

Public Document Pack

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Chief Officer (Governance)
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: All Members of the Council

8 May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 14TH MAY, 2024 at 11.00 AM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in The Lord Barry Jones Council Chamber, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

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 FOR ABSENCE

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3 CHAIR'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023-24

4 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25, INVESTITURE OF CHAIN OF OFFICE AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

5 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25, INVESTITURE OF CHAIN OF OFFICE AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

6 ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

7 APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Purpose: To note the appointment of the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council.

8 CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING COMMITTEES (Pages 5 - 20)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) -

Purpose: To approve the constitutional arrangements for the Council for the forthcoming year.

ORDINARY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

9 CORPORATE PARENTING CHARTER: A PROMISE FOR WALES (Pages 21 - 36)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) -

Purpose: To seek agreement that Flintshire County Council adopts the Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'.

10 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2024/25 (Pages 37 - 52)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) -

Purpose: To approve the draft schedule of meetings for 2024/25.

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

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 14 th May 2024
Report Subject	Constitutional Issues including Committees
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year, at our Annual General Meeting, (AGM) the Council must agree what arrangements it will make to carry out certain functions, such as its Committee structure and delegation to Officers. These matters are set out in Council Procedure Rule 1.1 (vii)-(xiv).

This report deals with the appointment of other Committees and Chairs and other issues such as allocation of seats, under political balance.

The report is split into sections, each one dealing with one decision that needs to be made and the relevant issues to consider. Each section must be considered and voted on in turn at the AGM. Therefore, it is not possible to move these recommendations 'en bloc'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>That Council appoints the following Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeals Committee • Climate Change Committee • Clwyd Pension Fund Committee • Constitution and Democratic Services Committee • Governance & Audit Committee • Grievance Committee • Grievance Appeals Committee • Investigation and Disciplinary Committee • Joint Governance Committee (for pensions) • Licensing Committee • Overview and Scrutiny Committees as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community, Housing & Assets
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Resources ▪ Education, Youth & Culture ▪ Environment & Economy ▪ Social & Healthcare • Planning Committee • Standards Committee
2	It is recommended that the size of each Committee should be as set out in paragraph 1.03 of this report.
3	It is recommended that the Terms of Reference for each Committee as set out in the Constitution should be approved.
4	<p>a) That seats be allocated in accordance with political balance as set out in Appendix 1 (to follow) and the rules on membership of the Committees as set out within the report; and</p> <p>b) that the seats on the Grievance, Grievance Appeals and Investigation and Disciplinary Committees be allocated to give a broad political spread of membership.</p>
5	<p>That Council appoints a Chair of the following Committees (noting any restrictions on eligibility):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Committee • Clwyd Pension Fund • Constitution & Democratic Services • Licensing • Planning
6	That the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee and the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee should each appoint their own Chairs from amongst their Membership.
7	That Council decides which group will chair each of the five Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
8	That the rules, procedures, delegations and codes/protocols within the Constitution be approved.
9	That the make-up of the Appointments Committee be approved.
10	That Council appoints a third councillor to serve on the Standards Committee for the remainder of this term.
11	That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make any amendments to appointments to outside bodies as required.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE
1.01	<p>The Constitution presently provides for the appointment of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appeals Committee• Climate Change Committee• Clwyd Pension Fund Committee• Constitution and Democratic Services Committee• Governance & Audit Committee• Grievance Committee• Grievance Appeals Committee• Investigation and Disciplinary Committee• Joint Governance Committee (for pensions)• Licensing Committee• Overview and Scrutiny Committees as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community, Housing & Assets▪ Corporate Resources▪ Education, Youth & Culture▪ Environment & Economy▪ Social & Healthcare• Planning Committee• Standards Committee
1.02	<p>It is recommended that :That Council appoints the following Committees for 2024/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appeals Committee• Clwyd Pension Fund Committee• Constitution and Democratic Services Committee• Governance and Audit Committee• Grievance Committee• Grievance Appeals Committee• Investigation and Disciplinary Committee• Joint Governance Committee (for pensions)• Licensing Committee• Overview and Scrutiny Committees as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Housing• Corporate Resources• Education, Youth and Culture• Environment and Economy• Social and Healthcare• Planning Committee• Standards Committee
	DETERMINATION OF THE SIZE OF COMMITTEES
1.03	<p>The Annual Meeting must decide upon the size of each of the Committees it has appointed. Council has previously agreed that the major Committees</p>

should be large enough for all political groups to be represented without being so large that it is difficult for groups to fill the places. During the review of Committees carried out in the last Council term it was agreed that 12 was an appropriate size for most Committees with the Planning and Constitution & Democratic Services Committees being slightly larger.

The table below shows the size of each Committee and whether it includes any members who are appointed by the Council rather than being elected (“co-optees”).

	Committee	Councillors	Co-Optees
	Climate Change	12	None
	Constitution and Democratic Services	16	None
	Governance & Audit Committee	6	3
	Grievance Committee	12	None
	Grievance Appeals	12	None
	Investigation and Disciplinary	12	None
	Joint Governance Committee (Pensions) – 1 representative	The Chair	None
	Licensing	12	None
	Each Overview & Scrutiny	12	
	Pension Committee	5	4
	Planning	17	None
	Standards	3	6

1.04 The size and composition of the Planning Committee is regulated by legislation. Under regulations made in 2017 the Planning Committee must be between 11 and 21 Members in size and can be no larger than 50% of the total Membership of the Council.

The composition of the Governance and Audit Committee and the Standards Committee is also controlled by legislation. The governance and Audit Committee must consist of 1/3 co-optees. It therefore consists of 6 elected Councillors and three co-optees.

The Standards Committee is highly regulated. It may have no more than nine members in total and must have

- 1) At least 50% co-optees (called Independent Members) – the Committee has five
- 2) One Town and Community representative who is appointed by the Town and Community Councils themselves; and

	3) No more than three County Councillors
1.05	It is recommended that: The size of each Committee should be as set out in paragraph 1.03 of this report.
TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES	
1.06	The Annual General Meeting is required to decide the terms of reference of the Committees which it appoints. These are set out in the Constitution. They are reviewed periodically to ensure that they remain pertinent, accurate and up to date.
1.07	It is recommended that: The terms of reference for each Committee as set out in the Constitution should be approved.
POLITICAL BALANCE	
1.08	<p>The Council is required at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting, to decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance Rules contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990(as amended).</p> <p>Members are advised that these rules do not apply to the Cabinet nor to the Standards Committee.</p>
1.09	<p>The basis of the statutory requirement is that Committee seats are allocated to a political group (as far as is practicable) in the same proportion as that group has to the total membership of the County Council.</p> <p>So, a group with 50% of the Councillors should have 50% of the overall number of seats and 50% of the seats on each Committee (provided that doesn't give it too many seats overall).</p> <p>The allocation of seats on Committees to the political groups must be in accordance with the rules which are listed below in order of importance :-</p> <p>(i) No Committee may consist of only one group;</p> <p>(ii) Where there is a majority group it is entitled to a majority upon every Committee. (This does not apply where the largest group does not have an overall majority);</p> <p>(iii) As far as possible, each group should receive a share of the total number of seats (across all Committees) equal to its share of the number of members on the Council;</p> <p>(iv) As far as possible each group should receive a share of the seats on each Committee equal to its share of the number of members on Council;</p>

