lone home worker, this had impacted on his own carbon footprint. He could not find any benefit for an individual working from home given the increased heating costs for a single person property against a multiple person property. The only benefit being if another person was also working at home. He explained that what was being suggested was obtaining more accurate information on the home working policies and writing to Welsh Government (WG). He was happy to support those requests as it required clarification and was something that this Committee could suggest was actioned to ensure that the correct figures on regards carbon footprints were reported.

The Chief Officer commented on recommendation 3 and said the modern office at Ty Dewi Sant in Ewloe was not designed for all of the workforce to return. There was not enough capacity but it could hold 70% of the workforce. He explained that the Hybrid Working Policy required managers to strike a balance between the business need and the needs of the person working from home. He accepted that the carbon footprint of home working and hybrid working was

important but it was more complex to manage with the carbon footprint being not the only element. He suggested the Committee consider the most recent Hybrid Working Policy and agreed to share this with Members.

Councillor Mansell had that concerns that offices were being heated with only a few people in them.

Councillor Eastwood clarified her concerns on the motion but added that she was happy to support the item being placed on the Forward Work Programme.

Councillor Rose explained that the motion was not suggesting a change to the Hybrid Working Policy but was to ensure the data was accurate within the Policy. He said that if a survey was carried out with staff to glean the required information, then that would be sufficient for this purpose.

The Programme Manager referred to the recommendations saying that currently the impact on carbon emissions both travelling to and from work and working from home were not detailed in the Hybrid Working Policy. A balance of those impacts was important to maintaining carbon reduction behaviours. She then referred to recommendation 2, the commissioning of a travel survey which was the method recommended by WG when determining accurate employee commuting data. Adopting a review of comparable evidence from elsewhere would divert the council from the WG prescribed methodology and she suggested updating the recommendation to reflect that.

On recommendation 4 the Programme Manager said the updated guidance and methodology for calculating home working emissions did reflect seasonal variation and it was for the Council to demonstrate that steps had been taken to influence the reduction in emissions. The Council should determine if it was to extend the baseline for in scope emissions from the 2018/19 data which did not include homeworking. She recommended that consideration be given to including that data in scope once the Council had carried out the commissioned survey.

The Chair as proposer of this motion then proceeded to sum up. He referred to each of the recommendations.

Referring to recommendation 1 the Chair, said that this was requesting Cabinet to review the Home Working Policy and did not make any representation on what that policy should include. This was a broad policy with numerous other factors which had to be considered. What the Committee was required to do was to ensure that climate change and carbon reduction was considered in every aspect of the Council's work and that Cabinet considered this at the forefront when writing policies to ensure it took into account how carbon could be best reduced. When information was gathered from all committees and interested parties such as trade unions that information should be incorporated into developing policies.

On the second recommendation and following the comments made by the Programme Manager the Chair was happy to delete the line "or a review of comparable evidence from elsewhere in the UK if similar studies are already

available". He received confirmation from the seconder Councillor Brockley that she agreed. The motion was carried.

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee resolved:

1. To recommend that Cabinet reviewed the Home Working Policy, establishing a coherent and climate-informed framework for the council.
2. To recommend to Cabinet that a study was commissioned in respect of total net emissions from homeworking, in the form of a survey of Flintshire staff as per Welsh Government guidance
3. To recommend that as an interim measure pending the completion of a review of the climate evidence, the council should allow anyone who wished to work from the office in Winter to do so, particularly considering rising heating costs, and
4. To instruct the Chair to write to the Welsh Government's Climate Change Minister requesting that a mechanism that accurately reflected seasonal variation in net homeworking emissions was included in the guidance for assessing emissions, such that the council was not penalised for taking steps to reduce total emissions at the expense of those that show on its own figures.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations and minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to Cabinet.

12. MOTION PRINT FREE COUNCIL

The Chair invited Councillor Rose as proposer of this motion to speak. Councillor Rose thanked the IT Infrastructure Manager for the information he had provided which helped identify the 4.9m pages which had been printed by the Council in 2022. He had not asked for the number of letters sent but the revision on what was printed which would impact the fiscal costs for paper income and postage also. He said a 10g letter sent was responsible for 280g of carbon if the receiver recycled it and provided an example of an unnecessary letter recently sent to all Members. There were 70 xerox printers within the Council which were currently up for review and he wanted to ensure that a reduction in the carbon footprint was considered within this review and not just the cost basis.

The Cabinet Member referred to the exceptions for printing and felt more could be included. He referred to a body which promoted tourism within Flintshire and advocated the leaflets they printed which highlighted the heritage aspects within Flintshire which could be placed in areas outside of the county to attract tourism.

Councillor Eastwood would have welcomed an officer report on this to understand how much paper was used, the electrical input used and answer questions on why xerox were used over inkjet printers. An update from HR on the transition to a paperless Council would also have been useful. She was supportive in general moving towards a paperless Council wherever possible but was concerned that some areas may have not been included. She asked if the motion could include which printers were used in procurement and in house and referred to

the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan item CCB4 on the volume of paper used in printing services.

Councillor Attridge, in attendance as an observer, concurred with the views of Councillor Eastwood saying that the lack of detail and officer involvement did not enable a debate on this.

The Chair then provided information on the process of motions and how they were moved by Councillors. Officers were able to provide advice before a decision was made in writing or in person at meetings. He reiterated that this Committee did not have decision making powers on making recommendations or suggestions to Cabinet, for example, where more officer involvement would be provided.

Councillor Marshall sought clarification on the energy consumption figures asking if they were based on fossil fuels and asked if solar panels were used to generate the electricity would this mean they did not generate carbon. He then referred to the recent Council meeting where notices of motions were read from sheets of paper. This did not fit into the restrictive category within the motion and asked if this should be expanded to include sheets used in the Council meetings.

Councillor Rose said this was looking at the Council's activities and said that having something printed for an individual which was necessary for a meeting was different to the Council sending paper out which was unnecessary. Cabinet had the authority to expand those areas but it was not possible to currently remove 100% of paper.

The Chair spoke in favour of the motion saying it was for Cabinet to make and add more exemptions to the recommendations. He felt that this was a good starting point for a discussion within the Council on unnecessary printing. A lot of printing was undertaken corporately and he understood that there were cases where it was necessary and sensible to have printed backups especially for digital records. The exemptions were broad and the Committee was asking Cabinet to set policy guidelines across the whole Council to reduce the amount of paper used and carbon generated producing and mailing it.

The Programme Manager reported on the Member Workshops held in February 2019 and the Senior Leaders' Academi held in March 2021 where feedback was received specific to paper use. Members commented on the need to use less paper utilising iPads to reduce paper use. Senior Leaders commented on the need to work paperless and force change to save energy and reduce waste in terms of none or less printing of documents and the development of online forms. She then referred to CCB4 in the Climate Change Action Plan which stated, "Facilitate transition towards a 'paperless Council' through, for example, digitisation of wage slips, report packs, contracts, applications." This was an ongoing body of work identifying large scale printing and assessing the options and feasibility for digitisation. She said that through the Action Plan and the development of the Council's Digital Strategy in 2022 changes were made to the way Members accessed meeting report packs with Members using an iPad and laptop to attend virtual meetings and view the report pack at the same time. The report packs were not printed unless specially requested. Further digitisation of current paper

documents and forms was being reviewed within the Digital Strategy focussing on the digital customer, digital workforce, digital business and connectivity, digital information and data management and digital delivery. She then outlined the restrictions on what could be digitised. Moving to the printing policy she explained that each portfolio would need to be consulted to understand the service needs of the customer and ensure compliance with legislation was maintained. The paper used by the council for printing was recyclable from sustainable paper sources with provision for recycling in offices and printer locations. The printers utilised within the Council were currently under a hire contract with xerox and the Council was currently reviewing its stock of printers to reflect its needs moving forward. Consumables were returned to Xerox as part of their recycling scheme and she outlined the work of the Xerox Green World Alliance.

