

# Public Document Pack

**Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr**  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraataidd



To: Cllr Matt Wright (Chairman)

CS/NG

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Derek Butler,  
Peter Curtis, Chris Dolphin, David Evans,  
Veronica Gay, Cindy Hinds, Dennis Hutchinson,  
Joe Johnson, Colin Legg, Nancy Matthews,  
Ann Minshull, Paul Shotton and Carolyn Thomas

5 July 2012

Ceri Owen 01352 702350  
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Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the **DELYN COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD CH7 6NA** on **WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY, 2012** at **10.00 AM** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

## **AGENDA**

1 **APOLOGIES**

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 8)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June, 2012.

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawau gohebiaeth yn y Cymraeg neu'r Saesneg

- 4 **NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT** (Pages 9 - 14)  
Report of the Director of Environment enclosed.
  
- 5 **WINTER MAINTENANCE** (Pages 15 - 20)  
Report of the Director of Environment enclosed.
  
- 6 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 21 - 32)  
Report of the Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator enclosed.

## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** **21 JUNE, 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council, held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday 21 June, 2012

### **PRESENT: Councillor M.G. Wright (Chairman)**

Councillors: H.G. Bateman, P.J. Curtis, C.J. Dolphin, D. Evans, C. Hinds, J. Johnson, N.M. Matthews, P. Shotton and C.A. Thomas

**SUBSTITUTE:** Councillor I. Dunbar for A. Minshull

**APOLOGY:** Councillor D. Butler

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Waste and Recycling, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Leisure, Director of Environment,

Head of Streetscene, Head of Planning, Head of Regeneration, Head of Assets and Transportation, and Interim Public Protection Manager for minute number 11

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)**

Councillor P.J. Curtis declared a personal interest on minute number 11 as Chair of Communities First.

### **10. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May, 2012 had been circulated with the agenda.

#### **Matters arising**

The Chairman asked if an update on the 'Fix My Street' website had been provided to Councillor D. Evans. The Head of Streetscene reported that requests from members of the public through the 'Fix My Street' website had been overlooked but this had been resolved and the requests were being progressed.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

### **11. QUARTER 4 AND YEAR END SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

The Committee considered the 20011/12 Quarter 4/Year End service performance reports produced at the Head of Service level under the adopted business model of the Council. The draft year end position of the Strategic

Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) and progress made against the Improvement Targets were also contained within the performance reports.

The Heads of Service each gave a short presentation on the performance within each of the service areas, outlining work which had been undertaken to improve performance and areas where improvement was needed, as outlined within each report.

### Streetscene

Following the presentation, the Head of Streetscene circulated a timetable for new waste collection operations to the Committee.

Councillor C.J. Dolphin raised concern on the waste collection service within his own ward and the Greenfield ward. He commented on the pilot for Saturday working which he supported in principle but felt that there had been a lack of consultation with local Members and members of the public on how the pilot would be introduced. He said that he had received a number of complaints concerning a letter which had been sent out to residents at Greenfield to clarify a mistake which had been made on the published helpline number as residents were still confused about elements of the waste collection service.

The Head of Streetscene said that officers had recognised that there had been problems following the introduction of the changed waste collection service but all officers were working hard to address issues around missed collections. The Council currently collected waste on a Saturday following bank holidays and had not received any complaints about Saturday working. Consultation with members of the public had been scheduled to take place the week commencing 25 June, 2012 as detailed in the timetable and those Members affected by the pilot Saturday working would be invited to Alltami depot for individual meetings with waste staff to discuss operating arrangements. He confirmed that a letter had been sent to residents as a result of an error but also a door knocking exercise had been carried out to ensure residents were aware of the error. Feedback had been collated on the door knocking exercise and this could be provided to the Committee.

Councillor Dolphin welcomed the opportunity to see the feedback as he had concerns on areas where door knocking had not been carried out. He said that he did not blame the Cabinet Members for the problems with the waste collection service but felt that the blame lay with the Head of Streetscene.

The Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Waste and Recycling said that the pilot for Saturday working had previously been agreed by Members with a view to potentially rolling out Saturday working once the pilot had been reviewed. The three areas identified for the pilot had been chosen because of their close proximity to one another to enable staff to lend support to each other if necessary.

In response to comments on the accessibility of streets on a Saturday morning, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Waste and Recycling reported that scatter rounds had been introduced to enhance capacity within the service and

enable household waste, food waste and recyclable items to be collected from areas across the County where the larger vehicles would not be able to access.

In response to questions on scatter rounds, the Head of Streetscene explained that following the meeting he would e-mail all Members to seek their views on whether there were areas within their wards which they felt should be added to the scatter rounds.

Councillor C.A. Thomas commented on the improvements that had been made within the waste collection service but raised concern around the changes to how reports of broken street lights were dealt with. She asked for clarification on the process asked whether it would be possible to conduct a lean review on the street lighting service. She also asked if the Council would continue to provide multi-use bins across the County.