	<p>(v) Where some Councillors are not in a political group then the Council must ensure that a proportion of seats are allocated to those Councillors.</p> <p>The spreadsheet at Appendix 1 shows the size of each group, its percentage of the total number of Councillors and a suggested allocation of seats on Committees. Other lawful allocations may be possible provided no group ends up with too many seats on each Committee or too many seats overall.</p>
1.10	<p>To achieve political balance, it has been necessary to separate out the 'employment' Committees which are the Grievance, Grievance Appeals and Investigation and Disciplinary Committees. Otherwise, the smaller groups would be disadvantaged by having to use part of their seat allocation on Committees which seldom, if ever, meet. This separation requires a specific agreement from all Members of Council. If one Member objects to it, then it cannot be implemented.</p>
1.11	<p>The Size and Composition of Local Planning Authority Committees (Wales) Regulations 2017 also require that a Planning Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not include any substitutes; and • May only include one Member from a multiple Member ward. <p>In making nominations to the Planning Committee, the groups will need to follow these rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Only one Councillor from a multi-member ward may serve on the Planning Committee 2) If a multiple Member ward is represented by Councillors who are not in the same group (and both wish to be on the Planning Committee), then there will need to be a means of deciding which Councillor can take up the place. 3) In the first instance the two respective Group Leaders should seek to reach agreement about who will represent the ward. 4) If that is not possible then the first nomination received by the proper officer will be accepted.
1.12	<p>For the Governance & Audit and the Constitution & Democratic Services Committees, the Local Government (Wales) Measure limits the number of Cabinet Members on each Committee to a maximum of one, this cannot be the Leader. The Constitution has extended this so that no Cabinet Member may be a Member of the Governance & Audit Committee. The Constitution also requires that Governance & Audit Committee members are appointed for the whole of the Council term, if possible, to build up expertise.</p>
1.13	<p>Section 11 of the Constitution requires that the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee should include at least one Cabinet Member but that Cabinet members should make up no more than 50% of that</p>

	Committee. So, it is proposed that in selecting who will serve on this Committee, the Leader should appoint only one Cabinet Member.																																
1.14	There are a total of 135 seats for Councillors across all the Committees. Based on the current group membership, the overall entitlement of each group to seats is set out in the table below:																																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Group size</th> <th>% of total Councillors</th> <th>Entitlement to seats</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.49%</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eagle</td> <td>3</td> <td>4.48%</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independents</td> <td>25</td> <td>37.31%</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labour</td> <td>32</td> <td>47.76%</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liberal Democrats</td> <td>4</td> <td>5.97%</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-aligned</td> <td>2</td> <td>2.98%</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>67</td> <td>100%</td> <td>135</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	Group size	% of total Councillors	Entitlement to seats	Conservative	1	1.49%	2	Eagle	3	4.48%	6	Independents	25	37.31%	50	Labour	32	47.76%	65	Liberal Democrats	4	5.97%	8	Non-aligned	2	2.98%	4	Total	67	100%	135
Group	Group size	% of total Councillors	Entitlement to seats																														
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1.15	<p>Members will be aware that, within the constraints of the above rules, we also try to allocate seats on Committees based on the expressed preference of Councillors. Some Committees are “oversubscribed”, so it is not always possible to accommodate every Councillor who wishes to serve on a particular Committee.</p> <p>I have attached 2 appendices to this report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Appendix 1 shows a fundamentally re-written allocation of seats that more closely aligns with the statistical entitlement to seats of each group thereby addressing some anomalies e.g. it allocates a seat to the Eagle Group so that it can appoint one of its members as chair of the Social and Health OSC and the numerical over representation of non-aligned members on the Planning Committee. Due to the number of revisions changes to individual cells are not marked 2) Appendix 2 shows a more gradual evolution of the political balance allocation (changed cells are filled in yellow) from the previous allocation. It fits better with the expressed preferences of the smaller groups and non-aligned members. 																																
1.16	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seats be allocated in accordance with political balance as set out in either Appendix 1 or Appendix 2 and the rules on membership of the Committees as set out in the paragraphs above; and b) Of the seats on the Grievance, Grievance Appeals and Investigation and Disciplinary Committees be allocated to give a broad political spread of membership. 																																
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES																																	

1.17	The Committee Chairs are appointed by different bodies, and some are subject to restrictions. A table showing which body appoints which Chair and what restrictions (if any) apply is set out below.	
	Committee	Who appoints the Chair?
	Climate Change	Council
	Clwyd Pension Fund	Council
	Constitution & Democratic Services	Council
	Governance & Audit	The Committee appoints its own
	Grievance	The Committee appoints its own
	Grievance Appeals	The Committee appoints its own
	Investigation & Disciplinary	The Committee appoints its own
	Overview & Scrutiny Committees (5)	Council decides which group nominates the chair of each
	Licensing	Council
	Planning	Council
	Standards	The Committee appoints its own
1.18	<p>It is recommended that: Council appoints the Chair of the following Committees (noting any restrictions on eligibility):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Clwyd Pension Fund • Constitution and Democratic Services • Licensing • Planning 	
1.19	<p>It is recommended that: The Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeals Committee and Investigation & Disciplinary Committee should</p>	

	each appoint their own Chairs from amongst their respective memberships.
1.20	Under the Local Government Measure 2011 the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny are chosen by the political groups based on the strength of the various groups and which have seats on the Cabinet. Chairs are allocated to groups with a place on Cabinet first and any entitlement is rounded down. The remaining Chairs are then allocated to groups without a seat on Cabinet (rounding up to the nearest whole number).
1.21	Full Council appoints the Leader at the Annual Meeting and the Leader will then announce the Cabinet. When the membership of the Cabinet is known, it will be possible to formally allocate the correct number of Chair(s) to each group. The allocation of Chairs are set out in Appendix 1, immediately below the political balance calculations.
1.22	It is recommended that: Council decides which group will Chair each Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
APPROVAL OF THE CONSTITUTION	
1.23	<p>The Constitution sets out how the Council functions and contains within it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rules and procedures for managing meetings and Council business; • delegations to the Cabinet (including the choice of what is to be and what is not to be an executive function); • delegations to Committees and advisory groups in line with their terms of reference; • delegations to officers; • codes and protocols to support high standards of ethical behaviour and governance. <p>The Constitution is based on a national a model which was updated in 2022.</p>
1.24	The codes and protocols in the Constitution are kept under rolling review to ensure that they remain up to date and pertinent. Every code/protocol will be reviewed at least once over the term of this Council as part of that review. Changes are also made as and when required if a scheduled review has already taken place or is not due for some time. The Standards Committee had agreed a programme for reviewing the Constitution.
1.25	It is recommended that: The rules, procedures, delegations, and codes/protocols within the Constitution be approved.
NOMINATIONS TO INTERNAL BODIES	
1.26	The existing Scheme of Delegation provides for an Appointments Committee for first and second tier officers comprising seven Members. This is not a standing Committee and is convened when required by seeking nominations from Group Leaders. In the past it has been usual for Committee Members to be drawn from all groups, albeit not formally politically balanced, including the relevant Cabinet Member.

1.27	It is recommended that: The make-up of the Appointments Committee be approved.
	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
1.28	The Standards Committee includes five independent Members, a Town and Community Council representative and three Councillors (who cannot also be the Leader or Cabinet Members). Cllr Parkhurst has stood down from the Committee and so a vacancy exists for a third councillor. The councillor would be expected to serve for the remainder of the council term i.e. until April 2027. Councillors Carberry and Wren were appointed to the Standards Committee in 2022 and remain members of the committee.
1.30	It is recommended that: Council appoints a third councillor to serve on the Standards Committee for the remainder of this term.
	APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES
1.31	The Council nominates Councillors to serve on different bodies such as the fire authority, police and crime panel plus local charities and organisations (collectively called “outside bodies”). Appointments were made at the 2022 Annual Meeting for the whole Council term. Clearly, changes may be needed over the remainder of the Council term, so delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make any amendments to those appointments as required.
1.32	It is recommended that: Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make any amendments to appointments to outside bodies as required.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a result of this report.