The Chief Officer sought the Committee's expectations on how it felt the motions should be reported to Cabinet. If there was a trend for these, he felt that a process should be agreed. He suggested that the minutes and resolutions be sent to Cabinet as the most effective way forward. The Chair felt that when this Committee made recommendations that it was a matter for Cabinet to confirm how they wished to consider them, either by taking them forward or merely just to note them.

Councillor Attridge felt that it was paramount that there should be a Legal Officer present at Climate Change Committee meetings to provide advice and for the protection of Members.

The Chair said agendas were published well in advance and that it was the responsibility of the Head of Democratic Services to collect and collate motions and that all officers were welcome to attend this Committee. Having seen the agenda the Monitoring Officer had made the decision not to attend this was not a Committee that he would routinely attend. He asked the Committee if they would wish to adjourn to enable legal advice to be provided.

Councillor Eastwood raised a point on recommendations to Cabinet as at the start of the meeting the presentation stated that this committee sat under the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee. She was concerned about the Committee's reputation in making recommendations which covered a lot of work which was already being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with no reference to it. She put forward an amendment that the motion should be adjourned pending submission of an officer report detailing what was already being considered by other Committees.

The Chair clarified that the Climate Change Committee did not sit under the Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He sought clarification on Councillor Eastwood's amendment. Councillor Eastwood suggested the recommendation be changed to "that an officer report be requested outlining the issues covered in the motion to enable to committee to evaluate and make a recommendation based on that report". This was seconded by Councillor Ian Hodge.

Following a vote the amendment was lost.

The Cabinet Member reiterated his earlier concerns saying the Committee had to recognise the workload of officers and prioritise suggestions for motions.

The Chief Officer asked for clarity on the way forward saying that whatever the resolutions were, he suggested they would be included in the minutes and sent to Cabinet which was agreed. The Chief Officer would forward the recommendations and minutes to Cabinet.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee resolved:

The Committee recommended to Cabinet that a policy be implemented across all departments setting out that printing should only be considered where:

- There is a statutory requirement to provide information in printed form.
- A disabled staff member or service user requires material in printed form because they are disabled.
- A staff member or service user required material in printed form because they are digitally excluded.
- The relevant Chief Officer had directed that a paper backup of the document was necessary for service resilience, or
- For the purposes of advertising a service or change in service to the public; and
- That all paper, toners, inks and consumables procured be made of recycled materials and recycled after use.
- The committee also called on the Cabinet to initiate an efficiency review of the current stock of printers owned or operated by the council with a view to rationalising these to the minimum strictly necessary.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations and minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to Cabinet

13. MOTION COLUMBARIA IN FLINTSHIRE MANAGED CEMETERIES - ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

The Chair invited Councillor Swash as mover of this motion to speak.

Councillor Swash explained that, whilst this motion was specifically concerning Columbaria, the issue of dealing with human remains was a pressing one. Traditional burials were an inefficient way of storing human remains, with built up urban communities experiencing problems for a long time and that this was now beginning to affect Flintshire.

The motion outlined several potential benefits with using Columbaria at Flintshire managed cemeteries and he focussed on the environmental benefits which was critical because of the lack of burial spaces at our popular cemeteries. The burial of human remains was carbon intensive and took up vast sways of green space which could be better utilised. He outlined the types of land which would be

unsuitable to be used for burials saying as Columbaria was an above ground piece of architecture which used less space it was more versatile in terms of the land upon which it could be built.

Land used for traditional burials could not be utilised for other purposes in the long term as very few developers were interested in building on land made up of human remains. When land was allocated for potential cemeteries, it had to be understood that it was unlikely to be used for anything else. The costs of maintaining cemeteries were high with many older cemeteries left in a state of disrepair with volunteers looking after them. Columbaria were already present in many cemeteries in the UK, and he provided information on the popular site in Northwich, extending the life of that cemetery. Referring to Resomation he said it was a different way of dealing with human remains and was included for the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet to explore its potential as a longer-term option.

This was seconded by Councillor Rose who said land use was an important part of the Committee's work and this motion focused on land use and space taken up. Burial grounds could be required for building as there was a shortage of land which would be needed for the future. He was pleased that Resomation could be considered as an option and that Flintshire now had the option of woodland burials. Providing more options to people was not only better for them but also for land use and the environment.

Councillor Eastwood sought clarification on where the information on the shortage of space in cemeteries had been obtained, where was the officer report and who could she ask questions to. In relation to Columbaria, she asked what the costs and resources implications were and asked if there was a demand for this in Flintshire in comparison with other local authorities. Referring to woodland burials she asked how this impacted on biodiversity within those woodland and meadow lands. She appreciated the amount of work Councillor Swash had put into the motion but felt officer representatives should be available to answer questions.

The Programme Manager explained that Flintshire's Bereavement Team regularly monitored the available burial space to ensure its capacity was suitable to meet demand. Work was currently being undertaken at Hawarden and Buckley Cemeteries with both having approximately four years remaining at current usage rates, with Bagillt having 16 years remaining. A report on cemetery capacity would be presented to Cabinet in February 2023.

The national trend was 75% cremation to 25% burial but Flintshire's trend remained at 70% burial to 30% cremation and those trends were regularly monitored and analysed by Flintshire's Bereavement Services but there was no indication that demand was likely to change. She explained that Columbaria had a smaller footprint for a larger number of cremated remains to be stored but were not widely used within cemetery settings in Wales. She explained that whilst consideration could be given to Columbaria utilising space within cemetery settings, this would incur capital expenditure for the purchase of the structure and infrastructure costs for its installation.

Flintshire currently offered a wide range of options including traditional burial, natural burial, cremated remains, scattering and a garden of remembrance but consideration could also be given to Columbaria. The introduction would not reduce the lack of burial spaces and if the trend did not change pressure would continue for the supply of burial grounds.

Referring to the resolutions she said the use of Columbaria could be used for the above ground storage of remains in Flintshire and could be considered as part of the extension plans for Hawarden cemetery, which was Flintshire's main cemetery, and that the potential usage could be gauged before any further roll out. Referring to the second option she said Resomation was a more environmentally friendly option and currently used in the USA but few local authorities in the UK had started to consider the process. Because of the necessary permits and permissions to run such an operation this option was a few years away. Flintshire could consider this through the work undertaken as part of the APSE Cemetery and Crematorium Network Group, but significant investment was required. Should the long-term option be to use Resomation, that would secure income for the Council.

Councillor Swash said he felt a lot of the questions raised by Councillor Eastwood had been answered. He concurred with the option for the Council securing income should Resomation be used and he felt there was an opportunity for Flintshire to lead in that area. It was inevitable that the county would run out of burial space and by not dealing with it now would only make the problem worse in the future.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee resolved:

1. To recommend to Cabinet and the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee that Flintshire County Council offer Columbaria as an option for residents as part of its suite of bereavement and burial services
2. To recommend to Cabinet and the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee that Flintshire County Council explore the viability of offering other environmentally friendly burial options, such as Resomation, in the longer term

RESOLVED:

That recommendations and minutes of the meeting to be forwarded to Cabinet.

14. MOTION FLOOD RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

The Chair proposed this motion and said that no recommendations would be made on this item. This was for the Committee to undertake work to investigate future flooding issues that the County currently experienced and may face in the future because of climate change.

There was a range of flooding issues with some being the responsibility of local authorities, Natural Resources Wales, water and sewerage authorities and

other agencies. There was a mixture of responsibilities concerning the upkeep of drainage channels and culverts etc. The situation was complex and it was not always the responsibility of the Council to prevent flooding as a lot of the infrastructure required was the responsibility of other agencies under Welsh Government (WG).