The Head of Streetscene clarified the process for dealing with reports of broken street lights and offered for the Committee to visit the call centre to see how queries were being dealt with. He also confirmed that the Council continued to provide multi-use bins where appropriate. The Committee supported the invitation to visit the call centre.

In response to a question on presentations to Town and Community Councils, the Head of Streetscene confirmed that a programme had been devised for supervisors to visit Town and Community Council meetings in order to discuss any areas of concern and arrange regular update meetings. He said that he would confirm with Councillor I. Dunbar when a visit would be made to Connah's Quay Town Council.

In response to concerns raised on consultations with local Members on highway improvement works and the condition of the road surface at the precinct at Connah's Quay, the Head of Streetscene said that he would take up these matters and report back to Members following the meeting.

Councillor P. Shotton thanked the Head of Streetscene for the report and the list of re-surfacing works which he said had assisted him in dealing with concerns from residents within his ward. He asked if the food collections figures could be provided to the Committee and also how the waste collection vehicles were maintained.

The Head of Streetscene advised that he would confirm the food collection figures with the Committee following the meeting. He also reported that waste collection vehicles currently under warranty were taken back to the company and repaired at no additional cost. All other vehicles were maintained by the Councils own workforce.

In response to a question on public conveniences, the Cabinet Member for Environment reported that a report on public conveniences and car parking charges would be submitted to the Cabinet in due course. He also referred to Councillor Dolphin's earlier comments and asked him to withdraw his comment in relation to the Head of Streetscene.

Councillor Dolphin said that he did not have any confidence in the proposed changes to the waste collection service and said that the responsibility of the service lay with the Head of Streetscene.

## Planning

Councillor C.A. Thomas suggested that the experience of the Countryside Service in obtaining grant funding could be used across all departments as best practice. She commented on the conditions attached to granted planning permissions which she felt needed greater enforcement and the need for better liaison between Planning and Education in relation to Section 106 Agreements. She also asked whether Town and Community Councils would be consulted on the Local Development Plan (LDP).

The Head of Planning supported the suggestion of sharing the experience of the Countryside Service across all departments. He said that he was confident that improvements had been made within Enforcement and further improvements were planned to improve links between Planning and Education. Consultation on the LDP would be undertaken with Members in the autumn followed by consultation with Town and Community Council members later in the year. It was hoped that Planning Aid Wales would facilitate the consultation process on behalf of the Council. A report on Section 106 Agreements would be presented to County Council on 17 July, 2012.

Councillor D. Evans commented on the condition of the previous headquarters building at British Steel and asked whether the Council could contact the owners to ensure that the building was protected. He also asked if issues on the cycle path between Connah's Quay and Flint would be addressed given that this was the final year of available funding.

The Head of Planning reported that officers had been actively meeting with the owners of the headquarters building and it was hoped that issues would be resolved over the next couple of months. The Countryside Service would continue to submit applications for external grant funding and any works on the cycle path could be picked up by the Environmental Directorate.

In response to comments on the Aggregates Levy Fund for Wales, the Head of Planning advised that he did not feel the fund was at risk of being withdrawn and advised Members to contact him if they wanted further information on how to access this fund.

Councillor I. Dunbar sought clarification on the Heritage Lottery Fund works for Wepre Park and also how the time taken to complete minor planning applications could be reduced.

The Head of Planning confirmed that the Council had received Phase 1 of the Heritage Lottery Fund with bids currently being prepared for Phase 2. He said that he would speak to Councillor Dunbar on this issue following the meeting. On minor planning applications, the Council had been meeting its target and he felt that negotiations between the planning officer and applicant during the application

process reduced the need for the application to be refused and another application to be submitted at a later date. A customer survey would be carried out in due course and the feedback received could be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

### Public Protection

The Chairman asked that the Committee be kept up to date on the recruitment of staff to fill current vacancies.

Councillor D. Evans raised concern on Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling offences which he did not feel was enough of a deterrent. He commented on the issues of dog fouling along the Shotton railway line which should be addressed as a matter of urgency in order to improve the access to the Northern Gateway.

The Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Waste and Recycling said that future dog fouling enforcement would be carried out by the Council's own enforcement team with 'hot spot' areas being given priority. Also the enforcement team would be encouraged to liaise with the Countryside Service to address any areas of concern on the coastal path.

### Regeneration

Councillor P.J. Curtis raised concern on the condition of Holywell Leisure Centre which he felt should be addressed as a matter of urgency. He also raised concern on the vacant premises within Holywell high street and the car parking charges which he felt should be taken away to increase visitor numbers to the town centre.

The Cabinet Member for Environment gave a commitment that he would be seeking an urgent review of all car parking charges throughout the County. The outcome of the review would be reported to the Committee prior to consideration by the Cabinet.