3.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	None as a result of this report.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Group Leaders.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – May 2024 Political Balance calculation Appendix 2 – May 2024 Political Balance calculation

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	Proper Officer – the Council employee who is nominated to perform a specific statutory task, for example receipt of nominations to serve on the Planning Committee.

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Political Balance May 2024 Appendix 1

	Labour			Independent			Eagle			Liberal Democrat			Conservative			Non Aligned (Cllr Ellis)			Non Aligned (Cllr Attridge)			Total Councill	Cross check
No. of councillors	32			25			3			4			1			1			1			67	67
% of councillors	47.76%			37.31%			4.48%			5.97%			1.49%			1.49%			1.49%			Total	
Notional entitlement	64.48			50.37			6.04			8.06			2.01			2.01			2.01			Seats	
Allocation of seats	65			50			6			8			2			2			2			135.00	135.00
Community and Housing OSC	6	5.73	0.27	4	4.48	-0.48	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.72	-0.72	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	1	0.18	0.82	12	12.00
Corporate Resources OSC	6	5.73	0.27	4	4.48	-0.48	1	0.54	0.46	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Education, Youth & Culture OSC	6	5.73	0.27	5	4.48	0.52	0	0.54	-0.54	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Environment & Economy OSC	6	5.73	0.27	5	4.48	0.52	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.72	-0.72	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Social & Healthcare OSC	5	5.73	-0.73	4	4.48	-0.48	1	0.54	0.46	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	1	0.18	0.82	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Planning	8	8.12	-0.12	6	6.34	-0.34	0	0.76	-0.76	1	1.01	-0.01	1	0.25	0.75	1	0.25	0.75	0	0.25	-0.25	17	17.00
Licensing	6	5.73	0.27	4	4.48	-0.48	1	0.54	0.46	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Governance & Audit	3	2.87	0.13	2	2.24	-0.24	0	0.27	-0.27	1	0.36	0.64	0	0.09	-0.09	0	0.09	-0.09	0	0.09	-0.09	6	6.00
Climate Change	6	5.73	0.27	5	4.48	0.52	0	0.54	-0.54	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Constitution and Democratic	7	7.64	-0.64	6	5.97	0.03	1	0.72	0.28	1	0.96	0.04	0	0.24	-0.24	0	0.24	-0.24	1	0.24	0.76	16	16.00
Pensions	3	2.39	0.61	2	1.87	0.13	0	0.22	-0.22	0	0.30	-0.30	0	0.07	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.07	5	5.00
Joint Pensions	1	0.48	0.52	0	0.37	-0.37	0	0.04	-0.04	0	0.06	-0.06	0	0.01	-0.01	0	0.01	-0.01	0	0.01	-0.01	1	1.00
Fire Authority	2	2.87	-0.87	3	2.24	0.76	0	0.27	-0.27	0	0.36	-0.36	1	0.09	0.91	0	0.09	-0.09	0	0.09	-0.09	6	6.00
Total to Group	65	64.48		50	50.37		6	6.04		8	8.06		2	2.01		2	2.01		2	2.01		135	135
Grievance	6	6.21	-0.21	4	4.85	-0.85	1	0.58	-0.42	1	0.78	-0.22	1	0.19	0.81	0	0.19	-0.19	0	0.19	-0.19	13	13.00
Grievance Appeals	6	6.21	-0.21	4	4.85	-0.85	1	0.58	-0.42	1	0.78	-0.22	1	0.19	0.81	0	0.19	-0.19	0	0.19	-0.19	13	13.00
Invest + Disc	6	6.21	-0.21	4	4.85	-0.85	1	0.58	-0.42	1	0.78	-0.22	1	0.19	0.81	0	0.19	-0.19	0	0.19	-0.19	13	13.00

If the allocations come to a total that is too high/low then the numbers along the bottom/on the right change colour

TABLE 2

	Labour			Independent			Eagle			Liberal Democrats			Conservative			Non-Aligned			Non-Aligned		
Scrutiny chairs																					
Notional	2.39			1.87			0.22			0.30			0.07			0.07			0.07		
Actual	2			2			1			0			0			0			0		

Groups with a seat on cabinet round down, and groups without round up, their entitlement to OSC chairs. In this scenario if Labour are in the cabinet then they have 2 chairs and the Independent group 2. If the Independents are in the Cabinet, then Labour would get 3 chairs and the Independent Group would get 1. Although the Liberal Democrat entitlement is notional larger than that of the Eagle Group, one of their number holds a cabinet position so the group's entitlement is rounded down whereas the Eagle Group's entitlement is rounded up

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Political Balance May 2024 Appendix 2

	Labour			Independent			Eagle			Liberal Democrat			Conservative			Non Aligned (Cllr Ellis)			Non Aligned (Cllr Attridge)			Total Council	Cross check
No.of councillors	32			25			3			4			1			1			1			67	67
% of councillors	47.76%			37.31%			4.48%			5.97%			1.49%			1.49%			1.49%			Total	
Notional entitlement	64.48			50.37			6.04			8.06			2.01			2.01			2.01			Seats	
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Community and Housing OSC	6	5.73	0.27	5	4.48	0.52	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.72	-0.72	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Corporate Resources OSC	6	5.73	0.27	4	4.48	-0.48	1	0.54	0.46	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Education, Youth & Culture OSC	6	5.73	0.27	5	4.48	0.52	0	0.54	-0.54	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Environment & Econon	6	5.73	0.27	5	4.48	0.52	1	0.54	0.46	0	0.72	-0.72	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Social & Healthcare OSC	5	5.73	-0.73	4	4.48	-0.48	1	0.54	0.46	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	1	0.18	0.82	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Planning	8	8.12	-0.12	5	6.34	-1.34	0	0.76	-0.76	1	1.01	-0.01	1	0.25	0.75	1	0.25	0.75	1	0.25	0.75	17	17.00
Licensing	6	5.73	0.27	4	4.48	-0.48	1	0.54	0.46	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Governance & Audit	2	2.87	-0.87	2	2.24	-0.24	0	0.27	-0.27	1	0.36	0.64	0	0.09	-0.09	0	0.09	-0.09	1	0.09	0.91	6	6.00
Climate Change	6	5.73	0.27	5	4.48	0.52	0	0.54	-0.54	1	0.72	0.28	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	0	0.18	-0.18	12	12.00
Constitution and Democratic	8	7.64	0.36	6	5.97	0.03	1	0.72	0.28	1	0.96	0.04	0	0.24	-0.24	0	0.24	-0.24	0	0.24	-0.24	16	16.00
Pensions	3	2.39	0.61	2	1.87	0.13	0	0.22	-0.22	0	0.30	-0.30	0	0.07	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.07	5	5.00
Joint Pensions	1	0.48	0.52	0	0.37	-0.37	0	0.04	-0.04	0	0.06	-0.06	0	0.01	-0.01	0	0.01	-0.01	0	0.01	-0.01	1	1.00
Fire Authority	2	2.87	-0.87	3	2.24	0.76	0	0.27	-0.27	0	0.36	-0.36	1	0.09	0.91	0	0.09	-0.09	0	0.09	-0.09	6	6.00
Total to Group	65	64.48		50	50.37		6	6.04		8	8.06		2	2.01		2	2.01		2	2.01		135	135
Grievance	6	6.21	-0.21	4	4.85	-0.85	1	0.58	-0.42	1	0.78	-0.22	1	0.19	0.81	0	0.19	-0.19	0	0.19	-0.19	13	13.00
Grievance Appeals	6	6.21	-0.21	4	4.85	-0.85	1	0.58	-0.42	1	0.78	-0.22	1	0.19	0.81	0	0.19	-0.19	0	0.19	-0.19	13	13.00
Invest + Disc	6	6.21	-0.21	4	4.85	-0.85	1	0.58	-0.42	1	0.78	-0.22	1	0.19	0.81	0	0.19	-0.19	0	0.19	-0.19	13	13.00