The Council was able to look at the whole issue to identify where the failings and concerns were. It was difficult to predict where surface water and flooding would occur, with some areas experiencing it on a regular basis and others unexpectedly. This could be dealt with when it happened, or the Council could look at it to map out where the risks were and what action was needed to prevent flooding.

Within the Council's budget there was no room for massive infrastructure projects and if communities were going to be protected from flooding, then investment from WG and UK Government was required. It was a complicated issue, and the motion was to set up an inquiry where the Committee would hear detailed evidence from Flintshire Officers, Natural Resources Wales and other interested parties. The Committee could look at the issue in detail and make some representations based on the information received. The Chair said the motion was to set up the inquiry and no substantive recommendations would be proposed. He commended the Council for the work it had undertaken dealing with the recent flooding and long running issues at Sandycroft, Mancot and Pentre areas and referred to the difficulties encountered by Natural Resources Wales around funding. This area had particular challenges and could be a good case study.

This was seconded by Councillor Copple who felt flooding was getting worse and needed to be assessed and measures put in place for the longer term.

Councillor Eastwood asked if this duplicated the work undertaken in CCBu7 "to continue to carry out flood investigation and the number of flooding incidents prevented Flood Risk Planning". She also asked what would happen if no response was received from Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water in time. She felt that she did not have sufficient skills to analyse an inquiry held by this Committee and would prefer an update from officers on what was already happening.

The Chief Officer confirmed that a lot of information was already available and that this was focussing on the Sandycroft incident which was ongoing. It was a complex issue involving a number of different partners. He referred to the resources that would be required to support this motion and said that it was not possible to hold a public inquiry into flooding incidents in Flintshire. Should an update and reflections on the Sandycroft incident be required, then this could be arranged for a future meeting of the Committee. He said that gathering evidence from Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water could be an issue as they were not duty bound to provide anything. He said that there were no resources within his team nor Democratic Services to facilitate an inquiry.

Councillor Mansell provided details of issues in her ward with blocked drains when it rained. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would liaise with Councillor Mansell outside of the meeting.

The Cabinet Member said he supported the sentiments of the motion and sought clarification as to who was responsible for what when it came to flooding issues. In many wards there were antiquated systems for drainage and sewage and clarity was required when trying to establish who was responsible for these issues. He understood that there were still issues with recruitment within the Flood Resilience team. Although the focus had been on the area around Sandycroft he felt that lobbying WG for funding was required to deal with the infrastructure issues.

Councillor Swash spoke in favour of the motion and agreed that using Sandycroft, Mancot and Pentre would be a good case study. As local member for Hawarden and Mancot he said this area had been consistently affected with 30 minutes of heavy rainfall leading to severe flooding. The Council had carried out a lot of work, but he was concerned that with the upcoming development in Hawarden that any issues needed to be dealt with in advance of that development.

The Chair then moved to the vote which was unanimous.

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee resolved:

1. That the inquiry be established by the Committee on the basis set out as outlined in the motion
2. That provision is made for an oral evidence session, including a venue, in either April or May.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Committee progress the recommendations above.

15. MOTION CLWYD PENSION FUND DIVESTMENT - 1

The Chair explained that this was brought to the last meeting but was not progressed. The purpose of the motion was to gather evidence and propose actions in light of expert advice. He referred to the comments made by the Programme Manager on public sector targets for net zero by 2030 in Wales which applied to all areas of the Council apart from the Clwyd Pension Fund which had no target at all.

Welsh Government (WG) were looking to bring Local Authority Pension Funds in line with the public sector and he thanked Jack Sargeant MS for his work in this area. The Chair reported on the investments held by the Pension Fund which had a duty to manage those investments for its members. He felt that the 2045 target set by the Clwyd Pension Fund was out of line with the rest of the public sector. There could be good arguments for this as it was a complex issue, and it was therefore necessary to seek expert advice. The motion was to ensure that this was received, and that the Committee was able to make suggestions to the Council as employers in relation to the Clwyd Pension Fund.

Councillor Rose commented that there was a lot of money and carbon involved and felt the Committee could me some suggestions to ensure it came in line with the public sector targets.

Councillor Hodge felt that, although he had doubts about the legality of looking at this, he was reassured that the investigation was regarding fossil fuels. He said that one of the reasons fossil fuel companies still produced it was because cars, heaters and boilers still used it and asked who was spending money to make us green. He said BP and Cemex owned Halkyn Quarry and were working to develop solutions to decarbonise the cement production process. BP had announced a 45% stake to project and lead the largest green hydrogen energy hub based in Australia and had also announced the green hydrogen production in Spain, Portugal and the UK. They had improved EV batteries for cars with Castrol and had just delivered the first solar project in India which included 200,000 solar panels. He welcomed that the Committee look into companies where investments were made by the Pension Fund but reiterated that companies such as BP and Shell still provided oil and gas because the demand was there, but they were also investing heavily in green alternatives to fossil fuels.

Councillor Shallcross reported that as a member of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee he was confident in the work being undertaken by the officers to ensure that companies moved to greener energies. He felt it was in the company's best interests to become greener to survive but they needed a period of transition.

Councillor Gee reported on a recent news item "[makemymoneymatter.co.uk/green my pension](https://www.makemymoneymatter.co.uk/green-my-pension)" which highlighted the best way to cut an individual's carbon emissions to make their pension green.

Councillor Coggins Coggin felt the Committee might be premature in holding an inquiry about potential divestment of the companies the Clwyd Pension Fund held investments in. He was not sure if a company was being singled out and felt the Committee should initially gather with no judgments being given.

Councillor Rose said this was the Climate Change Committee and that BP had been mentioned several times for its green washing techniques including spending £800,000 on digital advertising once a windfall tax was mentioned. It was well known that Xenon another large company spent a fortune in the 1970s covering up evidence that climate change was real. He agreed that it should be evidence based but that it should also include the £7b of profit made, saying what they were putting in to green was a pittance to ensure the climate change and reduction of carbon of that industry.

Councillor Marshall said the results would be interesting but felt the timescale was short for the report to be presented to the March meeting and suggested it be extended to March 2024.

The Chief Officer said he did not underestimate the importance the Pension Fund could have on our carbon footprint, but again stated that the Council did not have the resources to facilitate the inquiry which was proposed. It was possible to commission the first one, but it would not be possible to commission the second one.

The Chair referred to the comments made by Councillor Marshall and said this was drafted for the November 2022 meeting was now back before Members in

an edited form. He recognised the need to extend the deadline for this but it could not be extended beyond the summer as there could be changes to the Committee. He proposed that the third recommendation be changed to July and asked if the seconder of the motion agreed, and Councillor Rose confirmed he did.

The Chief Officer reiterated that the Committee did not have the resources to carry out the inquiry properly which would jeopardise the principle and the process. The time frame was also a concern for arranging a group of people at a senior level together in a short period of time. This could have a negative effect on the Pension Scheme if we came back with the wrong answer based on an un-resourced Flintshire Officer team with people not turning up or sending the wrong people. It could end up being a waste of time, but he understood the reasons for the motion.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee resolved:

1. That the Committee commissions an inquiry into the climate performance and targets of the Clwyd Pension Fund.
2. That this inquiry shall take written and oral evidence as set out in section 3.
- 3 That the inquiry will report back to the committee at the July meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Committee progress the recommendations above.

16. AREAS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME REVIEW

The Chair commented that this was on the Forward Work Programme for review at a later meeting. The Chair asked if any Members had any items that they would like more detail on and receive specialist advice on which could be included on the Climate Change Programme Review.