Councillor I. Dunbar welcomed the new Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ) but sought assurance that this would not disadvantage neighbouring smaller town centres in the future. Councillor D. Evans raised concern that the Town Partnership meetings in Shotton had not been held for around six months and asked when the meetings would start again.

The Head of Regeneration confirmed that a greater joined up approach between all interested groups was being progressed to enable more effective Town Partnership meetings. He said that he would provide Councillor Evans with further information on future meetings following the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Leisure confirmed that he would visit Holywell Leisure Centre to assess what improvements could be made, and would inform Councillor Curtis when this visit would be taking place. He said that the report was a positive one and looked forward to the opportunities that would arise through the DEZ.

## Assets and Transportation

In response to a question on the Biomass boiler at Whitford Primary School, the Head of Assets and Transportation explained that the use of Biomass boilers would be considered for areas where there were no gas mains. The effectiveness of the boiler would be monitored to inform future strategies and determine whether these installations should be installed elsewhere.

Councillor I. Dunbar commended the work on the new Connah's Quay Primary School which he said would be a great asset to Connah's Quay. He also welcomed the creation of the new half width bus bays in Shotton which he commented had alleviated some of the traffic problems and asked if the traffic lights in Shotton would be synchronised in the future. Councillor D. Evans also thanked the Head of Assets and Transportation for the bus bays in Shotton. He also commented on Civil Parking Enforcement and asked if streets where yellow lines were not deemed fit for purpose would be taken off the parking enforcement list.

The Head of Assets and Transportation thanked Members for their comments on the new Connah's Quay Primary School and bus bays in Shotton which he said would be passed on to officers. Work had been progressing on upgrading some of the older traffic lights to enable all lights from Queensferry to Connah's Quay to be synchronised. On Civil Parking Enforcement careful consideration would need to take place around streets that were not deemed fit for purpose.

Councillor C.J. Dolphin asked if figures on the efficiency of the Biomass boiler were available which he felt would be of interest to residents of Whitford. He asked how the Civic Parking Enforcement would impact upon car parking charges in Holywell and also whether the speed limits on rural roads would be changed as a result of the Speed Limit Review.

The Head of Assets and Transportation said that he would provide Councillor Dolphin with the efficiency figures following the meeting. He explained that as part of the civil parking enforcement there would be a review of all car parking charges and that changes to speed limits would need to be prioritised following the outcome of the Speed Limit Review.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Members and officers for their attendance and for answering the questions from Members.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator collate the comments made by Members and forward them to the Performance Unit and Directorate.



**12. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced a report to enable the Committee to consider the Forward Work Programme.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the development of the Committees Forward Work Programme would be completed at the Workshop which had been scheduled for 3 July, 2012. The Committee also agreed that the Service Improvement Action Plan for Waste would be submitted to the Committee for consideration at its meeting scheduled for 12 September, 2012.

The Facilitator said that she would liaise with the Chairman, Director of Environment and Head of Assets and Transportation on when the Speed Limit Review would be submitted to the Committee for its consideration.

**RESOLVED:**

That the development of the Forward Work Programme be completed at the Workshop scheduled for 3 July, 2012.

**7. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting began at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 12.12 p.m.

**8. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was one member of the public and one member of the press present.

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**Chairman**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>DATE: 21 JUNE, 2012</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Councillor P.J. Curtis	Quarter 4 and Year End Service Performance Reports	11.

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2012

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

**SUBJECT:** NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT  
PROJECT

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Members on progress of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project's (NWRWTP) procurement process.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01** The North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership was formed in 2008 (made up of the Isle Of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council with Flintshire County as lead authority) to seek a solution to managing residual waste on behalf of the five partner authorities. A North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Joint Committee has been set up to oversee and govern the procurement process. At the Joint Committee meetings, all five Partner authorities have equal voting rights. However, as Lead Authority, the Council is responsible for project planning and management, giving Leadership to the Project Team and undertaking governance issues like producing management accounts and ensuring financial probity.
- 2.02** At around £600m - £800m value and 25 years duration, this is an extremely complex procurement process, where proper consideration needs to be given to all matters by both the Partnership and by the bidders.
- 2.03** In March 2010, a Special Flintshire County Council considered a report and Outline Business Case on the NWRWTP. The report was based on an Options Appraisal undertaken by Entec, which concluded that the NWRWTP Regional Partnership was the scenario most likely to deliver best value for the Council due to cost minimisation, meeting Welsh Government (WG) funding guidelines, resilience to legislative change and service need, as well as being the most attractive Option for the market. As a result of the Outline Business case, WG confirmed their commitment to providing £142m funding towards the Project; Flintshire County Council's share of this is £38m over the 25 years of the Project.
- 2.04** On 15th July 2010, the procurement process was formally started with the publication of the OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) notice. This

was followed by a formal pre qualification stage (PQQ) where companies that formally put forward an expression of interest were assessed on their financial and technical capabilities.