If the allocations come to a total that is too high/low then the numbers along the bottom/on the right change colour

TABLE 2

	Labour	Independent	Eagle	Liberal Democrats	Conservative	Non-Aligned	Non-Aligned
Scrutiny chairs							
Notional	2.39	1.87	0.22	0.30	0.07	0.07	0.07
Actual	2	2	1	0	0	0	0

Groups with a seat on cabinet round down, and groups without round up, their entitlement to OSC chairs. In this scenario if Labour are in the cabinet then they have 2 chairs and the Independent group 2. If the Independents are in the Cabinet, then Labour would get 3 chairs and the Independent Group would get 1. Although the Liberal Democrat entitlement is notinally larger than that of the Eagle Group, one of their number holds a cbainet positon so the group's entitlement is rounded down whereas the Eagle Group's entitlement is rounded up

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 14 th May 2024
Report Subject	Corporate Parenting Charter: A Promise for Wales
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government have formally launched a Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'. The Charter, sets out 11 principles on equality, eradicating stigma, working together, inclusive support, fulfilling ambitions, nurturing, good health, a stable home, education, thriving in the future, and after care support. The Charter also sets 9 promises for how care experienced children and young people will be treated, listened to, and involved in decisions that affect them.

The Charter has been published initially on a voluntary basis. Public sector organisations are encouraged to sign a pledge to fully support the principles set out in the Charter. The pledge commits organisations to ensuring that everything they undertake for care-experienced children and young people is underpinned by empowerment, equality, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability and protection. The expected approach is to fully respect, protect and promote their human rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The pledge includes a commitment to engage with children and young people to measure organisational success and commitment to the Charter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Flintshire County Council signs 'the pledge' and adopts the Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'
2	The Children's Services Forum take a lead in measuring organisational success and commitment to the Corporate Parenting Charter.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING A NATIONAL CORPORATE PARENTING CHARTER: A PROMISE FOR WALES
1.01	On 22 September 2023 Welsh Government formally launched a Corporate Parenting Charter: 'A Promise for Wales'. The Charter forms part of an ambitious vision for transforming children's services in Wales.
1.02	As part of this vision Welsh Government want to ensure that care experienced children and young people have the same life chances as every other child or young person in Wales. Their rights must be equally respected, and their voice heard, listened to and reflected in action. This was a key message to emerge from a national Care Leavers Summit, which involved carer leavers from Flintshire.
1.03	In collaboration with the Young Ambassadors who attended the Summit, representing care experienced children and young people, Welsh Government developed a shared vision for the future which strengthens public bodies in their role as 'corporate parent'.
1.04	The term "corporate parenting" can be defined as promoting the collective responsibility of the whole public sector to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of care-experienced children and young people. This is a responsibility of everyone working in the public sector.
1.05	The Charter, sets out 11 principles on equality, eradicating stigma, working together, inclusive support, fulfilling ambitions, nurturing, good health, a stable home, education, thriving in the future, after care support. It encourages all public sector bodies to sign up to these principles as well as 9 promises that set out how care experienced children and young people will be treated, listened to, and involved in decisions that affect them.
1.06	These principles and promises align to the key themes of the UNCRC. They also reflect the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children).
1.07	Why a Charter – What is it for?
1.08	The Charter is a set of principles and promises developed in collaboration with care-experienced young people. It provides a set of promises that can be adopted by any public sector body when engaging with care-experienced children and young people. It also sets out shared principles that all bodies and their leaders should follow when providing services to care-experienced children and young people.
1.09	The Charter has been designed for all public sector bodies and senior leaders to sign up to as a good Corporate Parent. Flintshire local authority has the opportunity to be an organisational leader in committing to the Charter. It is important to note that the Charter is not exclusive to local

	authorities and public bodies, and members of the third sector and private sector are encouraged to sign up and become a Corporate Parent. There is a real opportunity to consider how we adopt and promote the Charter locally with partners to ensure the best outcomes for our care experienced children and young people.
1.10	Shared Principles and Promises as Corporate Parents
1.11	The Charter sets 11 shared principles for Corporate Parenting and these are set out on page 3 of the Charter (Appendix 1). The Charter also sets out the following promises all Corporate Parents should fulfil when working with care-experienced children and young people:
1.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will take time to listen to all care-experienced children and young people and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard and actively considered in all decisions made about them.
1.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will treat all care-experienced children and young people with respect.
1.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will involve all experienced children and young people in decisions that are made about them.
1.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will keep all care experienced children and young people informed about our involvement with them and explain our actions to them.
1.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use straightforward language when we communicate with all care-experienced children and young people.
1.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will show compassion when considering the needs of all care-experienced children and young people.
1.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will work with all care-experienced children and young people to help them achieve their goals.
1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will advise all care-experienced children and young people of the process to make a complaint should they feel we are not adhering to this charter.
1.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will advise all care-experienced children and young people that they have a right to access independent advocacy to make sure their views, wishes and feelings are heard during decisions
1.21	These promises reflect our existing commitment and approach as a Corporate Parent.
1.22	The Pledge
1.23	The Charter has been published initially on a voluntary basis. An online Pledge has been developed for organisations to sign up to the Charter. The Pledge is set out below:

1.24	<p>We recognise our part as a parent in the largest family in Wales! In signing this pledge, we fully support the principles set out in this Charter and will live up to the common behaviours.</p> <p>We will ensure everything we undertake for care-experienced children and young people is underpinned by empowerment, equality, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability and protection and fully respects, protects and promotes your human rights under the UNCRC. We will engage with children and young people to measure our success and commitment to the charter.</p> <p>Our pledge is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work to deliver a better offer of help for you and all care-experienced children and young people in order for you to thrive and reach your potential. ✓ Help you gain access to and make the best use of our services. ✓ Act in your best interests and make you feel secure and well in our relationship with you. ✓ Encourage you to express your views, wishes and feelings and where needed provide you with support to promote these. ✓ Ensure your voice is heard and actively considered in all decisions about you and explain why decisions have been made. ✓ Provide you with information and resources that you need, in a way you understand. ✓ Make sure we are accountable to you for the decisions we take and the outcomes that affect your life. ✓ Help you to reach your potential. ✓ Prepare you for leaving care and support you to thrive independently. ✓ Ensure all staff are made aware of their corporate parenting responsibilities during their induction.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The Charter takes into account legislative duties set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The expectations and requirements of the Charter are consistent with our existing approach to Corporate Parenting.</p>
2.02	<p>Welsh Government are in the process of considering the development of guidance to support implementation of the Charter as well as including a dedicated chapter on Corporate Parenting within the Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked after and accommodated children) under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Once available this further guidance will help inform an implementation and monitoring plan for the Charter. This work will be led through the Childrens Services Forum ensuring the involvement and lead role of young people.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The Charter provides a whole organisational commitment to our care experienced children and young people. An implementation plan will be developed to ensure that there is a shared understand of the commitment across Council Services and consistency of experience in our interactions with care experienced children and young people.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	A National Corporate Parenting Implementation Group, comprising local authorities, as well as Voices from Care Cymru, the Children’s Commissioner’s office, the National Youth Advocacy Service, Children in Wales, National Adoption Service, and Public Health Wales was established in 2019. The Group played a key role in developing the national Charter.
4.02	In Flintshire we will work with care experienced children and young people to agree a set of principles for how we can deliver and monitor compliance with the Charter. Our care experienced children and young people will be central to this work.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales “A SHARED PARENTING PLEDGE”.
5.02	Corporate Parenting Charter –A Promise from Wales Becoming a Corporate Parent –What does that mean for you?