The Programme Manager felt the presentation provided a fair overview of areas that required development and hoped that Members of the Committee had digested the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and identified areas that needed particular attention. She was open to hear any suggestions.

Councillor Mansell asked if workshops would be considered for any suggestions put forward. In response the Programme Manager confirmed workshops had been provided prior to the Strategy being developed but none had taken place since it was approved. She felt if there were topics from Members which would benefit from a workshop, she would be happy to do that depending on capacity.

Councillor Shallcross commented that this was a new Committee and could benefit from assistance to manage expectations. Climate change was one of the biggest subjects affecting the world and the Committee needed to understand what

could be achieved. The motions presented were done so with the best intentions but could involve a tremendous amount of work to potentially get nothing in return. The Committee needed to be led and guided in a direction where it could make a difference. A workshop may be useful to ensure all Members of the Committee had the correct understanding of what was required.

The Programme Manager referred to the part of the recommendation to Cabinet which was that priority be given to elected Members and senior officers to carry out carbon literacy training which would link directly to the Climate Change Strategy. This would hopefully provide the information and understanding required to properly inform decisions.

RESOLVED:

That the areas for review within the Climate Change Programme be agreed.

17. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair referred to the Forward Work Programme which included items for the next three meetings before the summer. The July meeting allowed for other items suggested by Members to be included. The Programme Manager confirmed that Hydrogen was included for the March meeting and could be broadened to include the comments made by Councillor Eastwood which was agreed.

Councillor Coggins Cogan said he owned an electric vehicle and following a trip to Scotland, he explained that the Scottish Government had, to assist with tourism, ensure that there was an excellent charging network. He felt there was scope for Flintshire which could maybe be used for tourism as the Gateway to Wales similar to what Denbighshire were doing with their EV station called the Gateway to Snowdonia.

Councillor Marshall asked if ground source or bore hole heat pumps extracting heat from large former coal areas which had tunnels full of warm water could be considered. The Programme Manager confirmed the Council had been installing heat pumps in some domestic properties and some schools. There was an item on the Forward Work Programme for the meeting May to look at alternative renewable energy generation opportunities and that could be broadened to include renewable heat options. The Chair asked if what Councillor Marshall was proposing would be for private sector investment. The Programme Manager said she would look into it provide a response. The Chair suggested that it be provisionally broadened to include it for May with a decision being taken on whether to broaden the item at the meeting in March.

On being put to the vote the Forward Work Programme was carried.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved;

- (b) That the Programme Manager liaise with the Chair and Vice-Chair following the meeting to discuss the Forward Work Programme; and
- (c) That consideration be given at the meeting in March whether to broaden the item on alternative renewable energy generation.

18. FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meeting dates of the Climate Change Committee had been scheduled to take place at 2.00 pm on:

- Tuesday 28 March 2023
- Tuesday 23 May 2023
- Tuesday 18 July 2023

19. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no Members of the press or public in attendance.

The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 4.46pm

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Chairman



CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 28 th March 2023
Report Subject	Climate Change Programme Review
Cabinet Member	Collective Responsibility
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019 the Welsh Government called for the Public Sector to become net zero carbon by 2030. Following this 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 Climate Change Strategy and action plan were adopted by Council in February 2022. The strategy detailed the commitment to provide an annual update on the Council's carbon emissions with consideration for further areas for development in achieving the net zero carbon goal.

Following the recently published progress report for the Climate Change programme, this report reviews the progress within the action plan and areas for action over 2023.

It also considers national updates since the adoption of the Strategy that need to be included within the strategy review in 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To agree areas of focus for 2023, and items that need to be included in 2024 strategy review.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REPORT
1.01	<p>Background: In 2019, the Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency in Wales, accepting the recommendations from the United Kingdom (UK) Committee on Climate Change and further setting ambitious plans for the public sector to be net zero carbon by 2030. In December 2019 Cabinet resolved to develop a Climate Change Strategy which would set key aims and actions for creating a net zero carbon Council, and this strategy and action plan was adopted by Council in February 2022.</p>
1.02	<p>Purpose: The Climate Change Strategy and action plan were adopted by Council in February 2022. The strategy detailed the commitment to provide an annual update on the Council's carbon emissions with consideration for further areas for development in achieving the net zero carbon goal.</p> <p>Following the recently published progress report for the Climate Change programme, this report reviews the progress within the action plan and areas for action over 2023.</p> <p>It also considers national updates since the adoption of the Strategy that need to be included within the strategy review in 2024.</p>
1.03	<p>Actions for Prioritisation 2023 Appendix 1 'Climate Change Action Plan Progress 2022/23' gives detail into each action's progress, and current RAG status.</p> <p>Within this there are 1 action with Red status, 12 actions with Amber status, and 44 actions with Green status.</p> <p>The 'Red' action is CCP1 which refers to the need to review the procurement strategy to ensure carbon measures are embedded within the procurement process. This action has been delayed to fit into the work programme of the new role currently being recruited through Joint Procurement with Denbighshire County Council. It was included in the 2022/23 Council Plan and has been brought forward to the 2023/24 plan. Feedback has been given to the team on elements of carbon to be included in the strategy and this needs to be further developed once the new role has been appointed to.</p> <p>In Building theme the 'Amber' actions are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CCBu3 where a scoping exercise needs to be completed to assess improvements that have been made on building assets and what measures can still be made to further reduce emissions. This exercise will be completed collaboratively through Energy Unit, the approved MTFS post, and the Building and Assets teams.- CCBu7 & 8 (and CCL9) referring to flood investigation and alleviation and prioritisation of nature based solutions to mitigate flooding where possible. These activities are carried out on an ongoing basis, however the Council will be reviewing its Flood

	<p>Risk Management Strategy over 2023, which will encompass areas of recurrent flooding and SuDs.</p> <p>-</p> <p>In Mobility & Transport theme the ‘Amber’ actions are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCM1 review of fleet policy with consideration for charging of vehicles. This policy review will set out the transition of fleet to low carbon alternatives. This plan has been delayed due to unexpected cost projections for the preferred transition plan. A further study is being developed over 2023 to assess the options available for effective transition of fleet. - CCM7 facilitating a car share forum for employees. This action was delayed due to the fallout from the pandemic, and is further complicated by the increase in hybrid working and therefore irregular journeys to and from office locations. A needs assessment should be developed to review practicality of such a scheme. - CCM8 refers to the existing salary sacrifice scheme and looking to increase participation. A review is needed of the current provision and barriers to employees taking up the scheme to identify where changes can be made to increase participation. - CCM9 refers to the launch of a salary sacrifice scheme for low emission vehicles. This scheme was postponed due to capacity needed on alternative projects and should be scheduled into the work plan as soon as practicable. - CCM11 refers to promotion of multi-modal transport journeys and strategic transport hubs. A review of current transport hubs is needed to support active travel connections. <p>In Land Use theme the ‘Amber’ actions are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCL1 identifying current carbon storage capacity within Council assets. An internal mapping exercise has been taking place, however Welsh Local Government Association are developing a mapping tool for use of the public sector to effectively map carbon within land assets. This is due for launch during 2023 and will inform our more accurate carbon data reporting from land assets. - CCL6 & 7 refer to increasing tree canopy cover and assessing the impacts of ash dieback. Opportunities are being identified for further tree planting across the county in line with the ‘Flintshire Forest’ and an Ash dieback action plan is in place to replace canopy cover lost due to this disease.
1.04	<p>Based on the action plan progress and in order to maintain traction on ‘green’ actions, the following areas are suggested as priority for 2023-24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving data collection methodology for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement – introducing carbon reporting within contract specification, • Business mileage – improving the standard of data included in employee mileage claims, • Employee commuting / home working – carrying out an employee survey on employee commuting, • Water use – obtaining actual water usage data from utility companies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing carbon factors within our tendering processes – Supply chain accounts for 60% of our footprint and is affecting our overall progress so this needs particular attention. - Carbon Literacy training – roll out of training to key decision makers across the Council – Elected Members and Senior Managers. - Baselineing our buildings – what measures have already been made and what can we still do to reduce carbon emissions. - Baselineing our land – understanding the full benefit of our current land holdings – both with its current carbon absorption and areas where further projects may be suitable. - Approving our transition to Electric Vehicles in Fleet – Tying in improvements to the EV charging infrastructure with our transition of fleet vehicles. - Pilot new builds to NZC – First Net Zero Carbon school and Care Home. - Working with North Wales Economic Ambition Board - in development of our Local Area Energy Plan.
1.05	<p>National updates to be included in 2024 strategy review</p> <p>The Audit Wales report ‘Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030’, published in July 2022, makes five calls for action from public bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration - Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation - Get to grips with the finances needed - Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity - Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making. <p>As a Council we have strengthened our leadership through a committed Cabinet Member for Climate Change, a formalised Climate Change Committee, and cross-departmental Officer working groups to demonstrate collective responsibility through collaboration. We are working with our public sector partners to better understand the finances associated with decarbonisation, and to share best practice with improved data quality. The Council must continue to increase the pace of implementation of carbon reduction projects and increased capacity where skills gaps exist by providing the necessary investment. This must be incorporated into the strategy review.</p> <p>In July 2022 Welsh Government also published their ‘Decarbonising Social Care in Wales’s report which highlights key actions needed by the public sector to better understand the carbon emissions from social care services and to ensure actions to decarbonise are included in strategic plans. The Council’s Climate Change Strategy already encompasses</p>

