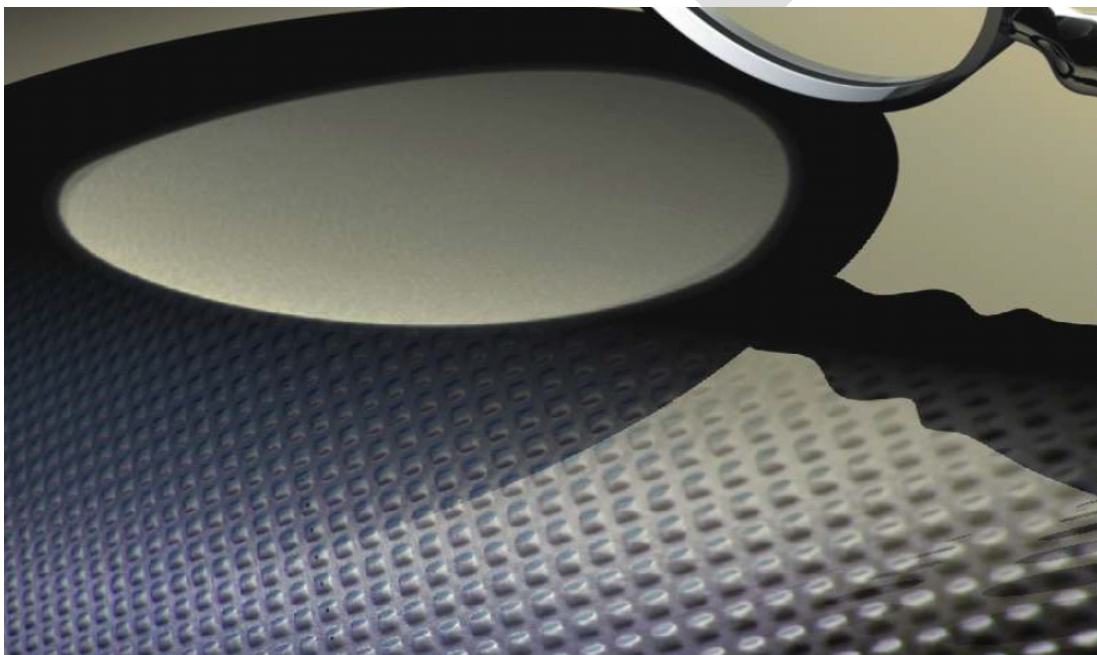




Report of the
Overview & Scrutiny
Committees

Annual Report

MAY 2013 TO APRIL 2014



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Foreword



This is the second opportunity which I have had to introduce the Overview & Scrutiny Annual report. 2013/14 has seen a great deal of scrutiny activity and has shown how we contribute to the effective corporate governance of the Authority.

Flintshire has always been at the forefront in Overview & Scrutiny; putting the necessary resources into developing a function which has been recognised for its best practice approaches to working. Whilst the financial constraints within which local authorities are now operating have meant that the level of resources has had to be reduced, we are still able to act as critical friends and to make a difference.

However, as Members we must recognise that our Overview & Scrutiny can only be as good as the effort the Overview & Scrutiny Members make it. We need to ensure that we own our forward work programmes by suggesting topics for our committees to consider. Our officers do sterling work in scouting ahead of the column, but we need to remember that we are the cavalry.

The range of life experience, knowledge and passion for public service which each of us as Members have means that each of our six committees is both a repository of information and a power house for initiating, monitoring and generally contributing to Flintshire's well-being in difficult times.

Last year, I concluded the foreword to the annual report by thanking everyone who has had an input into the scrutiny process. It would be remiss of me not to reiterate such thanks. Overview & Scrutiny is very much a people process: the members of the committees; the contributors, whether they be external or internal; the support team of Overview & Scrutiny officers and the committee officers who service our meetings. We are all integral to Overview & Scrutiny working effectively.

Cllr Robin Guest,
Chair of the Constitution Committee

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY – A CABINET PERSPECTIVE



Last year was the first time that the Leader of the Council had been asked to make a contribution to the Annual Report of the Overview & Scrutiny function. I was pleased to be asked and equally pleased to have been invited back again this year.

I have seen Overview & Scrutiny committee from two perspectives, both as a Leader of the Council but also as a Member of a scrutiny committee. Thus I know the benefits of effective overview & scrutiny and how it contributes to effective corporate governance, and so I am more than happy to comment on it.

During the last year, the outlook for local government has worsened, and this has meant that the role of Overview & Scrutiny as a critical friend has become even more important than it was previously. I am pleased to be able to say that in Flintshire, the relationship is strong.

One of the principal roles of Overview & Scrutiny is to hold the Cabinet to account, which could easily become an adversarial relationship, hence the benefits of the critical friendship. We now have sufficient political maturity to recognise that each elected member has a different part to play in ensuring that Flintshire strives to be as good as it can be. No mean feat in the challenging times we have faced and which we shall continue to face for the foreseeable future.