- 2.05** The PQQ process involved a rigorous assessment of the companies that had formally expressed an interest in the procurement process. They were assessed on their financial standing and record, and also on their technical ability and record in delivering residual waste treatment contracts. This assessment process was carried out by the Project's legal, technical and financial advisors (Pinsent Masons, Entec and Grant Thornton respectively), and was scrutinised by the relevant technical officer group from the Partnership. 10 participants applied for pre-qualification and eight were recommended to go through to the next stage (see 2.07 below).
- 2.06** On 29 October 2010, the North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee, which comprises of two Members from each of the Partner authorities, approved the next stage of the procurement process.
- 2.07** The next stage of the procurement process was the Invitation to Submit Outline Solutions (ISOS) stage. Eight bidders were invited to submit their outline solution(s). These bidders were:-
- Biffa Waste Services/E.ON
  - Complete Circle (a consortium of John Laing Investments Ltd, Shanks Waste Management Ltd, Keppel Seghers and Grays Waste Management Ltd)
  - Covanta Energy Ltd
  - Sita UK Ltd
  - Veolia ES Aurora Ltd
  - Viridor Waste Management Ltd
  - Waste Recycling Group / Balfour Beatty Capital, and
  - Wheelabrator Technologies
- 2.08** ISOS submissions were received on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and the Joint Committee met on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Following an exhaustive evaluation by a range of technical, legal and financial officers and advisors, Members on the Joint Committee accepted Officer recommendations and decided to take three bidders through to the next stage of the procurement process, the invitation to submit detailed solutions (ISDS) :-
- Sita UK Ltd
  - Veolia ES Aurora Ltd
  - Wheelabrator
- 2.09** The Project Team have been actively working to maximise the possibility of rail being used as part of the service to transport the waste to the main facility. To this end, discussions have been held with Network Rail and the bidders, who have all shown a positive stance towards the use of rail.

**2.10** In order to ensure that rail was considered thoroughly, an additional stage was included in the procurement process. The participants were all instructed to submit a road and rail based solution for the Project. Participants submitted these proposals on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The Project Team then looked at the relevant parts to assess the viability, cost, deliverability and risks of both transport options.

The Joint Committee considered these proposals at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The Participants were then informed that the Partnership's requirement was for a rail based solution and given a limited number of weeks to refine their proposal in the light of that decision. They submitted full detailed proposals on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.01** Following local government elections on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012, there are now five new Members on the Joint Committee (of 10 Members). With such a high number (50%) of new Members, there is clearly a need to raise their understanding of the background to the Project, the progress that's been made, Welsh Government's strategic overview for waste (including targets that all local authorities need to meet) and how the Project allows the North Wales Partners to comply with it. Given that Member nominations to the Project weren't finalised until 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012, there has been an understandable delay to the Project, whilst new Members are briefed and their questions answered. However, in order to keep within the Project's Programme for a facility to be open in 2017, a Joint Committee meeting needs to be held before the Summer recess.

**3.02** One of the key issues for the Project is the range of waste related targets that now challenge Welsh authorities; these are set out below:-

**Table - Authority Municipal Waste Targets**

TARGET	YEAR				
	09/10	12/13	15/16	19/20	24/25
Levels of recycling / composting (or Anaerobic Digestion (AD))	40%	52%	58%	64%	70%
Levels of composting (or AD) of source separated food waste (included in the above)		12%	14%	16%	16%
Maximum level of energy from waste			42%	36%	30%
Maximum level of landfill				10%	5%

WG has made it clear via its strategy document –'Towards Zero Waste' - that the future strategic direction and resources will be directed towards local authority policies which are based on very high levels of recycling and composting (i.e. 70% recycling /composting by 2024/25) and very low levels of landfilling (i.e. a maximum of 5% to landfill by 2024/25). Nevertheless, and even with these challenging targets achieved, there will remain significant levels of residual waste which must be disposed of through sustainable technologies offering the best balance of environmental and economic benefits.

**3.03** If the Council doesn't meet the targets above, the authority will face two sets of fines, which will be cumulatively levied :-

- (i) Failure to meet recycling targets (£200/t)
- (ii) Exceeding Landfill Allowances (£200/t)

The NWRWTP will play a key role in helping FCC to meet the Municipal Waste targets shown and hence help the Council to avoid the substantial fines outlined in 3.03 above.

**3.04** Currently the Project is constrained by confidentiality clauses on what is being proposed by bidders in terms of both site and technology. At the stage of deselecting one of the remaining three participants, it is intended that we remove these confidentiality clauses. The Joint Committee meeting to consider the bidders' detailed solutions received on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 is currently being set and hence more information on the proposed site and technology(s) will be provided to Members in the next update report (scheduled for October 2012).