many aspects associated with social care, however, this will be reviewed as part of the strategy review in 2024/25. Within this review content and detail will be compared to the 'Social Care route map' to ensure this service area is effectively represented. From 2022/23, carbon emission submissions to Welsh Government will require a separate analysis of emissions from social care.

The methodology for the 2021/22 carbon emission data submission to Welsh Government was modified to incorporate the addition of new measures around Homeworking. The methodology used for calculating these emissions has a very high Relative Standard of Deviation due to necessary data being difficult to determine. In order to make this data meaningful and a true reflection of the carbon impacts from home working, we need to better understand the quantity of time our employees work from home. This data collection could be tied into the wider 'employee commuting' survey. Due to the disparity of data, and emissions from Homeworking not being included in our baseline figures, we have not included this in scope for our 2021/22 carbon emission data report.

With the addition of Homeworking emissions in 2021/22, and social care in 2022/23, the moving of reporting goalposts has potential to adversely affect the progress made in reducing our carbon emissions. It should be decided if any changes in methodology are to be included in future internal reporting or if the original baseline figures should be maintained. In December 2021, the Welsh Government committed to the development of regional energy strategies and Local Area Energy Plans in its approach to create a national energy plan by 2024. This exercise maps out future energy demand and supply for all parts of Wales to identify gaps and enable future planning.

The North Wales Energy Strategy & Action Plan has now been developed through a public sector working group and has been approved by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. The strategy and action plan now needs to be endorsed by each Council, and implementation of this will be led by Ambition North Wales.

Ambition North Wales are also leading on the development of the Local Area Energy Plans and work with each Council will commence in 2023. The Planning is being funded by Welsh Government and the resulting Local Area Energy Plan will inform both local and national investment and decisions on future requirements for energy across all sectors. Both Regional and Local energy plans need to tie into related ambitions and actions within the Climate Change strategy.

Climate risk and adaptation is as crucial to Flintshire's community and the maintenance of delivery of Council services as climate mitigation and decarbonisation. Climate risk and adaptation has been touched on within the adopted strategy, however a full review of the risks and implications of a changing climate needs to be completed and tied into the strategy. This will ensure the Council is seeing the broader picture of climate change and not just decarbonisation.

1.06	By working to achieve these goals Flintshire County Council can make its contribution to tackling the climate emergency and a net zero Wales by 2050 as detailed in Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2021. Furthermore, achieving the Council's own well-being goals and those within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. As climate change and the environment are intrinsically linked the Council will also deliver on its statutory duties within Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Both revenue and capital needs will be assessed as and when through the business case process.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT	
3.01	There will be significant reputational risk if the County Council is not seen to take a leadership role in moving towards net zero carbon. Financial risk will be assessed on a project-by-project basis but lack of availability of internal and external funding will reduce the action that can be taken.	
3.02	Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact	
Long-term	Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will require long term planning and a long term vision to ensure systems and services are fit for purpose as the climate changes as well as reducing the impact of harmful climate change through mitigation. Decarbonisation activities such as planting trees and developing renewable energy will have long lasting impacts over tens to hundreds of years. These activities also contribute to the climate change targets set by Welsh Government particularly Wales generating 70% of its electricity demand from renewable energy by 2030 and becoming a net zero carbon nation by 2050.	
Prevention	Positive: In order to avoid the harmful effects of climate change it is necessary for the Council to reduce its carbon emissions and increase the amount of carbon sequestered in its land assets. Carbon emissions caused by human activities are the main cause of climate change.	

	<p>Mitigating climate change will help to reduce impacts such as extreme weather causing flooding / extreme heat, loss of wildlife and habitats, increased pests and diseases, etc. Adapting to the impacts of climate change now will improve sustainability of our communities as the climate changes.</p>
Integration	<p>Positive: Becoming net zero carbon integrates with the following priorities under the Council Plan; Green Council, Ambitious Council and Supportive Council. It integrates with the public service board objectives in the Environment priority of the Wellbeing Plan as well as the Smart Access to Energy project in the North Wales Growth Deal. It also integrates with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government's decarbonisation of the public sector agenda.</p>
Collaboration	<p>Positive: The climate change programme offers multiple opportunities to work collaboratively both internally and externally – and this collaboration will determine the success of the programme. Collaboration with the following groups is needed to ensure decarbonisation is integrated into everything that the Council and the wider region does and plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government - Other public sector organisations such as local authorities, NRW, health boards, universities. - Private sector - Regional groups such as the North Wales Economic Ambition Board - Local Town and County Councillors - the local communities
Involvement	<p>Positive: If decarbonisation is to succeed and harmful climate change is to be avoided then everyone at a professional and personal level will need to be involved</p>
<p>Well-being Goals Impact</p>	
Prosperous Wales	<p>Positive: Reducing the Council's carbon emissions should enable strategic investment in projects and ways of working that could deliver savings or generate new</p>

		income streams, therefore supporting delivery of local services. It should also facilitate the development of the low carbon economy through infrastructure projects, sustained tree planting, land management etc which can support local businesses and communities.
	Resilient Wales	Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will promote resilience through actions such as: investment in renewable energy infrastructure which helps to reduce reliance on imports from across Europe and the World and the associated price fluctuations, and increasing ecological resilience through enhancing biodiversity particularly on land with low ecological value. By planning for climate change adaptation the Council's services and its communities will also be resilient.
	Healthier Wales	Positive: Decarbonisation requires a shift to active travel, investment in green infrastructure, support for local and sustainable food sources, and development of renewable energy which are likely to promote healthier lifestyles, improved wellbeing and reduced health impacts from poor air quality.
	More equal Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Cohesive Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Vibrant Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Globally responsible Wales	Positive: Reducing the Council's carbon emissions to net zero helps to mitigate climate change and therefore contributes to the achievement of Welsh Government, UK Government and international climate goals.
3.03	Not anticipated to be any negative anti-poverty, equalities or environmental impacts of the scheme.	
3.04	<p>The Council's Well-being Objectives</p> <p>Decarbonisation of the Council's activities will support the Green Council objective with a key impact of reducing carbon emissions mitigating climate change, for example, through the development of alternative and renewable energy production, promoting active travel, shifting to electric</p>	