At the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee, where as the cabinet member for finance I am able to discuss the budget position with my fellow councillors, or at one of the other committees, where we might be contributing to discussions on a new policy, I know that we are all going to benefit from the process: there is a wealth of knowledge amongst our members. We will come to rely more and more on that wealth of knowledge and experience in the future as we seek to tackle the significant problems ahead of us.

Cllr Aaron Shotton,
Leader of the Council

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – COLIN EVERETT



Overview and Scrutiny in Flintshire continues to mature and develop and in the past year has performed an effective 'check and balance' in accountability for the transparency of decision-making, the use of public money and in the performance of local services and partnerships.

Welsh Government and Wales Audit office are pressing the case for Scrutiny in local councils to make more impact. We strive for continuous improvement and are certainly not complacent. Our Overview and Scrutiny Committees have built on the internal expertise which they have developed and often concentrate their energy on specific reviews of key services and topical issues. Having the expertise gives confidence and purpose for members to explore and challenge; concentrating energy gives Members some real reward as they can see tangible results for their work. Councils are built on representative democracy and scrutiny is central to the success of the local governance model.

In 2013/14, the dramatically changing national financial position prompted us to change how we ran budget consultation with Members. We used more of a 'whole council' approach so that the strategy to bridge an ever increasing gap was built up in all Member workshops prior to our Overview & Scrutiny committees concentrating on service specific detail in a public setting. This was an effective, although a difficult process.

The Wales Audit Office Scrutiny study provided the opportunity for sharing ideas and expertise with neighbouring councils. In North Wales, we have shared good practice for some time, especially through the regional Scrutiny Officers Network.

The Council continues to modernise and improve its systems for performance reporting, scrutiny and management. The more 'outcome-based' Improvement Plan for 2013-14 was evidence of this. The system for quarterly reviews of performance, assessing and protecting against risk, and business continuity, are resilient. Overview and Scrutiny has contributed to the development of these systems as well as their effective operation, elected members have developed their expertise and skills in knowing how to understand and challenge services and their performance.

Our Overview and Scrutiny function is well-placed to support the Council through the difficult times ahead, with the growing demand for key services and national reductions in funding for local government and local services. The role of the 'critical friend' will be invaluable to us; we are stronger together.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BACKGROUND AND OFFICER SUPPORT

Local authorities in England and Wales have, since the Local Government Act 2000, operated executive arrangements that place the decision-making powers in the hands of a Cabinet or Executive. In the case of Flintshire, following the County Council elections in May 2012, it has been styled 'the Cabinet' and in 2013/4 was made up of 8 Councillors including the Leader, Deputy Leader and 6 Cabinet Members. The overview & scrutiny function was established to hold the Cabinet/Executive to account for its decisions, contribute to evidence-based policy making in the council, as well as monitoring performance and reviewing issues affecting the Flintshire area. Overview & Scrutiny make recommendations to the Cabinet or full Council. Flintshire has also always placed a positive emphasis on overview & scrutiny engaging with external organisations, using the general powers available under section 21 (2) (e) of the Local Government Act 2000.

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) continues to provide a range of support services to assist with the development of overview & scrutiny in Wales including bespoke support for individual authorities, production of publications and the facilitation and coordination of Regional and National Scrutiny Champions Networks.

The roles of overview & scrutiny outlined in the National Assembly for Wales Guidance on Executive & Alternative Arrangement 2006 are:

“The role of councillors exercising overview and scrutiny is:

- To hold the executive to account for the efficient exercise of executive functions – especially the performance of the executive as measured against the standards, objectives and targets set out in the policies and plans which it is implemented;
- To assist in the improvement and development of the council's policies by evaluating whether they are achieving their stated objectives, whether those policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local communities and by reporting and making recommendations to the executive or the full council;
- To review and make reports on issues which affect the authority's area or its residents; and
- To examine whether the systems the executive has in place to deliver its functions are robust and are being properly observed.”

In 2013/14 we had 6 Overview & Scrutiny Committees as illustrated below:-



The support which Overview & Scrutiny enjoys from officers across the Council is essential to ensure its smooth and effective running.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUPPORT

The Scrutiny Team are:-

- ❖ Robert Robins – Member Engagement Manager
(principally supporting the Community Profile & Partnerships and the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny committees)
- ❖ Margaret Parry-Jones – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
(principally supporting the Environment and Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny committees)
- ❖ Ceri Owen – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
(Principally supporting the Housing and the Lifelong learning Overview & Scrutiny Committees)
- ❖ Janet Kelly – Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer
(principally supporting task & finish groups)

The team are an independent resource supporting the scrutiny function and its Members:

Advising on the strategic direction and development of the scrutiny function;

- Co-ordinating the work programmes for the six Overview & Scrutiny Committees;
- Advising, supporting and assisting in the development of scrutiny members;
- Undertaking research and information analysis to help inform reviews;
- Producing reports and presentations on behalf of members;
- Offering independent advice and guidance in relation to policy development and performance management;
- Acting as a key contact point to members, officers, external organisations and the public in relation to scrutiny matters; and
- Facilitating task & finish groups.

