

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13 DECEMBER 2022

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Tuesday, 13 December 2022

PRESENT: Councillor David Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Mel Buckley, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Ian Hodge, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Dan Rose, and Roy Wakelam

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ian Roberts (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure), and Councillor Ray Hughes

SUBSTITUTION: Councillor Ryan McKeown for Councillor Richard Lloyd

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Sean Bibby (Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration), Councillor Chris Bithell (Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection), Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy), Councillor David Healey (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy), Councillor Paul Johnson (Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement), Councillor Christine Jones (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Well-Being), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation), Corporate Finance Manager, Finance Manager, Strategic Finance Manager, Service Delivery Manager, Transportation Manager, Highways Network Manager, Regulatory Services Manager, and Principal Accountant

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officers

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

36. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 October and 15 November 2022 were submitted.

Matters arising

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November and the discussion, as recorded on page 15 of the agenda, which had taken place concerning van permits. Councillor Peers sought confirmation that the Policy had been revised as agreed by the Committee. The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) confirmed that the Policy had been amended with the revised wording as requested.

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 October and 15 November 2022 were approved and moved by Councillor Mike Peers and seconded by Councillor Ian Hodge.

RESOLVED:

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

37. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking report. She drew attention to the items scheduled for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 10 January 2023 and reported on the items for consideration at future meetings. The Facilitator also gave an update on progress to arrange a joint workshop with the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee in February to consider parking outside schools.

Members were invited to raise any further items to put forward for inclusion on the Programme.

The Facilitator gave an update on work in progress on the outstanding items on the Action Tracking report.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the intention to hold a joint workshop with the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee in February, and asked if this could be held prior to the meeting of the Committee scheduled on 7 February 2023. The Facilitator confirmed that the joint meeting in February was to advise scrutiny of the current position and establish a way forward.

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded by Councillors Ian Hodge and Mike Peers.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

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

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item as this was considered to contain exempt information by virtue of paragraphs 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

39. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) AND BUDGET SETTING 2023/24 (STAGE 2)

Moving into Part 2 of the meeting was moved by Councillor Mike Peers and seconded by Councillor Ian Hodge.

A joint presentation was provided by the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) which covered the following areas:

- purpose and background
- reminder of the Council's Budget Position
- Planning, Environment and Economy cost pressures
- summary Planning, Environment and Economy cost pressures
- Planning, Environment and Economy budget reductions
- Planning, Environment and Economy past efficiencies
- 2023/24 budget challenge – our approach
- summary – Planning, Environment & Economy budget reductions
- Streetscene and Transportation cost pressures
- summary Streetscene and Transportation cost pressures
- Streetscene and Transportation budget reductions
- Streetscene and Transportation past efficiencies
- 2023/24 budget challenge – our approach
- summary – Streetscene and Transportation budget reductions
- next steps for the budget setting process 2023/24
- budget process – Stage 2
- budget process – Stage 3 (Final)

Following the presentation Officers responded to the questions raised by Members.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor Ian Hodge and seconded by Councillor Dan Rose.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Planning, Environment, and Economy portfolio cost pressures be noted;
- (b) That the Planning, Environment, and Economy portfolio options to reduce budgets be noted;
- (c) That the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio cost pressures be noted; and
- (d) That the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio options to reduce budgets be noted.

40. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.40 am)

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Chair