	<p>fleet vehicles, engaging with the supply chain and promoting a low carbon economy through the goods and services purchased.</p> <p>It can also contribute towards the success of other Council Wellbeing objectives such as 'An Ambitious Council' and 'A Caring Council' through providing local job creation and apprenticeships and therefore potentially reducing poverty through maximising residents' income and employability.</p>
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	N/A

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Climate Change Action Plan progress 2022/23.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Alex Ellis – Programme Manager Telephone: 01352 703110 E-mail: alex.ellis@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Capital Funding: Capital funding is usually utilised to acquire or improve a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.</p> <p>Carbon emissions: Used interchangeably with greenhouse gas emissions; meaning emissions of carbon dioxide, methane etc from human and natural activities and sources. Wider greenhouse gas emissions are collectively calculated into a 'carbon dioxide equivalent' displayed as CO₂e.</p> <p>Carbon sequestration: the process involved in carbon capture and the long term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Decarbonisation: Reducing and ultimately eliminating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>EV: Electric Vehicle</p>

Net Zero Carbon: Balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal or simply eliminating carbon emissions altogether.

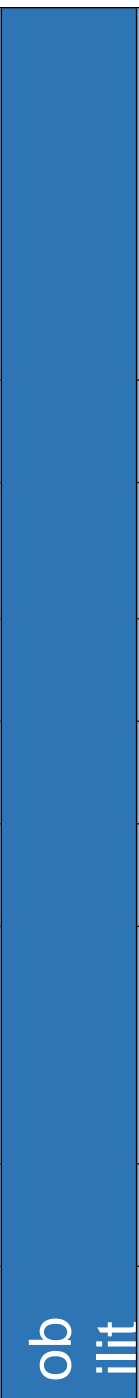
Revenue Funding: is utilised for items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment. Routine repairs are revenue expenditures and can include significant repairs that do not extend the life of the asset or do not improve the asset.

Climate Change Programme Action Plan Progress 2022/23

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021-22 & RAG	Next steps 2023 onwards
CCBu1	Buildings	All Council buildings and schools electricity delivered through a green energy tariff by 2025	2022	Large percentage of buildings are now included in the green energy tariff.	Remaining buildings are being added as and when existing energy contracts end.
CCBu2		Review and rationalise building assets and leases considering new ways of working	2022	The council's Asset Management Plan has been reviewed in line with the climate change strategy and wider Council ambitions.	Rationalisation of assets is ongoing and will consider carbon impacts.
CCBu3		Improve the standard of energy efficiency within Council buildings through retrofit measures such as; insulation, glazing, installation of efficient / renewable heating systems, and reducing building electricity use.	2022	Energy efficiency works continue to be completed across the Council's assets.	A full scoping exercise is needed to determine what remaining improvements can be made and this will inform a completion rate and investment need.
CCBu4		Further explore renewable energy opportunities for Council buildings, council office car parks and depots	2022-23	Work is ongoing with Welsh Government Energy Service to determine feasibility of sites for further renewable energy generation.	Review of possible sites within feasibility study against future works plan.
CCBu5		Design and refurbish buildings for carbon neutral / low energy operation, biodiversity net benefit and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.	2022	Mandatory requirement for new, extended and refurbished schools to be Net Zero Carbon in operation (NZCio). The first NZCio school is in plan. Ambitious plans also underway for first NZCio care home. New builds are estimated to have 20% cost increase to meet NZC standard.	Continue to support development of NZC new builds within capital work programme.
CCBu6		Ensure green infrastructure is considered throughout all existing Council assets and future schemes	2022	Ongoing process identifying feasibility of potential green infrastructure projects on a case by case basis. Links have been made to ensure officers are consulted on potential of inclusion in future schemes.	Continue to liaise with officers as projects are being developed.
CCBu7		Continue to carry out flood investigation and alleviation to identify proactive mitigation measures & prevent recurrent flooding	Ongoing	Flood investigation and alleviation is carried out when necessary.	The Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy is being reviewed and will encompass areas of recurrent flooding.

CCBu8	M	Prioritise nature based solutions to flooding remediation proposals	Ongoing		This will also be encompassed in the Flood Risk Management Strategy review.
CCBu9		Explore feasibility for rainwater harvesting within Council assets, particularly on high water usage sites.	2023		Feasibility study to take place over 2023 once usage data for building assets has been obtained.
CCBu10		Support schools and Town & Community Councils to reduce operation's emissions and engage with our building users to encourage positive behaviour change	2022	Toolkits are being developed for schools and Town & Community Councils to provide advice and guidance on carbon footprint calculation and mitigation measures. This will include aspects of technology, behaviour and best practice.	Issue draft of toolkits to tester stakeholders, gain feedback and review and then finalise toolkits. Roll out support package including training.
CCBu11		Develop plan for the decarbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure optimised thermal efficiency and minimised cost of heating	2022	Decarbonisation strategy in development. Bid secured through Optimised Retrofit Programme for pilot housing scheme which will inform future schemes. Estimate £80k cost per house to meet NZC.	ORP programme roll out and review for learning points for future schemes.
CCBu12		Continue to deliver programmes with private households and local businesses to reduce fuel poverty and provide access to wider energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes.	Ongoing	The Domestic Energy Efficiency Team continues to provide energy efficiency advice and support with installation of energy efficiency measures. Decarbonisation network developed for Deeside industrial area to develop aims and objectives and share good practice. Funding secured through Shared Prosperity Fund to provide grants for commercial carbon reduction feasibility studies.	Continue to administer grant funding and provide support to both social and private households.
CCBu13		Provide support through Flood Risk Planning to businesses and households to better implement property flood resilience	2024		Updated TAN 15 will be available June 2023 with guidance from NRW.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22	Next steps 2023 onwards
CCM1	M	Review fleet policy with consideration for charging of vehicles.	2022	Policy under review to incorporate decarbonisation of fleet.	

CCM2		Learning from accelerated change due to COVID-19, review and implement policies and initiatives that support the reduction of carbon emissions from business mileage. Continue to implement and develop agile working practices to reduce employee journeys and utilise virtual meetings. Act as an example to businesses.	2022-23	Hybrid Working Policy has been published encouraging flexible working approach and utilisation of virtual meetings.	Continue to embrace virtual and hybrid working where necessary to maintain reduction in business mileage. Ensure business mileage claim data is complete so that accurate emission data is recorded.
CCM3		Ensure vehicle charging points are available at key areas across the county - rural and urban.	2022	17 electric vehicle charging points have been installed across 8 public car park sites across the county.	Next phase feasibility study to be carried out.
CCM4		Introduce electric vehicles into the recycling fleet	2022	2 x trial vehicles have been awarded by Welsh Government.	These will be implemented into rounds once received and charging infrastructure has been established.
CCM5		Transition of small fleet vehicles to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen, etc)	2023-24		Plan to be developed in line with Fleet contract renewal
CCM6		Transition of heavy vehicles to electric or alternative fuels (hydrogen, etc)	2027		
CCM7		Facilitate a car sharing forum for employees – once measures post COVID-19 are reviewed.	Post-Covid		Assess need and practicality once capacity is available.
CCM8		Actively promote the existing employee cycle to work scheme to increase participation and review cycle storage facilities at principle work places (i.e. County Hall, Mold, County Offices, Flint, Ty Dewi Sant and Alltami Depot)	2022	<i>No update</i>	Review needed of resources required to improve uptake eg. Storage facilities, showering facilities, electric bike charging infrastructure, and sufficient safe cycle routes to work places.
CCM9		Promote and launch a managed salary sacrifice scheme for low and ultra-low emission vehicles.	2022	Launch of scheme delayed due to resource being allocated to other priorities.	Factor into work programme once resources are available.
CCM10		Promote use of public transport, active travel, and further develop the Council's walking and cycling network	2022	Active Travel Network has gone through consultation and moving to next stage improvements.	Roll out of actions identified in consultation and works plan.