COMMUNITY PROFILE & PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Chairman –
Cllr Brian Dunn**



**Vice-Chair –
Cllr Robin Guest**

This committee was set up following the 2010 review of the overview & scrutiny committee structure, and the terms of reference were designed to give this committee a more 'outward facing' approach than the other five committees. This was in anticipation of the specific powers of external scrutiny which had been the subject of much discussion.

In Flintshire, we have always placed a positive emphasis on overview & scrutiny engaging with external organisations, using the general powers available under section 21 (2) (e) of the Local Government Act 2000. Over the past 14 years, the Council has achieved a number of 'scrutiny firsts', being the first to invite the former ELWa (education and learning Wales), carrying out extensive health service scrutiny (including inviting the then chief executive of the Countess of Chester NHS Trust and being the first to invite the newly elected Police & Crime Commissioner to a meeting).

The 'scrutiny of designated persons' is to be found in section 59 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. However, the guidance on who would become 'designated persons' under the Measure is still awaited – consultation on a very limited number of bodies to be included in *Designated Persons Order Number 1* was carried out in the autumn of 2013.

The bodies which were considered for the first designation were:

- Local Health Boards;
- NHS Trusts;
- Fire & Rescue Authorities;
- National Park Authorities;
- Registered social landlords;
- Third Sector organisation delivering services to the public.

Our response, which it transpired was echoed by a number of other local authorities, was that all statutory public bodies, apart from town and community councils should become designated. Since then, there has been no further movement on the implementation of section 59.

We have been keen to be able to show to potential 'designated persons' that appearing at an Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be a beneficial process. To this end, we have continued with our programme of external engagement.

Given the external emphasis of this committee, it became the Council's statutory crime & disorder committee as required under the Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. In that role, we have received regular reports on the creation of the Police & Crime Commissioners and Police & Crime panels. The main element of our crime & disorder role is receiving an annual update on the Community Safety Partnership.

In terms of the committee's role in monitoring the Authority's 'community profile', during the course of the year the Committee have invited and considered presentations from the following organisations:-

In June Professor Peter Heard, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) from Glyndwr University was invited to give a presentation to the Committee on the links between the University and the Council and how to continue to further develop the links in the future.

In October representatives from the RNLI were invited to attend Committee to give a presentation to Members and answer questions. Following on from the presentation Members visited the RNLI Lifeboat Station at Flint for a tour of the station with the opportunity to meet the volunteers.

In January the Red Cross were invited to give a presentation to Committee outlining the work undertaken by them in Flintshire.

In February Members of the Committee attended Danger Point in Talacre for a tour of this excellent educational facility for children which Flintshire supports together with other organisations.

Representatives of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service attended twice : first to present the North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority and Service consultation document on *Proposed Improvement Objectives for 2014-15 And Beyond* and secondly for a presentation on the Phoenix Project. This is a Fire and Rescue initiative aimed at young people between the ages of 13 to 17. This very worthwhile project runs courses across North Wales.

In April the Committee received a presentation from Mrs Ann Steele-Mortimer on behalf of the Clwyd Special Riding Centre at Llanfynydd. The second presentation was given by representatives from the Post Office outlining the Post Office Modernisation Programme.

Councillor Brian Dunn

Chairman – Community Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee



**Members of the Community Profile & Partnerships Committees
Site Visit to the RNLI Station at Flint on the
28th of November 2013.**

Following a presentation by representatives from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution at the October meeting of the Community Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee at County Hall, Members of that Committee requested a site visit be arranged.

The Members who attended were given a tour of the Lifeboat Station and received a presentation given by one of the long standing volunteers. A lifeboat crewman, Nathan, presented and explained to Members the protective equipment used by the crew. He answered many questions on the costs and timescales for replacing the equipment, the numbers and age of the crew members. Information on the local fundraising events and other support the Station receives was also provided.

Following the presentation the group then viewed the lifeboat. The equipment on board the lifeboat was explained to Members and their questions were answered. The Volunteers explained the protocols the Team followed and gave examples of the weather conditions faced by the Crew explaining how the lifeboat performed.

The Members who attended were very impressed by the station and the dedication of the Lifeboat Crew and Volunteers involved.

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Chairman
Cllr Tim Newhouse**



**Vice-Chair
Cllr Peter Curtis**

The nature of our remit, which covers the corporate core of the Council and the overview of its activities, means the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee often has a greater number of items than other Committees.

At each of our scheduled monthly meetings, there is a budget monitoring item which mirrors the report to be submitted to Cabinet. This means the comments and observations made by Members of the Committee can be reported to Cabinet at its meeting the following week. The budget monitoring reports provide monthly information on the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and both Revenue and Capital. Suggestions on how these reports could be improved, including how budget variances within each department are reported, have been implemented.

Among the regular items considered are the Quarterly Performance reports from the corporate heads of service. They or their representatives provide an insight into the progress being made within Finance, Human Resources & Organisational Development, ICT & Customer Services and Legal & Democratic Services.