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Craig Macleod, Senior Manager: Children Telephone: 01352 701313 E-mail: craig.macleod@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - The UNCRC consists of 54 articles that set out children’s rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children’s basic needs and help them reach their full potential. Central to this is the acknowledgment that every child has basic fundamental rights.</p>



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales

“A SHARED PARENTING PLEDGE”

What is Corporate Parenting?

- Corporate parenting promotes the collective responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the rights and life chances of care-experienced children and young people. Children can find more information about their rights here: [Children’s Commissioner for Wales – UNCRC Childrens Rights](#).
- Supporting care-experienced children and young people through their childhoods and as they leave care should be the responsibility of all public sector bodies.
- We want these bodies to understand and develop their responsibilities towards care-experienced children and young people, and to ensure they have the same life chances as all children living in Wales.



Why a Charter? What’s it for?

- A Charter is a set of principles and promises. This Charter has been developed in collaboration with care-experienced young people.
- This Charter is a set of promises that can be adopted by any public sector body when engaging with care-experienced children and young people.
- It also sets out shared principles that all bodies and their leaders should follow when providing services to care-experienced children and young people.
- We want all public sector bodies and senior leaders to sign up to this Charter as a good Corporate Parent. This Charter is not exclusive to local authorities and public bodies, and we would welcome any members of the third sector and private sector to sign up and become a Corporate Parent.
- The development of this Charter takes into account the overarching duties laid out in Part 2, General Functions of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Specifically, that a person exercising functions in relation to an individual for example a looked after child must have regard to the characteristics, culture and beliefs of the individual (including, for example, language). www.law.gov.wales/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-2014-further-legislation-codes-and-guidance-made-under-act
- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Part 6 Code of Practice (Looked After and Accommodated Children) will be revised to include additional guidance on the Charter. The updated Code of Practice will be published in 2024 and the Charter will be reviewed as part of this process.

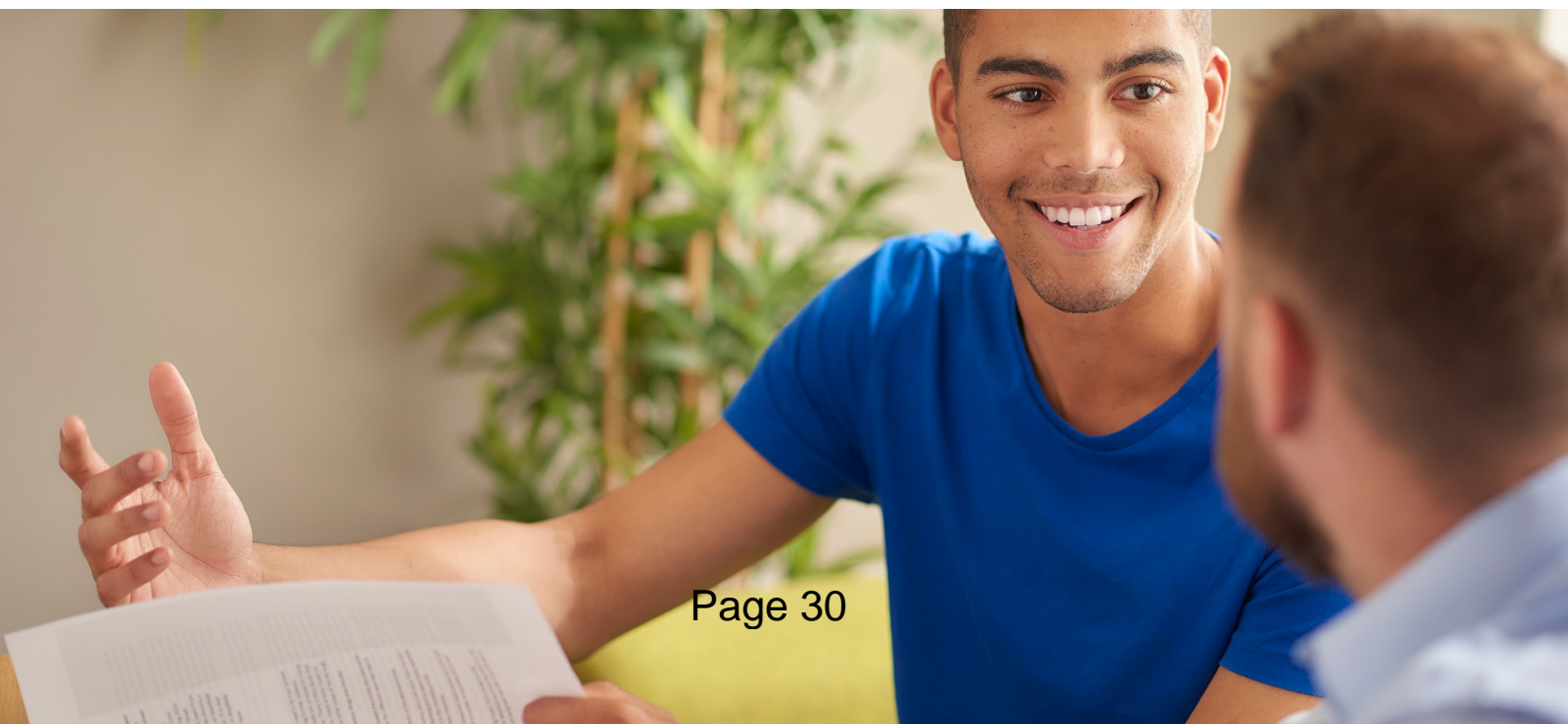
Which kind of public sector body, public service or professionals do we mean?

This charter is for any public sector body or individual who engages with or is responsible for care-experienced children and young people to adopt. For example:

- Politicians – Welsh Ministers, Members of the Senedd, (**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 4**).
- Independent Bodies – The Children’s Commissioner, The Future Generations Commissioner and The Welsh Language Commissioner.
- Local Authorities – councillors, chief executives, directors of social services, local authority commissioners and procurement teams, housing and education, Foster Wales and National Adoption Service.
- Local Health Boards.
- NHS Trusts.
- Regional Partnership Boards.
- Social Care Providers – Local authorities, residential children’s homes and independent foster agencies.
- Social Care Professionals and practitioners – social workers, Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), personal advisers, youth and support workers, residential children’s home staff, foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive parents.
- Housing Providers – housing associations.
- Education – schools, governors, universities, colleges and Qualifications Wales.
- Transport for Wales.
- Third Sector Organisations and voluntary adoption agencies or services.
- Inspectorates – Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Estyn and Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW).
- Cafcass Cymru.
- Department for Work and Pensions.
- Police – youth justice teams and those supporting individuals in custody.
- Employers/Apprenticeship/Traineeship providers.
- Other public bodies: National Resources Wales, National Park Authorities, The Arts Council of Wales, Sport Wales, National Library of Wales and National Museum of Wales. (**As listed in Section 6 of the Wales Future Generations Act 2015**).