**3.05** The Outline Programme for the next stages of the procurement process is set out in the table below :-

Joint Committee consider detailed solutions	tbc
Issue call for Final Tender and close dialogue with Participants	Nov 2012
Final tender submission by Participants	Jan 2013
Individual authority Approved Bidder and Final Business Case approvals completed (at FCC, this will mean consideration by the Environment O&S Committee, Cabinet and Full Council)	May 2013
Approved Bidder appointed	May 2013
Submission for planning approval	July 2013
Contract Award	Aug 2013
Facility projected to be fully available	Summer 2017

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the content of the report.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 The proposals are anticipated to be well within the Affordability Envelope approved by full Council in March 2010.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

None.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

None.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

None.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

Consultation of relevant communities and bodies will be very important to the future successful delivery of the Project.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

Various consultation processes have been undertaken throughout the Project to date. The results of the consultations have been used to inform the Project's progress.

#### **12.00 APPENDICES**

None.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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# Agenda Item 5

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **WEDNESDAY 11 JULY, 2012**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**SUBJECT:** **WINTER MAINTENANCE**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise Members on the extent of winter maintenance operations over the 2011-12 winter season and the performance of the Councils new Winter Maintenance Policy during the period

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

**2.01** On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011, a report was presented to Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, providing details of the new Winter Maintenance Policy and advising them of the arrangements that were in place for the coming winter period. The report included a recommendation that an appraisal of the new Policy together with a summary of winter maintenance operations should be presented to the Committee members after the 2011-12 winter period.

**2.02** On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the Executive approved the Councils revised Winter Maintenance Policy.

**2.03** When compared to the previous three extremely cold winters, the 2011 -12 season was relatively mild and during the period there were only two minor snow events, the second event occurring in April 2012. The number of gritting turnouts for ice prevention was 65, which is also below the number undertaken in the previous three years. However the number of turnouts during the year is close to the average number over the past 10 years.

In total 3,998 tonnes of rocksalt was laid by the Council during the winter. (this compares to 9,025 tonnes used in 2010-11 and over 10,300 tonnes used 2009-10)

**2.04** Because of the relatively mild conditions there were no difficulties in obtaining rocksalt and the strategic stocks held both by the Council and Welsh Government in the County were not required. The material is however stored in a sealed environment and will be available for use in future years.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.01** The following paragraphs outline the areas of Service that were subjected to the Policy review.

### 3.02 Prioritisation of roads

Work has been on going to prioritise all of the roads within Flintshire into priority 1, 2 and 3 routes. The definition of each is contained in the Policy document and result from a Risk Assessment of each category of road on the highway infrastructure

A summary of each classification is as follows:

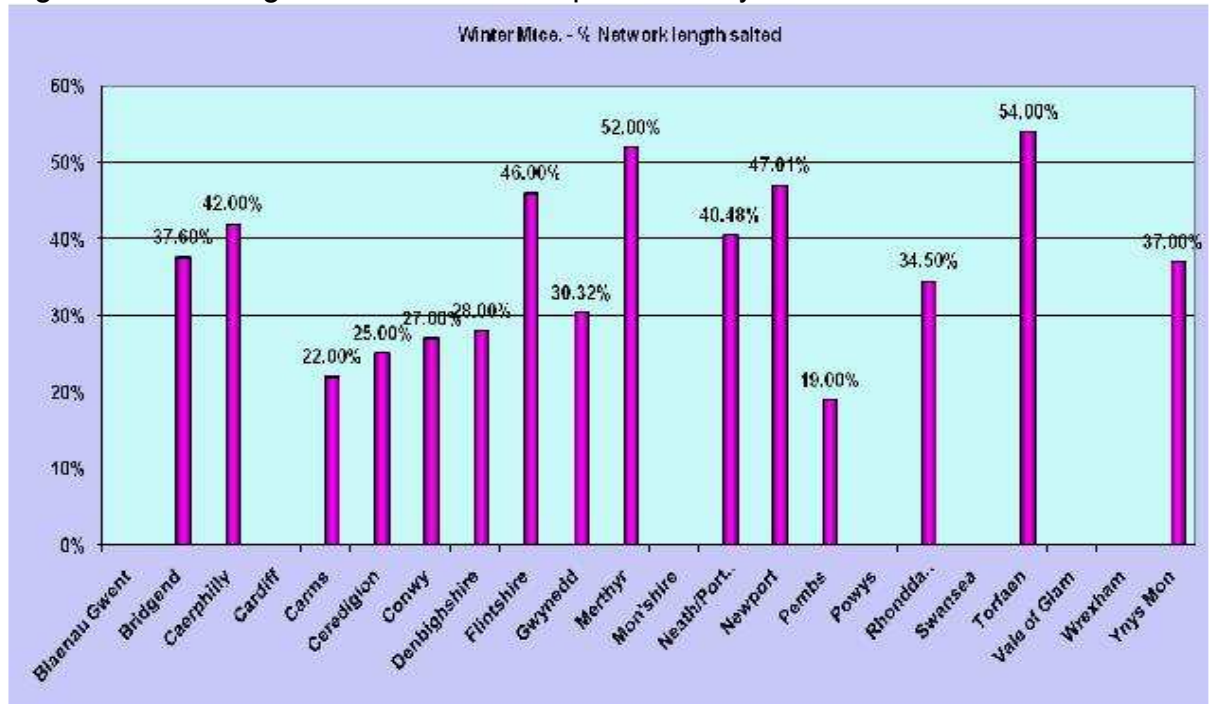
**Priority 1** routes will be roads carrying substantial volumes of traffic having characteristics, which require protection from frost throughout the night. These routes form the spinal road network of the County and merit high priority to sustain the free flowing movement of traffic.