As Corporate Resources is the 'finance' scrutiny committee, we also take a lead on the scrutiny response to budget proposals. For the 2014/15 budget, where the financial constraints were incredibly stringent, we hosted two all-member briefings in December. We held a further briefing to consider the corporate function budgets in January and then another all-member meeting as a 'mop up' for the budget process and to consider the capital programme proposals. A great emphasis is placed on the need for a transparent process with all Members being given the opportunity to challenge and suggest changes to budget proposals.

The Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and Head of Finance provided an overview of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan in July 2013. They set out how the Council's priorities were being developed prior to the announcement of the provisional settlement from the Welsh Government and how the Committee could play its part in ensuring robust financial strategies were in place. The significant changes resulting from the introduction of welfare reform and discretionary payments were also discussed at this meeting

The Head of ICT and Customer Services provided the Committee with an overview of the Flintshire Futures programme and mid-year progress report. The Council developed the Flintshire Futures Programme as its corporate programme for modernising and transforming the organisation to make best use of its resources and find efficiencies. The report was the subject of detailed consideration and constructive challenge with the Committee recommending all Flintshire Futures workstreams (Assets, Customers, Finance, Procurement and Workforce) became the subject of separate reports to the Committee.

Representatives of the Wales Audit Office presented the Council's Improvement Assessment Letter from the Auditor General for Wales. The assessment had been undertaken to establish whether the Council was working effectively and efficiently. The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive welcomed the report which presented a clean bill of health. The report was the subject of detailed consideration and constructive challenge, with both Members and officers offering their insight into particular aspects of the report. This report was also considered by the Audit Committee, Cabinet and Full Council.

Cllr Tim Newhouse

Chairman – Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Matt Wright



Vice-Chair
Cllr Nancy Matthews

Performance

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny committee sees performance monitoring as an integral part of their work. We scrutinise the Improvement plan on a quarterly basis and the performance highlight reports twice a year which are presented by the Heads of Service. The reports include updates on major projects such as the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project, the Food Waste Partnership and Service Performance including planning applications, streetscene services, highways, public protection and regeneration. The reports also summarise the regulatory work reported and outcomes and intended actions arising from any recommendations, sickness absence, compliments and complaints.

Environmental Enforcement Policy

In September we scrutinised the Environment Enforcement Policy prior to consideration by Cabinet. The policy sets out ways to address common environmental enforcement issues in Flintshire such as abandoned supermarket trolleys, fly tipping and illegal dumping of waste, irresponsible dog ownership, litter in high street areas and obstructions on the public highway. The committee welcomed the draft policy and were happy to recommend to Cabinet that the policy should be adopted and implemented in Flintshire.

Tourism

At our May meeting we received an update on the approach taken to promote Flintshire to visitors. Mr Dewi Davies, Regional Strategy Director of Tourism Partnership North Wales gave an interesting and informative presentation on the work of the partnership and introduced the Tourism Strategy for North Wales (2010-15). Some of the key areas covered included key priorities, challenges for the future, 'Destination Flintshire' and the new Tourism Forum for Flintshire.

Members emphasised the need to ensure adequate car parking, toilet provision, signage, linking paths, and a robust approach to customer care within the tourism sector in Flintshire.

Members agreed that it was important to raise the profile of Flintshire as a tourist destination and to strengthen the range of publicity material available to promote Flintshire in the future.

Review of Subsidised bus services

In July 2013 we received a report on proposals to undertake a review of subsidised bus services within Flintshire.

At the end of the review a further report was considered at the committee in October when we received an update on the review following the consultation exercise. The report detailed the proposed actions to be taken in relation to specific bus services. The report demonstrated that there had been a high level of interest in the consultation exercise, particularly from concessionary pass holders. Members were given information on service routes, cost per passenger, summary of consultation responses and the proposals for each service having considered feedback from the public consultation.

Having considered the report, Members agreed to support the proposed changes and requested that service performance tables be reviewed annually by the Committee including the actions taken by officers to improve the performance of bus services.

Cllr Matt Wright,
Chairman - Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Chairman –
Cllr Ron Hampson**



**Vice-Chair –
Cllr George Hardcastle**

The challenges facing council tenants and residents of Flintshire continue to increase following the introduction of the welfare reforms, the need for affordable housing and the difficulties in accessing mortgage finance. How best the Council can meet those challenges is a really important part of the work of the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Below are some of the topics the Committee have considered over the last 12 months to assist in mitigating the challenges for council tenants and Flintshire residents.

Developing the Flintshire housing offer through the establishment of a Housing Company

In September 2013, the Committee considered a report to explain the potential long term strategic aspirations for housing provision in Flintshire, prior to its consideration by Cabinet. The report sought the Committee's support in principle to the establishment of a housing company. Members were supportive of the initial proposals but raised concerns around additional costs to the Council, risks to elderly homeowners and existing rental agencies. The Committee recommended that the proposals be supported but that additional information be provided in a workshop to which all Members would be invited.