Shared Principles for Corporate Parents

- **Equality** – We will support care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales. This is because all children have rights, no matter who they are (Article 1. UNCRC)
- **Eradicate Stigma** – We will recognise care-experienced children and young people for who they are, not just by their experience of being in care. This is because all children have a right not to be discriminated against (Article 2)
- **Togetherness** – We will work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services. This is because all children have a right to be listened to and taken seriously (Article 12).
- **Support** – We will ensure professionals working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people’s needs and/or have access to information an training.
- **Ambition** – We will ensure every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and can enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities. This is because all children have a right to be the best they can be (Article 3 and 29) and have the right to relax and play (Article 31).
- **Nurture** – We will make all care-experienced children and young people feel valued, respected, cared for and loved. This is because all children have a right to be safe and protected from harm (Article 19) and because all children who are not living with their families should be checked on regularly to make sure they are okay (Article 25).
- **Good Health** – We will provide support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young people. This is because all children have the right to the best possible health and support (Article 24 and 39).
- **A Stable Home** – We will seek out and provide stable places to live that are right for all care-experienced children and young people. This is because all children have a right to special protection if they don’t live with their family (Article 20). This is because any adoption must be overseen by Government to make it supports the young person in their growth and development, is lawful and that it prioritises children’s best interests (Article 21).

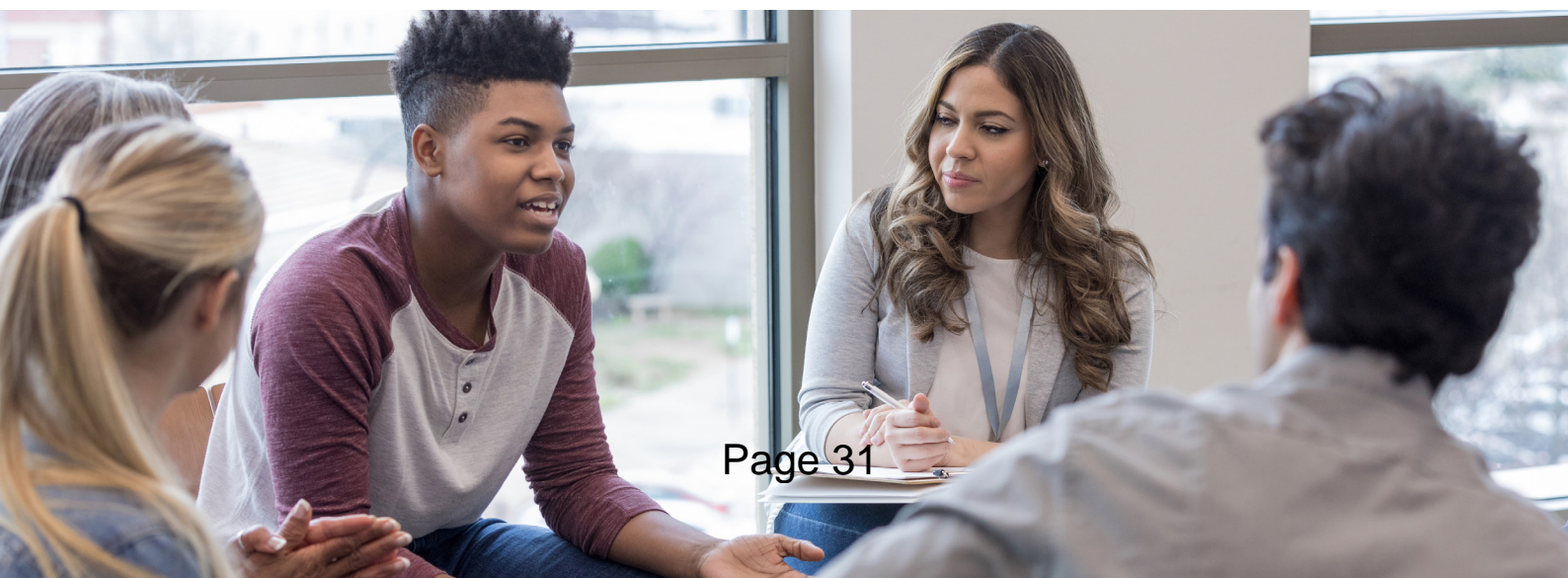


- **A Good Education** – We will provide opportunities and support for all care-experienced children and young people to learn/develop and help them become who they want to be. This is because all children have a right to an education (Article 28 and 29).
- **Thrive** – We will ensure all care-experienced children and young people are prepared for the future and are able to make positive choices for independent living and adulthood. This is because all children have a right to reach their potential (Article 3 and 29).
- **Lifelong** – We will work to provide access to and raise awareness of the support and information available after leaving care. This is because adults have a duty to act in children's best interests (Article 3).

Our Promises as Corporate Parents

Set out below are the promises all Corporate Parents should fulfil when working with care-experienced children and young people:

- We will take time to listen to all care-experienced children and young people and ensure their views, wishes and feelings are heard and actively considered in all decisions made about them.
- We will treat all care-experienced children and young people with respect.
- We will involve all care-experienced children and young people in decisions that are made about them.
- We will keep all care-experienced children and young people informed about our involvement with them and explain our actions to them.
- We will use straightforward language when we communicate with all care-experienced children and young people.
- We will show compassion when considering the needs of all care-experienced children and young people.
- We will work with all care-experienced children and young people to help them achieve their goals.
- We will advise all care-experienced children and young people of the process to make a complaint should they feel we are not adhering to this charter.
- We will advise all care-experienced children and young people that they have a right to access independent advocacy to make sure their views, wishes and feelings are heard during decisions being made or when they are unhappy and want something stopped, started or changed.



References

Reference	Description
UNCRC Article 2	The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.
UNCRC Article 4	Governments should make these rights available to children.
UNCRC Article 12	Respect for children's views. Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.
UNCRC Article 19	Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.
UNCRC Article 20	Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.
UNCRC Article 21	Adoption. Government must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises children's best interests.
UNCRC Article 24	Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
UNCRC Article 25	(Review of treatment in care). If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example with a foster family or in a hospital they have a right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.
UNCRC Article 28	Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.
UNCRC Article 29	Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.
UNCRC Article 31	All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.
UNCRC Article 39	Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self-respect.

UNCRC

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children up to the age of 18. It recognises not only their basic human rights but gives them additional rights to protect them from harm as one of the most vulnerable groups in society. In 2011 the Welsh Government made the UNCRC law in Wales, with the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. The Measure places a duty on Welsh Ministers to have a due regard to the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols when making their decisions. Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 1-42 set out how children should be treated.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC website [Children's rights | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#).

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Corporate Parenting Charter – A Promise from Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Becoming a Corporate Parent – What does that mean for you?

Corporate Parenting is about supporting care experienced children and young people to have the same opportunities in life as all children and young people in Wales.

By signing up to be a corporate parent, you are agreeing to consider the following principles when delivering your existing services and support, planning new services and/or engaging with care-experienced children and young people:

The Principles

Principle 1

Support care-experienced children and young people to have the same life chances as every other young person in Wales.

Example: Support a care experienced child or young person to find a stable home with provides them with the opportunity to access education and fulfil their potential.

Principle 2

Recognise care-experienced children and young people for who they are, not just by their experience of being in care.

Example: Treat all children and young people the same no matter their background.

Principle 3

Work alongside care-experienced children and young people to ensure their views, feelings and ideas are integral to, influence and inform the services they receive and the way they receive those services.

Example: Ensure forums or stakeholder groups are in place or established to develop new services includes care-experienced representatives.



Principle 4

Ensure those working in your organisations working with care-experienced young people understand their care experiences children and young people's needs and/or have access to information and training.

Example: The needs of care-experienced children and young people are referred to in induction training of new staff.

Principle 5

Ensure that every care-experienced child and young person reaches their potential and is able to enjoy a wide experience of leisure, cultural, sport and social activities.

Example: Can concessionary and/or discounted access be made available for sport, leisure and cultural activities to care-experienced children and young people.



Principle 6

By making all care-experienced children and young people feel valued, respected, cared for and loved.