**Priority 2** routes will consist of unclassified roads that form main distributor routes in both urban and rural areas and known problem areas i.e. sections of roads with significant gradients, exposed areas and other topographical features. These routes will be treated in periods of snow and prolonged ice once the Priority 1 routes are completed and subject to the availability of resources at that time.

**Priority 3** routes will be all remaining roads. The treatment of these routes will normally be dependant upon the availability of appropriate resources following the satisfactory attention to priority 1 and 2 routes and will be restricted to operations carried out within normal working hours.

The percentage of the total road network treated as a Priority 1 by Flintshire County Council is well above the all Wales national average - Figure 1

Figure 1 Percentage of network treated per Authority



The new prioritisation has brought a consistency to the routes and ensured all the priority areas, including the primary access to schools, are treated when ice or snow is forecast.

### **Salt Bins and Heaps**

**3.03** The Streetscene supervisors have made progress in individually assessing the location of the existing salt bins and salt heaps against the strict criteria within the Policy. Whilst this work is not yet complete, all sites will be assessed before the start of the next winter period. All salt bins were filled at the start of the previous winter season and refilled again following snow conditions. In line with the Policy, this will be subject to the availability of rocksalt in future.

The Streetscene Service continued to provide salt bins and rock salt within Council establishments on request and on a rechargeable basis to the relevant Department. This included sheltered housing developments.

The Streetscene Service also continues to work with Community Councils in relation to the provision of additional salt bins. All Community Councils were able to purchase salt bins and rock, salt from Streetscene Services with the intention of supplementing the authority's own provision and to the benefit of the general public. The salt bins purchased by Community Councils and placed upon the adopted highway, with the prior approval of Streetscene Services, were distinguishable from Council salt bins and the future maintenance of the bins will be the Town and Community Council's responsibility.

### **Salt storage**

**3.04** A concrete base was constructed at Greenfield Recycling Park in September 2011 and a strategic reserve of 5,500 tonnes of rocksalt was procured by the Council for use when material was unavailable elsewhere. This additional material brings Flintshire's stock level, at the start of the winter, to 10,200 tonnes and provides additional resilience to the service.

In addition the Welsh Government has negotiated a lease agreement with the Council and has a store of 5,000 tonnes of rocksalt in Queensferry depot. This material will be made available to all North Wales Councils in the event of a shortage. The Welsh Government is also negotiating with the Council to lease a section of Halkyn depot for a permanent salt barn to house this material.

### **Type and quantity of rocksalt to be used**

**3.05** **(a) Carriageways** The Council gritting operations follow the standard guidance issued by Welsh Government as part of the Trunk Road Maintenance Management Policy and the Code of Practise for Highway Maintenance. The de-icing material used by the Council continues to be Safecoat and there have been no reported issues in respect of the rate of spread or the material used during the winter period.

**(b) Footways** Following successful trials, an alternative de-icing material is now used on footways in town centres, car parks and some sheltered accommodation. The product is called 'Safethaw' which is a brine solution mixed with agricultural by-product similar to that used on the highway. 'Safethaw' is sprayed by using a knapsack sprayer or a self propelled spray bar fitted to quadbikes and is applied in periods of heavy snow and prolonged icy conditions in accordance with the risk

assessment for the network.

The introduction has been a success although with limited applications due to the mild weather. The material purchased will be available for use in future years

### **The use of local contractors for snow clearing**

**3.06** The Authority employs 41 agricultural contractors to clear the highway during periods of snow. Each Contractor has a dedicated route which enables the authority to clear the entire adopted main highway network within the County. During snow conditions contractors may be hired at the discretion of the Duty Officer or his representative at previously agreed tendered rates. Although there were relatively minor snow falls during the past winter, the system was actuated on two occasions and both times the contractors responded well.