At the December meeting, the Committee received a presentation delivered jointly by the Head of Housing and Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the legal and governance issues around establishing a proposed Housing Company. During discussion Members were reassured that the principle of the model was to ensure local services for local people and the Committee supported the need to establish the Housing Company and its intended purpose. The comments made by Members of the Committee were passed to Cabinet during its consideration of the report.

The Committee will receive six monthly update reports following the establishment of the Housing Company, with additional reports if required.

Housing Asset Management Strategy

In January 2014, the Committee were requested to consider proposals to deliver the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) through the development of a new Asset Management Strategy. The Strategy had three key goals – to achieve the WHQS by 2020, to make the most efficient and effective use of funds available and to maximise job creation and training opportunities for local people. Members welcomed the report and the opportunity to influence the workstream approach of the Asset Management Strategy. Their views on the favoured approach were expressed to Cabinet during its consideration of the final Strategy.

Choices Document

At the time of the tenant ballot in 2012, the Council made a number of commitments to improve service delivery to tenants. The Committee continued to receive regular updates on the progress in delivering these promises.

In February 2014, the Committee received an update report which provided a summary of progress against the promises made. Members were pleased to note that service improvements promised were being progressed and that the level of investment and improvements promised per annum was being exceeded.

The Committee also invited Mrs. Mavis Croft, Chair of the Flintshire Tenants' Federation to speak on behalf of the tenants and were pleased that her comments were complimentary on the service improvements. Mrs. Croft continues to attend Committee meetings and contribute on proposals around service improvements.

Llys Eleanor and Llys Jasmine Extra Care Facilities

In July 2013, the Committee held its meeting at the Llys Eleanor Extra Care Facility in Shotton. Prior to the meeting, Members were invited to take part in a tour of the facility and meet the residents. Members praised the wonderful facility and thanked the staff and residents for their hospitality.

The Committee also held a joint meeting with the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the Llys Jasmine Extra Care Facility in Mold. Members were invited to take part in a tour of the facility, which opened in October 2013, and met a small number of residents who had settled into their new homes. All Members praised the state of the art facility.

Further topics considered by the Committee are detailed within Appendix 2 to the report.

Cllr Ron Hampson

Chairman – Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**Chairman –
Councillor Ian Roberts**



**Vice-Chair –
Mr. David Hytch**

The Committee has had another busy year. We have held a number of our Committee meetings outside of County Hall at various venues across Flintshire, including, Deeside Leisure Centre, Hawarden Records Office, Flint High School and Ysgol Maes Garmon. During each of the visits the Committee was given a short tour of the facilities prior to the start of the meetings. The Committee hopes to continue to hold a number of their future meetings at various venues across Flintshire as appropriate.

Below is a summary of some of the topics considered by the Committee over the last 12 months with further topics listed within Appendix 2 of the report.

Home to School Transport Policy Changes – Denominational Transport

In June 2013, the Committee considered a report on home to school policy transport changes – denominational transport, which had been called-in by six Members of the Council. The Committee had previously considered this item in March 2013 and Members had called-in the report as they were concerned that the views and concerns of the Committee had not been taken into consideration by Cabinet when they considered this matter in May 2013.

We discussed this matter in detail and recommended that having considered the decision; the Committee was still concerned and referred the decision back to Cabinet.

Leisure Finance Task & Finish Group

During the Forward Work Planning Workshop held in July 2013, the Committee agreed to setting up a Task & Finish Group to review Leisure Services. The Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee had also considered setting up a Task & Finish Group to review levels of overspend within the Leisure Service Budget. The Committee agreed that the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee be invited to sit on the Group.

The first meeting of the Task Group was held on the 21 November, where Members were given a presentation from Officers which gave an overview of the challenges facing Leisure Services.

The Membership of the Task & Finish Group is as follows:-

- Cllr David Mackie (Chairman), Cllr Marion Bateman, Cllr Stella Jones, Cllr Nancy Matthews and Cllr Tim Newhouse

In line with the Task & Finish Group's terms of reference, agreed by the Committee in December, 2013, recommendations from the Task & Finish Group will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting when appropriate.

Annual School Modernisation Report

In March 2014, the Committee considered the Annual School Modernisation Report which provided an update to Members on the progress made with School Modernisation.

A number of concerns were raised by Members during discussion of this item, including the lack of information provided within the report. It was resolved that the Committee receives a further update report to respond to the concerns and issues raised by Members during the meeting. I also suggested that the School Modernisation Partnership Board be invited to attend a future meeting to respond to Members' questions. The Committee will continue to closely scrutinise the School Modernisation Strategy.

Cllr Ian Roberts

Chairman – Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Carol Ellis



Vice-Chair
Cllr Cindy Hinds

The Committee has had another busy year and has scrutinised a wide range of topics. We continue to undertake pre-decision scrutiny and this year items considered have included two key plans - the Mental Health Commissioning Plan and the Dementia Commissioning Plan. We also scrutinised the Adults Safeguarding Regional Proposal and the development of a National Adoption Service for Wales prior to consideration by Cabinet. Performance Monitoring continues to be an integral part of our work. Here is a flavour of some of the topics considered over the last 12 months. A full list of topics is contained within Appendix 2 of the report.