CCM11		Promote multi-modal transport journeys and the development of strategic transport hubs. Improve access to storage, charging and hiring facilities.	2022		Review of current transport hubs needed to determine if they are fit for purpose and any additional facilities needed to support active travel connections.
CCM12		Investigate further opportunities for reducing car use with consideration for local contexts and accessibility through ultra-low emission areas, car free zones and pedestrianised streets.	2023		Place plans will be developed during 2023-24 for town centres. The associated consultation processes will include car use needs within each town centre.
CCM13		Work with partners to enable greener fleet in the public transport sector (buses, rail, taxis) including Council contracted services such as school transport	2023		2 x electric buses are being introduced into the public service on a trial basis. This will allow for monitoring and review ready for wider roll out in future.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22	Next steps 2023 onwards
CCP1	Procurement	Review of procurement strategy in line with the Council's carbon ambitions to ensure specific measures around carbon and biodiversity are embedded in procurement process.	2022	Procurement Strategy currently being reviewed to reflect carbon ambitions and need for this to be embedded within procurement processes.	Procurement strategy needs to be reviewed and finalised.
CCP2		Increase the utilisation of the TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures) framework in procurement across the Council's operations by working with	2022-23	TOMs framework has recently been updated with additional carbon outcomes included. Key tenders need to be identified to target for carbon outcomes.	High value tenders to be identified to target carbon outcomes.

		employees who manage procurement activities			
CCP3		Work collaboratively with Denbighshire County Council to develop a toolkit to ensure all procurement exercises are awarded giving appropriate consideration to carbon reduction priorities and monitor contract against declared emissions. Provide communication and training to all affected employees suppliers and prospective bidders.	2022-23		Working with Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to develop a toolkit for implementing carbon measure scoring within tender processes. Expected launch of toolkit early 2023. WLGA will also provide support to officers and suppliers in utilising the toolkit. Dedicated resource is required for embedding this into the Council's procurement process. Commitment has been made for joint resource with Denbighshire County Council as Joint Procurement authority.
CCP5		Enable carbon offsetting best practice schemes providing local place-based environmental outcomes, where required	2022-23		Feasibility study being carried out to assess carbon offsetting opportunities for suppliers and planning.
CCP6		Ensure carbon reduction is appropriately considered throughout Council procurement policy, strategy, business cases, commissioning templates, tender evaluations, etc.	2022-23	Carbon and biodiversity impacts have been included as a consideration in capital business case template.	Commissioning form to be reviewed to include carbon reduction and Exceptions report to be modified to include carbon. Carbon emissions of a contract to be included in contract requirements so that this data can be reported instead of spend value.
CCP7		Increase local participation and stakeholder involvement by working with local businesses to ensure decarbonisation and social value outcomes are achieved	2022-23	Decarbonisation network developed for Deeside industrial area to develop aims and objectives and share good practice. Funding secured through Shared Prosperity Fund to provide grants for commercial carbon reduction feasibility studies.	Utilise WLGA support for current suppliers, local businesses, and engage with Deeside decarbonisation network.
CCP8		Work in collaboration where procurement of goods and services can be utilised on a regional or joint basis	2022-23	Regional public sector collaboration developed for commission of 'Production of Climate change e-learn module'.	Continue to assess opportunities for joint procurement.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22	Next steps 2023 onwards
CCL1	Land Use	Identify current carbon storage capacity within Council assets through mapping habitat types	2022-23	Mapping exercise is ongoing.	WLGA are developing a pan-Wales mapping tool that will provide consistency across public sector in mapping carbon. This will be available 2023.
CCL2		Investigate the potential of our land assets for new renewable energy installations and operating models and develop these schemes to increase the amount of energy generated from these sources	2022	Work is ongoing with Welsh Government Energy Service to determine feasibility of sites for further renewable energy generation.	Review of possible sites within feasibility study against future works plan.
CCL3		Undertake a study identifying land for habitat restoration and tree planting schemes within land assets to mitigate climate change and enhance biodiversity	2022-23	Land mapping exercise is ongoing.	Sites have been identified for potential tree planting however further feasibility of these sites is needed.
CCL4		Audit the amount of herbicide and pesticide use on Council land assets	2023	Use of herbicide and pesticide is being recorded and where possible use is rationalised and alternatives adopted.	Continue to monitor and replace herbicide and pesticide use where possible.
CCL5		Increase proportion of Council land managed for biodiversity	Ongoing	Network of 109 nature areas across county covering 11.8hectares – grassland estate with reduced mowing regime managed for wildflower diversity.	Maintain current network and engage with Members and the public on land managed for biodiversity to encourage behaviour change.
CCL6		Support the increase of tree canopy cover across the county in line with the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan.	Ongoing	Canopy cover at risk due to storm damage and ash dieback.	Opportunities to be developed for further tree planting as part of 'Flintshire Forest'
CCL7		Assess impacts of Ash Dieback and tree planting within Flintshire assets on canopy cover and net carbon sequestration	Ongoing	As above.	Ash dieback action plan in place.

CCL8		Increase area with reduced mowing regimes to enhance biodiversity and increase carbon storage	Ongoing	Network of 109 nature areas across county covering 11.8hectares – grassland estate with reduced mowing regime managed for wildflower diversity.	Maintain current network and engage with Members and the public on land managed for biodiversity to encourage behaviour change.
CCL9		Strengthen the monitoring of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) installation and quality in new developments.	Ongoing		SuDs will be encompassed in the Flood Risk Management Strategy review.
CCL10		Explore best practice policies and encourage provision of space for food growing in new developments and vacant and under used sites	2023	Sites receiving improvements such as water harvesting measures. Currently 16 food growing sites across the county covering 3.8 hectares.	New sites identified for food growing and are going through feasibility.
CCL11		Review and improve recycling provision in Council offices, schools and public buildings and remove use of single-use plastics. Communicate and engage building users to utilise provision	2022-23	Review of recycling provision in Council buildings taking place. Trials of on-demand collections at schools are ongoing.	Continue review of recycling provision across building assets.
CCL12		Support circular economy initiatives diverting reusable items from disposal through recovery at Household Recycling Centres	Ongoing	Deconstruction and set aside available at household recycling centres for large household items to be repaired and reused or broken down into component parts for recycling.	Working with Flintshire Refurbs and local charities to expand options for recovery of items.
CCL13		Create guidelines for Council procurement of food in offices, schools, etc, to be local and sustainable	2025		
CCL14		Undertake a land use strategy to ensure land is managed and protected for green infrastructure, decarbonisation and biodiversity benefit.	2023		
CCL15		Work with Tenant farmers to share best practice on sustainable farming, increasing carbon absorption and biodiversity value.	2023		Engage with NFU, identify and share good practice from both Tenant and private farmers to improve awareness.