The use of local contractors for snow clearing has proved a very effective and efficient means to supplement the authority's fleet of gritters to remove snow from the adopted highway in a very short time scale. It is intended to carry on utilising this resource in future years.

### **Future community involvement in footway clearance**

**3.07** During 2010 – 11 a pilot scheme was introduced in the Buckley area to engage with local community volunteers to clear snow and ice by the provision of small quantities of rocksalt and tools. In line with the Policy, the initiative was introduced across the County during the past winter and all Town and Community Councils and Resident Associations were asked for their assistance in identifying interested groups or individuals willing to take part. Approximately 40 kits were distributed and the recipients will be contacted before the start of each winter to ensure they are still willing to partake in the work in future years.

### **Weather Forecasting Domain**

**3.08** Discussions took place with the Council's service provider, Meteogroup regarding installing an additional weather forecasting station closer to the coastal area to improve the accuracy of the forecast and the Council's response to it. These discussions are ongoing and no further decisions have been made at this time, however any proposals will be introduced in time for the 2012 – 13 season

### **Snow clearance arrangements at sheltered housing units**

**3.09** The winter maintenance service on publicly accessible roads and footpaths at sheltered accommodation units is now carried out by the Streetscene service with the caretaker/housing services clearing individual drives and paths. This provides Members and residents with a single point of contact for the service and a provisional budget has been allocated to the Environment Directorate for the provision of this service.

### **Number and type of gritting vehicles used for winter maintenance operations**

**3.10** The current number of front line gritters has been maintained, however options to provide multipurpose vehicles are being explored. In addition the following equipment was purchased and successfully utilised over the winter period:-

- 2 de-mountable gritter bodies for the narrow access sites.
- Quad- bikes currently utilised in other Streetscene services have been adapted for the application of 'Safethaw' through a spraybar system.

### **Streetscene**

- 3.11** The additional resources provided by the combined Streetscene service are available to be allocated to winter maintenance in periods of greatest need. This provides flexibility and additional resilience to the service

Waste collections continued throughout the 2011 – 12 winter period with staff from all the Streetscene services involved in footway snow clearance in areas where collections were due to take place when snow had fallen.

### **Depot Arrangements**

- 3.12** The service now operates predominately from the Alltami depot, supplemented by a satellite rock-salt storage facility at Halkyn which covers routes in the North of the County

- 3.13** The new policy has operated effectively over the 2011-12 season and should continue to be utilised in future years. The guidance notes for National Good Highway Maintenance Practise, recommends a full review of policy is regularly completed to ensure the Council complies with its statutory duty. The next review of the policy will take place after the 2013 – 14 winter season.

## **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01** That Members of the Committee note the review of the Winter Maintenance Policy and the actions taken by the service during 2011 – 12 winter period.
- 4.02** That a full review of the Winter Maintenance service is undertaken after the 2013 – 14 winter season

## **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01** The 2011-12 budget for winter maintenance was £998, 595
- 5.02** The service reported an under spend during the year due to the milder weather and particularly due to the lower than yearly average number of snow events during the period

## **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01** Not applicable

## **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01** The supplier of the de-icing material have worked closely with the Environment Agency to understand the impact of the product on the environment.
- 7.02** The new storage facility at the Greenfield Recycling Park complies with environmental guidance.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

**8.01** No impact

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

**9.01** Winter maintenance operations on the highway infrastructure are carried out predominantly by the Streetscene Staff and resources supplemented by local agricultural contractors as necessary.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

None

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

**11.01** Consultation has been undertaken with the following in the development of the policy

- All Members
- Town & Community Councils

**12.00 APPENDICES**

None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

**Contact Officer: S Jones Head of Streetscene Service**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**

**REPORT BY:** **ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

**SUBJECT:** **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.01** To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

**2.01** Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Executive for consultation purposes, or by County Council, or Directors. Other possible items are identified from the Executive Work Programme and the Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges.

**2.02** In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful or a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:

1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?
2. Are there issues of weak or poor performance?
3. How, where and why were the issues identified?
4. Do local communities think the issues are important and is there any evidence of this? Is there evidence of public dissatisfaction?
5. Is there new Government guidance or legislation?
6. Have inspections been carried out?
7. Is this area already the subject of an ongoing review?

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.01** Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work Programme of the Committees of which

they are members. By reviewing and prioritising the forward work programme Members are able to ensure it is member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

**3.02** As agreed by the committee a workshop was held on 3 July 2012 to determine the committees forward work programme for the coming year. Due to the close proximity of the workshop and the deadline for despatch of reports it has not been possible to provide the minutes and draft forward work programme resulting from the workshop. These will be provided at the next meeting of the committee on 12 September 2012 to allow the full committee to consider and approve.