Social Enterprise – Double Click

In May 2013 the Committee considered a report which proposed that Double Click Design and Print be transformed from a Social Services run work-scheme to a social enterprise. Members wanted to make a fully informed recommendation to the Cabinet and asked to see the Business Plan before taking a view.

Having considered the Business Plan at the June meeting some members remained apprehensive about the proposed model so we decided to arrange a members workshop at Double Click to discuss the proposals with staff and service users. At the workshop Members discussed the business plan in detail and particularly the impact on service users of the proposed change to a Social Enterprise.

At the October meeting the committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet that they agree to transfer Double Click from a Social Services run work scheme to a Social Enterprise company in the form of a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Public Health Update

In February the Executive Director of Public Health of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and a team of officers gave an update on key areas of public health practice in Flintshire focusing on key issues raised by members of the Committee.

We were told about a range of screening initiatives undertaken by the screening division of Public Health Wales. Members of the Committee were concerned around the uptake of cervical and bowel screening. Public Health Wales explained that a number of factors including personal choice which may deter individuals from

participating in screening but emphasised that the aim was to enable all eligible people to make an informed decision as to whether or not to engage in screening.

Members were pleased to hear that all schools in Flintshire are participating in the Designed to Smile programme during the update on oral hygiene in Flintshire.

We also received an update on progress with infection prevention including developments in reducing Clostridium difficile infection, the prevention of MRSA, and the actions in place to strengthen Norovirus control measures.

Members of the Committee welcomed the initiatives and progress achieved to improve the health and well being of residents in Flintshire.

Llys Jasmine Extra Care Facility

One of the highlights of the year was the joint meeting of the Social & Health Care and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committees held at the Llys Jasmine Extra Care Facility in Mold. The scheme which opened in October 2013 provides 63 apartments and bungalows including 15 apartments specially designed for people with dementia. Members were able to see the wonderful facilities at Llys Jasmine and how well people have settled into their new homes at this state of the art facility.

Cllr Carol Ellis

Chair – Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wales Audit Office National Scrutiny Improvement Study

In the summer of 2012, the Wales Audit Office launched its National Scrutiny Improvement Study. The work on this commenced in September 2012, with the completion of an extensive self-evaluation exercise. Subsequently, each Authority was required to establish a 'Peer Learning Exchange Team' (PLET) which was to incorporate both executive and Overview & scrutiny elected members as well as officers. The work on this project has been ongoing throughout 2013/14.

Following this guidance, the PLET which Flintshire established consisted of :

Cllr Billy Mullin, Cabinet Member for Corporate Management;
Cllr Richard Jones, then Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
Cllr Clive Carver; then Vice-chair of the Committee;
Cllr Dave Mackie, who had replaced the original nominee, Cllr Carolyn Thomas;
Robert Robins, Member Engagement Manager;
Margaret Parry-Jones, Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator (PLET lead and co-ordinator)
Ceri Owen, the 'reserve' became an active member of the team in the later stages.

The PLET members took part in a number of activities:

- Completion of the self-evaluation exercise;
- Meetings with WAO officials and other PLET co-ordinators;
- An initial workshop in Llandudno;
- A feedback workshop in Colwyn Bay;
- Attended , observed and provided feedback at two Denbighshire meetings;
- Responded to the feedback provided by the Wrexham PLET after they had observed at two Flintshire meetings;
- Reviewed the self-evaluation exercise;
- Prepared an action plan arising out of the review;
- Attended the national conference in Cardiff on 28th November – *Scrutiny in the spotlight: investing to maximise its impact.*

The conference should have seen the launch of the WAO report arising out of the exercise, to which the National Welsh Scrutiny Officer document 'Outcomes and characteristics for effective local government scrutiny' was to be appended. Whilst the characteristics were ready, the WAO report was not available.

Arising out of the study, the Constitution Committee had agreed to the setting up of an Overview & Scrutiny steering group to comprise the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the six Overview & Scrutiny committees, together with the scrutiny officer support team.

**Appendix 1 –
Membership of Overview & Scrutiny committees 2013/14**

**COMMUNITY PROFILE &
PARTNERSHIPS**

B Dunn (Chair)
R Davies
G Diskin
C Dolphin
I Dunbar
R Guest (Vice Chair)
R Hampson
B Lloyd
D Mackie
M Reece
T Sharps
P Shotton
I Smith
N Steele-Mortimer
D Williams

CORPORATE RESOURCES

T Newhouse (Chair)
H Bateman
M Bateman
C Carver
P Curtis (Vice Chair)
I Dunbar
R Hampson
P Heesom
T Howorth
R Jones
R Lloyd
M Lowe
P Shotton
I Smith
A Woolley