CCL16		Work with communities to increase biodiversity value and carbon storage.	Ongoing		Ongoing as and when approached by communities.
CCL17		Identify opportunities to acquire new Council land for the purpose of carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement.	2023-24		To follow completion of assessment of own land.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22	Next steps 2023 onwards
CCBe1	Behaviour	Ensure climate change and biodiversity is considered a priority in decision making across all Council services	2022-23	Integrated Impact Assessment, Capital business case template, Asset Management Plan, Procurement Strategy and Due diligence form within Social Services have been reviewed to reflect carbon ambitions. Ongoing exercise to identify and review further key decision making policies.	Identification of key policies and strategies within each Portfolio and carrying out associated review.
CCBe2		Ensure Councillors and employees complete carbon literacy / introduction to climate change / Naturewise training. Inclusion of climate change within induction process.	2022-23	20 x Council employees have completed Carbon Literacy training. E-learn module for climate change and biodiversity under development as part of a regional commission.	Cabinet approved roll out of carbon literacy training to Elected Members, Senior Managers and other key decision makers – roll out early 2023. Regional e-learn module commission to be finalised March-April.
CCBe3		Engage employees and Trade Unions to renew job descriptions to include climate change and biodiversity responsibilities where applicable, e.g. managers, budget holders, planning.	2023-24		Feasibility of reviewing current JDs, and process for ensuring new JDs to include climate change responsibilities, where applicable.
CCBe4		Facilitate transition towards a 'paperless Council' through, for example, digitisation of wage slips, report packs, contracts, applications.	2022	Enrolment of new Elected Members included iPad and laptop to remove need for paper-based report packs post-May 2022. Default is that paper copies of reports are not sent out. Behavioural change communicating policy on printing	Feasibility study being carried out across Portfolios to assess what documentation can/cannot be digitised, and impact of this on current Xerox requirements.

				needs to be adopted by Officers and Members.	
CCBe5		Facilitate corporate volunteering for climate and biodiversity action	2023-24		
CCBe6		Investigate the possibility of divesting pensions and other investment portfolios away from fossil fuels in support of green energy.	2022	Clwyd Pension Fund have a climate change strategy in place to achieve net zero carbon by 2045. Divesting decisions are made by Committee. Investment of £50 mill agreed on clean energy projects in Wales. Sustainable active equity mandate being implemented.	
CCBe7		Facilitate community events and activities to raise awareness of climate change and how to reduce carbon footprints.	2023	4 x events taken place as part of Wales Climate Week – energy saving and carbon footprint drop in sessions across the county. 'Calculating your carbon footprint' page launched on FCC website and climate change e-newsletter launched to over 900 subscribers.	Review and update communication and engagement strategy to plan out activities for the year.

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Agenda Item 7

Flintshire County Council's Climate Change Committee is holding an inquiry into the Clwyd Pension Fund's (CPF's) strategy, policy and actions in relation to climate change. We are keen to hear from professionals and members of the public to inform our work.

In order to help you share your views, we have prepared the following questions to help ensure the information you provide to us is relevant. You do not have to use these questions to help you write your submission if you don't want to, and you don't have to answer all of them.

Please try to keep any evidence you supply in writing as clear and concise as possible. As a guide, we expect all submissions will be less than 2,000 words.

Please make sure you include your name, a way we can get in touch with you if we have any questions, such as a telephone number, email address, or postal address, and if you are writing in a professional capacity, please include the organisation you work for and your job title. We will not publish your name or contact details.

1. Do you think the Clwyd Pension Fund (CPF) is right to reduce its investments in carbon-intensive industries?
2. Do you believe that the CPF's target (net-zero by 2045) is too late, too soon, or correct?
3. Do you believe that a faster target to reach net-zero is achievable? If so, what year would you suggest?
4. Do you believe that reducing investment in fossil fuel companies (those whose primary business is the extraction or trading of fossil fuels) is likely to affect the value of the CPF's portfolio positively or negatively in the short term (next 24 months), medium term (next ten years) and long term (next 30 years) if done in line with an earlier target for net zero, such as 2030, relative to a more gradual reduction in line with the current target of 2045? How confident are you in your forecast? Please assume that receipts from any fossil fuel investments sold are reinvested in proportion with the CPF's current investments excluding these companies.
5. Other Local Government Pension Funds in the UK have adopted faster decarbonisation pathways than the CPF. What evidence do you have that these have been successful or unsuccessful in delivering (a) on reducing carbon emissions, and (b) in sustaining the value of the fund?
6. Do you believe that the CPF should adopt a clear definition of what is meant by net zero in the context of a pension fund? If so, what do you think this definition should read?
7. Do you believe that fund members are likely to support or oppose a faster reduction in fossil fuel investments? What are you basing this assessment on? If you are replying in your capacity as someone whose pension is managed by the CPF, we are particularly keen to hear your own view.
8. Do you feel that investing in fossil fuel companies gives the CPF influence or leverage over these companies' operations, especially in encouraging a reduction in carbon emissions? If so, what is your evidence for this?
9. Would you be willing to speak to the committee (give oral evidence) if asked?

Flintshire County Council's Climate Change Committee is holding an inquiry into flooding, especially surface water flooding, in Flintshire. We are keen to hear from professionals and members of the public to inform our work.

In order to help you share your views, we have prepared the following questions to help ensure the information you provide to us is relevant. You do not have to use these questions to help you write your submission if you don't want to, and you don't have to answer all of them.

Please try to keep any evidence you supply in writing as clear and concise as possible. As a guide expect all submissions will be less than 2,000 words.

Please make sure you include your name, a way we can get in touch with you if we have any questions, such as a telephone number, email address, or postal address, and if you are writing in a professional capacity, please include the organisation you work for and your job title. We will not publish your name or contact details.

1. Do you have direct experience of flooding in Flintshire? Has your home been flooded? Has this happened more than once, and if so, when?
2. Where in Flintshire do you currently consider is not adequately prepared, protected or defended against flooding?
3. Where in Flintshire do you consider is currently safe from flooding, but is likely to flood in the future as a result of climate change? In addressing this, we are especially keen to focus on areas that have not been identified as at risk in NRW's flood risk maps, or which you believe have been incorrectly categorised, or which have been identified correctly but which you feel are rendered especially vulnerable due to drainage issues.
4. Do you feel that Flintshire County Council is currently discharging its responsibilities well in relation to flooding and flood prevention? In particular, we are keen to understand how well you feel the council maintains at-risk drains and watercourses it is responsible for.
5. Do you feel that Natural Resources Wales is currently discharging its responsibilities well in relation to flooding and flood prevention? In particular, we are keen to understand how well you feel NRW maintains at-risk drains and watercourses it is responsible for.
6. Do you feel that Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water is currently discharging its responsibilities well in relation to flooding and flood prevention? In particular, we are keen to understand how well you feel the water board maintains at-risk drains, sewers and watercourses it is responsible for.
7. Do you feel that more funding is required to prevent future flooding relating to climate change? If so, do you believe that the Welsh Government should take responsibility for providing this, or do you propose that this should be raised from local taxpayers in additional council tax?
8. Would you be willing to speak to the committee (give oral evidence) if asked?

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of meeting	Subject	Actions
Tues 28th March	Climate Change Programme Review, Alex Ellis, Programme Manager	
	EV charging infrastructure, Cllr Ibbotson	
	Hydro power and Milwr Tunnel Cllr Eastwood	
Tues 23rd May	Renewable energy generation, Alternative renewable energy generation opportunities including wind and solar on Council owned car parks Cllr Rose , thermal energy utilising former coal mines Cllr Marshall	
Page 41	Review of catering facilities – mandatory plant based meals Cllr Rose & Cllr Preece	
	Hydrogen provision and hydrogen fuelled vehicles, Cllr Eastwood	
	Carbon offsetting – tree planting Cllr Mansell & Cllr Ibbotson	
	Review of data storage & cloud facilities and zero email standards Cllr Rose	
	Reaching out to wider community on Climate Change Cllr Healey	
Tues 18th July	Feasibility of bioreactors for grass arisings/food waste Cllr Rose	

	Planning changes to incorporate requirements for Passivhaus/solar/EV charging Cllr Rose & Cllr Mansell	
	Use of local trades and local products to reduce carbon footprint Cllr Preece	