**3.03** Following a member request and in agreement with the Chair, members present at the workshop and the Director it was agreed that the committee would consider an item on Town Centre Action planning and the approach adopted by Flintshire at the next meeting in September. This has been scheduled into the forward work programme attached.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**4.01** That the Committee considers its Forward Work Programme (attached as Appendix 1) and approve/amend as necessary.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None as a result of this report.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

None as a result of this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

None as a result of this report.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

None as a result of this report.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

None as a result of this report.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**



N/A

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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# ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
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## CURRENT FWP

11 July 2012	<b>North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project</b>	To receive and consider further details on the progress of the project.	Strategic (Collaboration)	Director of Environment	2 July 2012
	<b>Winter Maintenance</b>	To consider the success of the new Winter Maintenance Policy following the winter period of 2011/12	Service Review	Head of Streetscene	
12 Sept 2012	<b>Quarterly Performance Reporting</b>	To consider Quarter 1 outturns for improvement targets against directorate indicators	Performance Monitoring	Director of Environment	3 Sept 2012
	<b>Town Centre Action Planning</b>	To received an update on Town Centre Action Planning and the approach adopted by Flintshire		Director of Environment	
17 Oct 2012	To be determined				
21 Nov 2012	To be determined				
9 Jan 2013	<b>Quarterly Performance Reporting</b>	To consider Quarter 2 outturns for improvement targets against directorate indicators			
6 Feb 2013	To be determined				

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<b>Scrutiny Focus</b>	<b>Responsible/Contact Officer</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
<b>6 March 2013</b>	<b>Quarterly Performance Reporting</b>	To consider Quarter 3 outturns for improvement targets against directorate indicators			
<b>10 April 2013</b>	<b>To be determined</b>				
<b>22 May 2013</b>	<b>To be determined</b>				
<b>26 June 2013</b>	<b>Quarterly Performance Reporting</b>	To consider Quarter 4 and year end outturns for improvement targets against directorate indicators.			
<b>23 July 2013</b>	<b>To be determined</b>				

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
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### ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED as agreed by Committee

Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
<b>North East Wales Transport Study (end of 2011)</b>	To receive details on the outcome of the study	
<b>European Competitiveness Programme</b>	To consider a report on European Structural Funds Programme for the period of 2007-13, following a member request	Head of Regeneration
<b>Streetworks</b>	To consider how Streetworks operate particular with developers and utility companies, and also the current operation processes for road closures. To include road surface repair standards.	
<b>Speed Limit Review (Sept/Oct '12)</b>	To consider the outcome of the review together with draft proposals.	Head of Assets & Transportation
<b>Streetscene</b>	To receive a up-date following the launch of the new service in March 2012.	Head of Streetscene
<b>Streetlighting</b>	To receive and consider proposals from the Task & Finish Group	Head of Streetscene
<b>Service Improvement Action Plan (Waste Collection Service)</b>	To receive an update and consider the progress made against the Improvement Action Plan	Head of Streetscene

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
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### REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
Quarterly/ Annual	Performance Reporting	To consider performance outturns for improvement targets against directorate indicators.	Director of Environment
Quarterly	North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project	To receive and consider further details on the progress of the project.	Director of Environment
6 monthly	Rural Development Plan	To receive regular quarterly updates on the progress of each of the projects within Axis 3 and 4, with particular consideration to any downturns in progress. (To include information relating to convergence/competitive funding streams as requested by Cllr Heesom)	Head of Regeneration

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
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### APPENDIX B

#### STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF RISKS AND CHALLENGES TOPICS ALLOCATED TO OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

##### SECTION 1 - COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Category	Risk Reference	Title	Committee
Strategic Partnerships	CL08	Climate Change and Flood Risk Management	Enviro
	CL09	Economic Regeneration	Enviro
	CL10	Decline of Town Centres	Enviro
	CL11	Integrated and Public Transport Infrastructure	Enviro
	CL12	Skills Needs of Employers	Enviro / LL
	CL14	North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Partnership	Enviro

##### SECTION 2 - COUNCIL DELIVERY

Category	Number	Title	Committee
Environment	CD02	Streetscene	Enviro
	CD03	Transition from UDP to LDP	Enviro

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
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Category	Number	Title	Committee
	CD04	Planning Protocol	Enviro
	CD05	Highways Infrastructure	Enviro
	CD06	Transport arrangements for service users	Enviro (links to S&H and LL)
	CD07	Depot provision	Enviro
Waste	CD27	Waste Management Targets (Food Waste Treatment Project)	Enviro
	CD27c	Waste Management (Operations)	Enviro
	CD34	Impact of Severe Winter Weather	Enviro

### SECTION 3 - COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

Category	Number	Title	Committee
Environment	CG05	Asset Management	Enviro
Environment	CG05a	Asset – Strategy	Enviro
Environment	CG05b	Asset Rationalisation	Enviro



ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<b>Scrutiny Focus</b>	<b>Responsible/Contact Officer</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
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