Example: By actively listening to all care-experienced children and young people you engage with.

Principle 7

By providing support to access the right health care and advice needed to support the best physical, mental health and general well-being for all care-experienced children and young people.

Example: Ensuring care-experienced children and young people are supported to attend appointments and are directed to the right service to meet their needs.

Principle 8

By seeking out and providing stable places to live that are right for all care-experienced children and young people.

Example: By ensuring that the needs and wishes of the child and young person is central to any foster or adoption placement being considered.

Principle 9

By providing opportunities and support for all care-experienced children and young people to learn/develop and help them become who they want to be.

Example: Offering care experienced children and young people work experience placements, work shadowing opportunities, internships, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Principle 10

By ensuring all care-experienced children and young people are prepared for the future and are able make positive choices for independent living and adulthood.

Example: Can you provide one-to-one mentoring on how to manage their finances, their career/employment guidance and further education opportunities.

Principle 11

By working to provide access to and raise awareness of the support and information available to care experienced young people after leaving care.

Example: Providing access to support and information through a variety of channels – websites, apps, social media and meetings.



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 14 May 2024
Report Subject	Schedule of Meetings 2024/25
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains the proposed schedule of meetings for 2024/25.

It also explains how the schedule was prepared and details the consultation process which was undertaken with Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the attached draft Schedule of Meetings for 2024/25 be approved.
2	That the Democratic Services Manager be given delegated authority, in conjunction with the relevant Committee Chair, to amend the Schedule of Meetings in exceptional cases.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2024/25
1.01	The Schedule of Meetings is produced on an annual basis and presented for approval to Members at the Annual Meeting.
1.02	Each year the Schedule of Meetings is designed based on regular meeting cycles, regular meeting days where possible and with wide consultation to ensure that reporting commitments and/or meetings do not clash.

1.03	<p>It is the aim to avoid meetings being held in school holidays wherever possible.</p> <p>However, given the cycle of individual Committee meetings when statutory reports are required to be approved by this is not always possible.</p>
1.04	<p>A suggestion was made at a previous County Council meeting for meetings of County Council to commence at 1pm, not 2pm as had been the practice for many years. This was supported and has again been reflected in the draft schedule.</p>
1.05	<p>A further suggestion was made that, where possible, meetings should be avoided on the mornings of County Council meetings. This has been achieved this year.</p> <p>Whilst County Council tends to meet on a Tuesday, to avoid holding two meetings on the same day, it has been necessary to schedule some Council meetings on a different day due to the reporting cycles of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings which limits the availability of dates.</p>
1.06	<p>Several reserved dates for County Council have also been included in the diary in case a meeting is required.</p> <p>If they are not needed for County Council meetings, the dates may be made available for Workshops or Task and Finish Groups, as they will already be reserved in Members' diaries.</p>
1.07	<p>Shown in Italics are the known dates of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority meetings and North Wales Economic Ambition Board meetings.</p> <p>We have avoided scheduling meetings which would clash with those external commitments.</p>
1.08	<p>Once the Schedule of Meetings has been approved, there is currently no provision to amend the date or time of a committee meeting without the agreement of Full Council.</p> <p>During the year 2023/24, this did cause difficulties on a small number of occasions.</p> <p>To seek agreement of Full Council to amend the schedule is not always convenient or possible due to timings.</p>
1.09	<p>It should be noted that changing the time and/or date of a meeting that has been scheduled and diarised for several months does present administrative difficulties, notably with Members' and Officers' diaries, but also with any external speakers attending the meeting.</p>
1.10	<p>It is therefore proposed to grant the Democratic Services Manager the authority to amend the date and/or time of a meeting in exceptional circumstances, subject to appropriate consultation with the Chair of the Committee.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Chief Officer Team. Group Leaders, Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	App 1 - Draft Schedule of Meetings 2024/25.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None. Contact Officer: Nicola Gittins – Team Leader – Committee Services Telephone: 01352 702345 E-mail: nicola.gittins@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None.

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2024/25

<u>DAY / DATE</u>	<u>10.00AM</u>	<u>2.00PM</u>
Monday 26 August 2024	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 27 August 2024	Planning Site Visits	
Wednesday 28 August 2024		Planning
Thursday 29 August 2024		
Friday 30 August 2023		
Monday 2 September 2024		Standards (6pm)
Tuesday 3 September 2024	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 4 September 2024	Climate Change Committee	
Thursday 5 September 2024		Social & Health Care OSC
Friday 6 September 2024		
Monday 9 September 2024		
Tuesday 10 September 2024	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 11 September 2024	Community & Housing OSC	Clwyd Pension Fund Committee
Thursday 12 September 2024	Corporate Resources OSC	Education, Youth & Culture OSC
Friday 13 September 2024	Planning Strategy Group	
Monday 16 September 2024		Constitution & Democratic Services
Tuesday 17 September 2024	Cabinet	
Wednesday 18 September 2024		
Thursday 19 September 2024	School Budget Forum (9.30am)	Children's Services Forum (4.30pm)
Friday 20 September 2024	<i>North Wales Economic Ambition Board</i>	
Monday 23 September 2024	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 24 September 2024		FCC (Annual Performance Report & Treasury Management)

		Annual Report) (1pm)
Wednesday 25 September 2024	Governance & Audit Committee	Planning
Thursday 26 September 2024		
Friday 27 September 2024		
Monday 30 September 2024		Standards (Provisional 6pm)
Tuesday 1 October 2024	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 2 October 2024	Licensing Committee	
Thursday 3 October 2024		
Friday 4 October 2024		
Monday 7 October 2024		
Tuesday 8 October 2024	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 9 October 2024	Community & Housing OSC	
Thursday 10 October 2024	Corporate Resources OSC	
Friday 11 October 2024	<i>North Wales Economic Ambition Board</i>	
Monday 14 October 2024		
Tuesday 15 October 2024	Cabinet	
Wednesday 16 October 2024		
Thursday 17 October 2024		Education, Youth & Culture OSC
Friday 18 October 2024		
Monday 21 October 2024	Planning Site Visits <i>North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting</i>	
Tuesday 22 October 2024		
Wednesday 23 October 2024		Planning
Thursday 24 October 2024		Social & Health Care OSC
Friday 25 October 2024		

Monday 28 October 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Tuesday 29 October 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Wednesday 30 October 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Thursday 31 October 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Friday 1 November 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Monday 4 November 2024		Standards (6pm)
Tuesday 5 November 2024	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 6 November 2024		Constitution & Democratic Services
Thursday 7 November 2024		Education Consultative Committee
Friday 8 November 2024	<i>North Wales Economic Ambition Board</i>	
Monday 11 November 2024		
Tuesday 12 November 2024	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 13 November 2024	Community & Housing OSC	
Thursday 14 November 2024	Corporate Resources OSC	Children's Services Forum (4.30pm)
Friday 15 November 2024	Planning Strategy Group	
Monday 18 November 2024	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 19 November 2024	Cabinet	
Wednesday 20 November 2024	Governance & Audit Committee	Planning
Thursday 21 November 2024	<i>(FCC Reserved)</i>	SACRE (4pm)
Friday 22 November 2024		
Monday 25 November 2024		
Tuesday 26 November 2024	Climate Change Committee	
Wednesday 27 November 2024	Clwyd Pension Fund Committee (9.30am)	
Thursday 28 November 2024		Education, Youth & Culture OSC