ENVIRONMENT

M Wright (Chair)
H Bateman
D Butler
P Curtis
C Dolphin
D Evans
V Gay
C Hinds
R Hughes
J Johnson
C Legg
N Matthews (Vice-Chair)
A Minshull
P Shotton
C Thomas

HOUSING

R Hampson (Chair)
A Bragg
D Cox
P Curtis
R Davies
G Diskin
R Dolphin
J Falshaw
A Halford
G Hardcastle (Vice Chair)
R Hughes
B Lloyd
M Reece
G Roberts
S Williams

LIFELONG LEARNING

I Roberts (Chair)
M Bateman
A Bragg
A Davies-Cooke
I Dunbar
R Hampson
S Jones
C Legg
P Lightfoot
D Mackie
N Matthews
A Minshull
P Shotton
N Steele-Mortimer
D Williams

Co-Opted Members

C Burgess
D Hytch (Vice Chair)
R Price
R Stark
S Williams

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE

Carol Ellis (Chair)
M Bateman
P Curtis
A Davies-Cooke
D Evans
V Gay
C Hinds (Vice Chair)
S Jones
B Lloyd
M Lowe
D Mackie
H McGill
G Roberts
I Smith
D Wisinger

Appendix 2
Topics covered and activity information

Joint Meeting of Lifelong Learning & Social & Health	
11.06.2013 and 02.05.2014	
Educational Attainment of Looked After Children Young Carers Corporate Parenting Activity Update	Safeguarding and Child Protection Report Visual Impairment Support to Children and Adults in Flintshire
Joint Meeting Housing and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committees	
28.04.2014	
Tackling Long Term Vacant Private Homes	Private Sector Housing Renewal
Joint Meeting of Housing & Social & Health Care Committees	
28.01.2014 and 06.02.2014 (held at Llys Jasmine)	
Budget Consultation for 2014/15 Extra Care Provision in Flintshire	Telecare Delivering Home Adaptations & Supporting People
Community Profile & Partnerships met 8 times between June 2013 and April 2014	
24 June 2013 25 July 2013 3 October 2013	7 November 2013 20 January 2014 17 February 2014
	24 March 2014 28 April 2014
North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner Annual Community Safety Partnership update Glyndwr University and its links with Flintshire County Council Regional Collaboration Projects Community Endowment Fund Presentation by the RNLI Performance Reporting Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011	Consultation Document Designated Persons Order Improvement Plan Monitoring Strategic Partnerships Mid Year Update Presentation by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service on The Phoenix Project Community Safety Partnerships update Presentation by The Red Cross Clwyd Special Riding Centre Post Office Modernisation Single Integrated Plan

Corporate Resources met 13 times between May 2013 and April 2014			
16 May 2013	12 September 2013	12 December 2013	3 February 2014
13 June 2013	10 October 2013	16 January 2014	13 February 2014
11 July 2013	14 November 2013	28 January 2014	13 March 2014
			16 April 2014
Management and Leadership Development Programme	Wales Audit Office Regulatory Plan for Performance 2013		
Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report	People's Strategy Update		
Revenue Budget Monitoring	Wales Audit Office Improvement Assessment Letter and Council's Response and Regulatory Plan		
Finance as a Flintshire Futures Workstream	Improvement Plan Monitoring Report		
Workforce Information Reports	Mid Year Service Performance Report		
Quarterly & Year End Performance Reports	Improvement Assessment Letter from the Auditor General for Wales		
Medium Term Financial Plan 2014/15 – 2018/19	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		
Welfare Reform Act Update	Council Tax and Business Rates Policies 2014-2015		
Discretionary Housing Payments update	Feedback from consideration of Improvement and Performance Plans		
Attendance Management	Budget Consultation for 2014/15		
Performance and Areas of Improvement Asset Management as a Flintshire Futures Workstream	Assets as an Organisational Change Strategy Workstream		
Procurement as a Flintshire Futures Workstream			
Data Protection Audit by the Information Commissioner's Office			
Environment met 11 times between May 2013 and April 2014			
22 May 2013	18 September 2013	16 December 2013	26 February 2014
26 June 2013	9 October 2013	22 January 2014	2 April 2014
23 July 2013	13 November 2013	28 January 2014	
Missed Collections Technology	Street Furniture and other Temporary Obstructions on the Adopted Highway		
Extended Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Rural Development Plan & Presentation of Mold Food Festival		
Tourism in Flintshire			
Quarterly & Year End Performance Reporting			

<p>Draft Flood Management Strategy & Flooding issues Speed Limit Review</p> <p>Mersey Dee Alliance</p> <p>Review of Subsidised Bus Services</p> <p>Planning Services Performance</p> <p>Update on the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project and the Sub-Regional Food Waste Project</p> <p>Deeside Enterprise Zone progress report</p> <p>Energy Switching Scheme – update and revised recommendations</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Policy</p> <p>Policy for Un-adopted Roads</p> <p>Policy for the placement of a Highway</p>	<p>Regional Bus Strategy</p> <p>Review of Subsidised Bus Services update</p> <p>Improvement Plan Monitoring Report</p> <p>Mid Year Service Performance Report</p> <p>Presentation by Superfast Cymru</p> <p>North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership</p> <p>The Council's Household Waste Collection Policy</p> <p>Town Centres, High Streets and Retail Areas</p> <p>Budget Consultation for 2014/15</p> <p>2nd Inter-Authority Agreement</p> <p>Recommendation of Appointment of Preferred Bidder</p>
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Housing met 10 times between 5 June 2013 to 16th April 2014