Friday 29 November 2024		
Monday 2 December 2024		Standards (Provisional 6pm)
Tuesday 3 December 2024	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 4 December 2024		FCC (1pm)
Thursday 5 December 2024		Social & Health Care OSC
Friday 6 December 2024	<i>North Wales Economic Ambition Board</i>	
Monday 9 December 2024		
Tuesday 10 December 2024	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 11 December 2024	Community & Housing OSC	
Thursday 12 December 2024	Corporate Resources OSC	
Friday 13 December 2024		
Monday 16 December 2024	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 17 December 2024	Cabinet	
Wednesday 18 December 2024		Planning
Thursday 19 December 2024		
Friday 20 December 2024		
Monday 23 December 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Tuesday 24 December 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Wednesday 25 December 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Bank Holiday	
Thursday 26 December 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Bank Holiday	
Friday 27 December 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Monday 30 December 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Tuesday 31 December 2024	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Wednesday 1 January 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Bank Holiday	

Thursday 2 January 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Friday 3 January 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Monday 6 January 2025		
Tuesday 7 January 2025	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 8 January 2025	Climate Change Committee	
Thursday 9 January 2025		Education & Youth OSC
Friday 10 January 2025		
Monday 13 January 2025	Planning Site Visits	Standards (6pm)
Tuesday 14 January 2025	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 15 January 2025	Community & Housing OSC	Planning
Thursday 16 January 2025	Corporate Resources OSC	Social & Health Care OSC
Friday 17 January 2025		
Monday 20 January 2025	<i>North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting</i>	
Tuesday 21 January 2025	Cabinet	Constitution & Democratic Services
Wednesday 22 January 2025	Governance & Audit Committee	Children's Services Forum (4.30pm)
Thursday 23 January 2025	School Budget Forum (9.30am)	Planning Strategy Group
Friday 24 January 2025		
Monday 27 January 2025		
Tuesday 28 January 2025		FCC (1pm)
Wednesday 29 January 2025		Education Consultative Committee
Thursday 30 January 2025		
Friday 31 January 2025		
Monday 3 February 2025		Standards (Provisional 6pm)

Tuesday 4 February 2025	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 5 February 2025		SACRE (4pm)
Thursday 6 February 2025		
Friday 7 February 2025		
Monday 10 February 2025	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 11 February 2025	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 12 February 2025	Community & Housing OSC	Planning
Thursday 13 February 2025	Corporate Resources OSC	Education, Youth & Culture OSC
Friday 14 February 2025		
Monday 17 February 2025		
Tuesday 18 February 2025	Cabinet	FCC (Budget & Council Tax Setting) (1pm)
Wednesday 19 February 2025	Clwyd Pension Fund Committee (9.30am)	
Thursday 20 February 2025		Social & Health Care OSC
Friday 21 February 2025		
Monday 24 February 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Tuesday 25 February 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Wednesday 26 February 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Thursday 27 February 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	<i>(FCC Reserved) (1pm)</i>
Friday 28 February 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Monday 3 March 2025		Standards (6pm)
Tuesday 4 March 2025	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 5 March 2025	Licensing Committee	Children's Services Forum (4.30pm)
Thursday 6 March 2025		

Friday 7 March 2025		
Monday 10 March 2025	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 11 March 2025	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 12 March 2025	Community & Housing OSC	Planning
Thursday 13 March 2025	Corporate Resources OSC	
Friday 14 March 2025		
Monday 17 March 2025	<i>North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting</i>	<i>North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting</i>
Tuesday 18 March 2025	Cabinet	
Wednesday 19 March 2025	Clwyd Pension Fund Committee (9.30am – 4.30pm)	Constitution & Democratic Services
Thursday 20 March 2025	School Budget Forum (9.30am)	Planning Strategy Group
Friday 21 March 2025		
Monday 24 March 2025		
Tuesday 25 March 2025		
Wednesday 26 March 2025	Climate Change Committee	
Thursday 27 March 2025	Social & Health Care OSC	Education, Youth & Culture OSC
Friday 28 March 2025		
Monday 31 March 2025		Standards (Provisional 6pm)
Tuesday 1 April 2025	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 2 April 2025	Governance & Audit Committee	
Thursday 3 April 2025		<i>(FCC Reserved) (1pm)</i>
Friday 4 April 2025		
Monday 7 April 2025	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 8 April 2025	Environment & Economy OSC	

Wednesday 9 April 2025	Community & Housing OSC	Planning
Thursday 10 April 2025	Corporate Resources OSC	
Friday 11 April 2025		
Monday 14 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS <i>North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting</i>	
Tuesday 15 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Cabinet	
Wednesday 16 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Thursday 17 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Friday 18 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Bank Holiday	
Monday 21 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 22 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Wednesday 23 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Thursday 24 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Friday 25 April 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Monday 28 April 2025		Standards (6pm)
Tuesday 29 April 2025	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 30 April 2025		
Thursday 1 May 2025		
Friday 2 May 2025		
Monday 5 May 2025	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 6 May 2025	Environment & Economy OSC	
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Community & Housing OSC	
Thursday 8 May 2025	Corporate Resources OSC	Social & Health Care OSC
Friday 9 May 2025		
Monday 12 May 2025	Planning Site Visits	

Tuesday 13 May 2025	Cabinet	
Wednesday 14 May 2025		Planning
Thursday 15 May 2025		Education, Youth & Culture OSC
Friday 16 May 2025		
Monday 19 May 2025		
Tuesday 20 May 2025	FCC AGM – 11am	
Wednesday 21 May 2025		
Thursday 22 May 2025		
Friday 23 May 2025		
Monday 26 May 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 27 May 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Wednesday 28 May 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Thursday 29 May 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Friday 30 May 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Monday 2 June 2025		Standards (Provisional 6pm)
Tuesday 3 June 2025	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 4 June 2025	Governance & Audit Committee	SACRE (4pm)
Thursday 5 June 2025		
Friday 6 June 2025		
Monday 9 June 2025	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 10 June 2025	Environment & Economy OSC	Constitution & Democratic Services
Wednesday 11 June 2025	Community & Housing OSC	Planning (1pm)
Thursday 12 June 2025	Corporate Resources OSC	Social & Health Care OSC

Friday 13 June 2025		
Monday 16 June 2025		
Tuesday 17 June 2025	Cabinet	
Wednesday 18 June 2025	Clwyd Pension Fund Committee (9.30am)	Children's Services Forum (4.30pm)
Thursday 19 June 2025	School Budget Forum (9.30am)	Education, Youth & Culture OSC
Friday 20 June 2025	Planning Strategy Group	
Monday 23 June 2025		
Tuesday 24 June 2025	Climate Change Committee	
Wednesday 25 June 2025		
Thursday 26 June 2025		Joint Education, Youth & Culture OSC & Social & Health Care OSC
Friday 27 June 2025		
Monday 30 June 2025		Standards (6pm)
Tuesday 1 July 2025	Informal Cabinet	
Wednesday 2 July 2025		FCC (Council Plan) (1pm)
Thursday 3 July 2025	Licensing Committee	
Friday 4 July 2025		
Monday 7 July 2025		
Tuesday 8 July 2025	Environment & Economy OSC	Education Consultative Committee
Wednesday 9 July 2025	Community & Housing OSC	Children's Services Forum (4.30pm)
Thursday 10 July 2025	Corporate Resources OSC	
Friday 11 July 2025		

Monday 14 July 2025	Planning Site Visits	
Tuesday 15 July 2025	Cabinet	
Wednesday 16 July 2025		Planning
Thursday 17 July 2025	Social & Health Care OSC	Education, Youth & Culture OSC
Friday 18 July 2025		
Monday 21 July 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS <i>North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting</i>	
Tuesday 22 July 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Wednesday 23 July 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Governance & Audit Committee (Statement of Accounts)	
Thursday 24 July 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
Monday 21 July 2025 – 1 September 2025	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	

AUGUST RECESS

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