5 June 2013	16 October 2013	8 January 2014	16 April 2014
10 July 2013	20 November 2013	21 January 2014	
23 September 2013	13 December 2013	5 February 2014	

<p>Quarterly Performance</p> <p>Housing Service Plan</p> <p>Community Services Directorate Plan</p> <p>Delivering Housing Development in Flintshire without the requirement for Public Grant Subsidy</p> <p>Developing the Flintshire Housing Offer through establishment of a Housing Company</p> <p>Developing the Private Rented Sector to help meet the need for more affordable housing</p> <p>Flint Town Centre Housing Regeneration</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan</p> <p>SARTH</p>	<p>Improvement Plan Monitoring Report</p> <p>Mid Year Service Performance Report</p> <p>Legal and Governance issues around Establishing a proposed Housing Company</p> <p>Communal Area Management & Fire Safety</p> <p>Housing Asset Management Strategy</p> <p>Anti Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Management</p> <p>Tenant Satisfaction Survey Results and Action Plan</p> <p>Budget Consultation for 2014/15</p> <p>Sheltered Housing Improvement Project</p> <p>Update on the delivery of the Choices document</p> <p>Collaborative Working in Housing</p> <p>Welfare Reform Update</p>
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Lifelong Learning met 11 times between June 2013 and April 2014

6 June 2013	Call-In Meeting	5 September 2013	19 December 2013	31 March 2014
6 June 2013		10 October 2013	30 January 2014	10 April 2014
11 July 2013		14 November 2013	6 March 2014	

Home to School Transport Policy Changes	Schools Performance Monitoring Group
Quarterly Performance Reporting	Annual Report
Outcome of Estyn Monitoring Visit	School Balances
Presentation by Alliance & Leisure	Corporate Parenting Activity update
Sport and Leisure Business Plan 2013-2017 – A Local Authority Partnership	Anti Social Behaviour Policy
Agreement with Sport Wales	Improvement Plan Monitoring report
Directorate Plan	Mid Year Service Performance Report
Play Development: Summer Play Schemes	Community Events Strategy 2014-2017
School Music Service	Health & Safety Annual Report
Play Provision: Children’s Play Areas	Recommendations of the Playscheme Task & Finish Group
Update on Statutory Notices for School Modernisation	Terms of Reference of the Leisure Finance Task & Finish Group
Lifelong Learning Performance Reporting	Budget Consultation for 2014/15
Schools Funding Formula Review	National Model for Regional Working in School Improvement
Developing the Local Education System	Annual School Modernisation Report
Approach to the Hill Review of Education Services	Request from a Member
Flintshire Music Service Review	Term of Office of Co-Opted Members
School Kitchen Ventilation Replacement Scheme	Pupil Attainment
Leisure Services Review Task & Finish Group	Incidents of Arson, Vandalism and Burglaries in Flintshire Schools
Educational Attainment of Looked After Children	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Services (GWE)
Young Carers	Facilities Review
Apprenticeships, Training and Development Opportunities	Improvement Plan 2014/15

Social & Health Care met 9 times from May 2013 to March 2014

9 May 2013	19 September 2013	9 January 2014
20 June 2013	24 October 2013	13 February 2014
25 July 2013	25 November 2013	20 March 2014

Provision of Health & Social Services by Third Sector Organisations in Flintshire Annual Report of Social Services Representations and Complaints Procedure 2012-13 Transformation of Double Click to a Social Enterprise Transition Update Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Bill Educational Attainment of Looked After Children Young Carers Corporate Parenting Activity update Anti Social Behaviour Policy Emergency Duty Team Update Annual Council Reporting Framework Performance reporting Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Social Enterprise (Double Click) Business Plan Report Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure update Welsh Ambulance Service	Adult Safeguarding Learning Disability Commissioning Plan Adults Safeguarding Regional Proposal development of a National Adoption Service for Wales Carers Services in Flintshire Social Services Improvement Agency Workshop outcome for Double Click and Agreement to progress Internal Audit of Safeguarding arrangements CSSIW Annual Review and Evaluation of Performance 2012/13 Mental Health Commissioning Plan Dementia Commissioning Plan Social & Health Care Improvement Plan Monitoring Report Social & Health Care Mid Year Service Performance Report Collaborative Projects Update Integrated Family Support Service Enhanced Care at home Scheme Public Health Update Rota Visits and Outcomes
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Key:

CP & P	=	Community Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee
CR	=	Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee
E	=	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
H	=	Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee
LL	=	Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee
S&HC	=	Social and Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee