

Public Document Pack

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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

4 April 2013

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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, 10TH APRIL, 2013** 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 - 14)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 24 January and 6 March 2013.

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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 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS**
(Pages 15 - 38)

Report of Director of Environment enclosed. Presentations will be received on Linking Flintshire Communities and Cadwyn Clwyd.

5 **COMMUNITIES FIRST** (Pages 39 - 44)

Report of Director of Environment enclosed.

6 **UPDATE ON NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT AND THE SUB-REGIONAL FOOD WASTE PROJECT** (Pages 45 - 64)

Report of Director of Environment enclosed.

7 **DEESIDE ENTERPRISE ZONE** (Pages 65 - 68)

Report of Director of Environment enclosed.

8 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 69 - 74)

Report of Environment and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator enclosed.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **24 JANUARY 2013**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA on Thursday, 24 January 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Matt Wright (Chairman)

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Peter Curtis, Chris Dolphin, Veronica Gay, Joe Johnson, Colin Legg, Nancy Matthews, Paul Shotton and Carolyn Thomas

APOLOGIES: Councillors: David Evans and Cindy Hinds

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Richard Jones

CONTRIBUTORS:

Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Waste and Recycling, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Leisure, Chief Executive, Director of Environment, Head of Finance and Finance Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

Learning & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

No declarations were made.

55. BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2013/14

The Chairman welcomed the contributors to the meeting.

The Head of Finance explained that an overview of the budget was to be provided for each Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the budget proposals for the specific area covered by each Committee detailed at the meetings.

The Chief Executive explained that he and the Head of Finance would be making a similar presentation to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Thereafter, the Director of Environment would present on directorate specific aspects of the budget. The main features of the presentation were as follows:-

- Council Fund Budget Strategy & Financial Overview
- Environment – Budget Proposals & Key Service Issues
- Live Issues for this Committee
- Next Steps

The Director of Environment continued with the directorate specific contents of the presentation.

The comments and questions which were raised by Members of the Committee, and the responses given are attached at Appendix 1

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

56. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.42 am)

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Chairman

Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting 24/01/13

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Environment - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
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1.0	<u>Corporate Comments / Issues</u>	
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are teachers and non-teachers receiving a pay rise? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay rises are subject to national negotiations and the 1% included in the budget proposals is a provision only.
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What steps are we taking to inform communities about Welfare Reform? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Welfare Reform Board meets regularly and includes local partners such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Job Centre Plus. Around 1,100 Council Tenants have been contacted about the 'bedroom tax'
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we track and monitor achievement of savings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2011/12, monitoring of efficiencies was reflected in budget monitoring reports throughout the year. At final outturn 89 % of the efficiencies reflected in the budget had been realised. There is now a wider ownership of Flintshire Futures efficiencies due to revised governance arrangements and Members are now represented on the Flintshire Futures Board.
1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When will we get more detail on fees and charges? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All proposals are included within the budget report and will be discussed at each Scrutiny committee meeting.
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the criteria for the North Wales element of the Regional Collaboration Fund? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It needs to be for new and significant changes involving a number of public bodies - 3 priority bids are currently being worked on.

Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting 24/01/13

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Environment - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How confident are we around inflation predictions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget provision for non standard inflation is held corporately and is only released to Directorates as and when required. Historically predictions have been reasonably accurate.
1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeships - Not all schools link into colleges / local businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree pathways with Lifelong Learning and Stakeholders. Keep focussed on apprenticeship opportunities across Flintshire.
2.0	<u>Environment Comments / Issues</u>	
2.1	<u>General Comments/Issues</u>	
2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance was sought that a detailed plan would be put in place for closing the public conveniences - Members did not want to see buildings left empty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers will investigate alternative uses and if none are found then the buildings will be demolished.
2.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which are the 4 public conveniences that will close? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cilcain, Caerwys, Central Shotton and Holywell (Tower Gardens).
2.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is re-organisation now complete within the Environment Directorate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Streetscene service review is now complete, but the other reviews are still ongoing, each at different stages of completion.
2.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have flood issues affecting Saltney been considered in the budget? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocations are included in the core capital programme and WG grants. The emerging Flood and Water

Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting 24/01/13

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Environment - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
2.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transport Grant for Bus services - is this part of the discussion at the February Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee? 	<p>Management Strategy is to be included in the Forward Work Programme for the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be considered at the February meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee. Taith are tasked with creating a Regional Bus Strategy.
3.0	<p><u>Pressures</u></p> <p>3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the pressure item of £0.144m for energy generation at landfill sites - Weren't the gas engines bought a year ago, why are they failing? How were they acquired? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gas engines were bought a number of years ago. A detailed report into the output of the engines has been carried out to inform the new pressure. The engines were part of the asset transfer resulting from the former AD Waste Ltd. being transferred into the Council.

Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting 24/01/13

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Environment - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
4.0	<u>Efficiencies</u>	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A business plan was requested to back up the notion that switching lights off is cheaper than dimming them and that local members and the public would be consulted on all proposals?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The matter will be looked at again as part of the emerging Street Lighting Policy. Savings comparisons will be included in the Street Lighting report to Cabinet in March 2013.
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Car Parking management efficiency of £0.085m - Is this based on the proposals which were considered at Cabinet, or do they include revisions following consideration at the Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A revised Appendix D is being worked on following the comments made at the Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 MARCH 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA on Wednesday, 6 March 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Matt Wright (Chairman)

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Chris Dolphin, David Evans, Veronica Gay, Cindy Hinds, Joe Johnson, Colin Legg, Nancy Matthews, Paul Shotton and Carolyn Thomas

SUBSTITUTES: Councillors Mike Reece (for Peter Curtis), Ian Dunbar (for Ann Minshull) and David Wisinger (for Derek Butler)

APOLOGIES: Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Waste & Recycling and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Leisure

ALSO PRESENT: Leader of the Council and Councillors Patrick Heesom and Christine Jones

CONTRIBUTORS: Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Environment, Director of Environment, Head of Assets & Transportation, Head of Regeneration, Interim Public Protection Manager and Energy Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Environment & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

There were no declarations of interest.

68. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2013 had been circulated with the agenda.

Accuracy

Councillor V. Gay said that in paragraph 2 of page 4 of the minutes, she had asked why £9000 was in the Saltney budget for the public conveniences when they had been closed.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69. ENVIRONMENT QUARTER 3 SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Public Protection

The Interim Public Protection Manager introduced the report for Public Protection and highlighted the following areas where targets had not been achieved:

Animal Health reported an improvement on the previous quarter but had not reached target with High Risk Businesses. The indicator needed to be re-profiled.

Trading Standards – High risk businesses – performance not reached due to a vacant post, but the department was confident they would achieve 99% by end of year.

The Interim Public Protection Manager then highlighted developments in a number of areas including awareness raising about cold callers and consumer rights, an illegal money lending case going to Crown Court and a farmer who had been given a custodial sentence for persistent flouting of TB regulations.

Councillor A.I. Dunbar asked if the government were due to relax restrictions on cold calling. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that he was not aware of any proposals but would check with Trading Standards and get back to him.

Councillor C. Hinds asked about the numbers of prosecutions for dog fouling. The Head of Public Protection said that incidents had to be witnessed in order for tickets to be issued which did prove difficult. Councillor Hinds said that offences were more likely to occur early morning and late at night. A Dog Watch scheme had been set up in Mold, Broughton and Connah's Quay. He confirmed that there were no pending prosecutions at the moment.

Councillor N.M. Matthews said that wider publicity was needed to ensure wider participation in Dog Watch. Councillor V. Gay asked if small flyers could be left in community settings to advertise Dog Watch and to encourage the public to report incidents/regular timings of incidents.

The Chair said that some Members might not be aware of Dog Watch and asked that a note be circulated to Members of the Committee.

Councillor J. Johnson asked if there were any examples of good practice in enforcement from other local authorities. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that all authorities acknowledged the difficulty in issuing fixed Penalty Notices and that Flintshire was adopting a long term strategy. He agreed to check with the Welsh Local Government Association to see if they could offer any examples of good practice.

Councillor Matthews asked if there had been any health and safety issues with tattoo parlours in Flintshire. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that the Council were looking at putting in place a rating scheme for Tattoo parlours, similar to the one in place for food premises.

Councillor P. Shotton said that there was a lack of awareness in the community of the work of the Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. He asked if the service could be advertised in the next edition of Housing News and the Council newspaper. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that it was an excellent suggestion and that he would action it.

Councillor Gay said that she had not received Neighbourhood Warden Neighbourhood reports recently. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that he would make enquiries with the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Councillor C.A. Thomas thanked the Interim Public Protection Manager for his report and raised the issue of people burning tyres in her ward at weekends and in the evening. She asked what could be done out of office hours as she appreciated the offenders had to be caught at the scene. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that there was no dedicated out of hours service, but would ask Pollution Control to investigate if details of location and timings could be forwarded. The Director of Environment suggested that if this was a county-wide issue, more prevalent at the weekend, that he could arrange for officers to spend a weekend monitoring specific areas that had reported issues in the past.

Councillor G.H. Bateman asked for further information about the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Mold. The Interim Public Protection Manager explained that there was an Air Quality Monitoring Station at Mold and that recent air quality levels had exceeded the tolerable levels due to car pollution. The AQMA required the Council to make improvements in the area. Councillor Bateman asked why there had been an increase in calls to Pest Control about rats. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that he did not know the reason for this, but would make enquiries.

Councillor C.J. Dolphin asked if Public Protection had any enforcement powers regarding graffiti. The Interim Public Protection Manager said that he would investigate and refer back to him.

Regeneration

The Head of Regeneration introduced the quarterly report for the service area and highlighted the following areas of activity:

- The Business Plan for the Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ) was now with the Welsh Government and a decision was imminent. Promotional events for the DEZ were now being organised, the first of which was an event at the Welsh Government Office in London.
- Toyota had confirmed 70 new jobs at its engine plant in Deeside and a local supplier to Jaguar had confirmed 26 new jobs.
- The Flintshire Business Week 2012 was attended by almost 2000 delegates and paid for by £130,000 cash and in kind sponsorship.
- Airbus had a full order book for 600 aircraft, with the wings to be made at Broughton.

- Rural and town regeneration funding would be used to enhance Holywell and Mold town centres and Talacre.
- Agreement had been received from the Welsh Government to restructure the Communities First programme and deliver it from two major clusters, the West Cluster, focussed on rural Flintshire and the East Cluster, focussed on Deeside.
- An advanced manufacturing centre has opened at Holywell High School, the first in a school in Wales. A local businessman has donated a range of high technology prototyping machinery to the school.

Councillor A.I. Dunbar thanked the Head of Regeneration for the presentation he had given at the Connah's Quay Community Council. He voiced concern about the numbers of void shops and asked if young business people could be offered leaseholds and business rates at reduced prices in order to encourage take up. The Head of Regeneration said that an Empty Shops Scheme was being developed which would bring together landlords and potential new retailers. A new Enterprise Club designed to encourage more young people to set up in business, had been launched and currently had 26 members.

Councillor Dolphin said that he was supportive of regeneration schemes for Holywell, but expressed concerns at any possible loss of a Crown Post Office in the High Street. He urged the Council to do everything within their power to ensure post offices remained in high street locations.

Councillor Thomas asked if the empty shop scheme was available throughout the county. She pointed out that the proposed closure of public conveniences in rural areas was in conflict with the tourism and rural areas strategy. The Head of Regeneration said that the empty shop scheme would initially operate as a pilot in the Deeside and Holywell areas, which was those areas worst affected by shop closures. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Environment said that the closure of some public conveniences was to be delayed whilst meaningful discussions took place with a view to finding suitable alternative management arrangements at Cilcain and Caerwys.

The Chair said that the Committee welcomed the extended period for discussion in relation to public conveniences.

Assets and Transportation

The Head of Assets and Transportation introduced the quarterly report and reported on the following highlights:

- Flintshire Futures and Flintshire Connects were now exploring facilities within the Flint and Connah's Quay areas.
- Options in relation to the feasibility study for Clwyd Theatr Cymru were being explored and the office rationalisation process continued with the

review and development of strategies linked to the Mold Campus and Connah's Quay Offices.

- Third party lease terminations continued to be progressed.
- Third phase of refurbishment at the Alltami Depot was imminent.
- Integrated transport solution to be investigated after the review of subsidised transport had been concluded. The exploration of a regional transport solution continued to be progressed through TAITH.
- Work on the agricultural estate rationalisation programme had continued.
- Design development work and cost planning continued to progress in relation to the new school at Shotton.
- Continued exploration of potential opportunities for renewable technologies for use in schools.

Councillor D. Evans thanked the Head of Assets and Transportation for the completion of the bus bay works at Shotton which was making a difference. He asked if cycle lanes could be introduced from the Deeside strip to the Sandycroft area and also voiced concern at the insufficient links into phase 4 of the Deeside Industrial Park. The Head of Assets and Transportation said that TAITH were conducting a feasibility study to see if a route could be established into Sandycroft. At Shotton, work would be undertaken to create an integrated traffic light system, but funding for any such schemes was currently uncertain for 2013-14.

Councillor Dolphin expressed concern about Community Asset Transfers and said that Flintshire should ensure that assets were well maintained prior to handover. The Director of Environment said that assets would be rationalised under Flintshire Futures and that this would result in some buildings being transferred to the community. He said that buildings in a state of neglect may not be effectively transferred to a small community group, unless they were able to access grants that the Council were unable to bid for.

Councillor Matthews asked if the Mold Flood Alleviation Scheme could look at all parts of Mold and not just one side of the town. The Chair advised that this was included on the Forward Work Plan.

Councillor M. Reece asked if solar energy panels could be placed on County Hall campus buildings. The Head of Assets and Transportation said that this was not an option at this time.

Councillor C. Legg asked for clarification about the regional transport solution. The Head of Assets and Transportation said that all six local authorities in North Wales were exploring options for planning and managing transport on a regional basis.

Councillor Thomas said that European Rural Development Project funding could be accessed for Community Transfers. She asked that Members lobby the Welsh Local Government Association to access the funding.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the 2012-13 Quarter 3 performance reports.

70. ENERGY SWITCHING SCHEME

The Head of Assets and Transportation introduced the report which was compiled in response to a Council resolution passed in January 2013 to bring a report on Energy Switching schemes to a meeting of the Committee.

Collective energy switching models allowed residents to register online via a web based auction system and a specialist company would then bid for the best deals from energy suppliers. Officers had recently held discussions with South Lakeland District Council to ascertain whether Flintshire should get involved in a bulk switching scheme ran by iChoosr. The iChoosr Bulk Purchase Scheme was available for electric and gas mains (where available) customers but did not accommodate pre payment customers.

Councillor N.M. Matthews thanked the Head of Assets and Transportation for the report. She said that there were a number of online energy comparison websites and that the Council should support the scheme. She asked if the Council intended to send a representative to the National Energy Action Cymru Conference in Llandudno on 21 March 2013. The Head of Assets and Transportation confirmed that a staff member was due to attend and that they would report back to the Committee. He added that there was a great deal of apathy with customers about energy websites and some customers were not comfortable in changing supplier.

Councillor C.J. Dolphin voiced his disappointment at the lack of progress to date on this matter and that the support of the Council was pivotal to the success of any local energy switching scheme. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member For Environment said that the Council would do all it could to assist with this scheme and was concerned that 90% of people in fuel poverty had pre payment meters which made them ineligible to join the scheme.

Councillor J. Johnson asked if residents in Flintshire could join schemes in other areas, such as Liverpool. The Head of Assets and Transportation said that this was feasible.

Councillor C. Hinds asked how vulnerable people without home computers could register for the scheme. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment said that advertisements could be placed in the Housing News, the Council Newspaper, local press and posters in libraries. Computer facilities were available in libraries and Flintshire Connects offices.

Councillor C.A. Thomas asked if the Energy Manager would meet with Gary Jones in the South Flintshire Housing Office was assisting communities to access gas mains schemes, as many customers in fuel poverty were not on gas

mains. The Energy Manager said that he was due to attend a meeting in the Sealand area, which Gary was due to attend.

The Chair said it was the moral obligation of the Council to be more proactive in this matter, in the light of so many residents struggling financially.

The Committee agreed that a more detailed report was required along with a proactive marketing plan for switching schemes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a further, detailed report about Energy Switching Schemes be submitted to the committee within 3 months; and
- (b) That a marketing plan be produced and submitted to the committee within 3 months.

71. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Environment & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator introduced a report to enable the Committee to consider the Forward Work Programme.

It was proposed that at the meeting on 10 April 2013, there would be an update on the Food Waste Project as well as the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project. The missed collections technology agenda item would be deferred until the recycling site visit.

The meeting on 22 May 2013 would not be held at Loggerheads Country Park, but in County Hall. Councillor C.A. Thomas asked that David Sheil, AONB Manager, be invited to the meeting.

Councillor V. Gay asked that the Mersey Dee Alliance be put as an item on the Forward Work Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approve the Forward Work Programme including the amendments listed.

72. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.55 am)

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Chairman

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
SUBJECT: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND EUROPEAN
STRUCTURAL FUNDS

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To update Members on the progress made in implementing the Rural Development Plan for Wales (RDP) 2007-2013 in Flintshire and on the current position with European Structural Fund programmes and the future development of European programmes.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The RDP is part of the Common Agricultural Policy and is supported by both European Commission and Welsh Government funding. It has four major objectives, called Axes, aligned to the Commission's priorities for rural development. The purpose of each Axis is as follows:

Axis 1 – to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Axis 2 – to improve the environment and the countryside.

Axis 3 – to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to diversify the rural economy.

Axis 4 – to pilot innovative projects that address Axes 1, 2 and 3.

- 2.02 The County Council acts as the Lead Body and has responsibility for overseeing the implementation and reporting of Axis 3 projects. Cadwyn Clwyd is responsible for the delivery and reporting of all Axis 4 projects.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

Rural Development Plan

- 3.01 All four Axis 3 projects commenced at the beginning of March 2011. Two of the projects (Flintshire Enterprise Project and Flintshire Community Key Fund) are delivered by Cadwyn Clwyd. The County Council has the responsibility for delivering the other two projects (Linking Flintshire's Communities and Town & Village Streetscape Enhancements)

- 3.02 The Flintshire Enterprise Project has approved 35 bursaries to date with a total value of £86,811, which will lead to the creation of 35 new rural enterprises and a minimum of 35 new jobs.
- 3.03 The Linking Flintshire's Communities project is intended to provide improved connections between our towns and villages. These new footpath/cycle routes will encourage more sustainable journeys to work, as well as providing new attractions for visitors. Work is progressing on the three coastal communities routes: the Gronant Pegasus scheme, the Talacre cycle path and footpaths 64 and 69 in Mostyn. Further details of this project will be provided in the presentation at the meeting.
- 3.04 To date the Flintshire Community Key Fund has approved 25 rural village and community building enhancement schemes. Schemes that have been completed this quarter include the extension of Nannerch Memorial Hall, improvements to Halkyn Parish Hall, energy efficiency measures for Cilcain Village Hall and the provision of community space at Brynford Church. The Key Fund has been extremely popular and its budget is nearly fully committed.
- 3.05 As part of the Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement (TVSE) project, comprehensive discussions and site investigations are underway to develop a temporary overspill car park in Talacre. This is proving to be a lengthy process because of the need to consider all the environmental designations and to balance them with the views of local residents and businesses. An artist has been appointed to work with the Gronant and Talacre communities to develop sense of arrival/sense of place features. Design consultants have also been progressing the feasibility, consultation and detailed design for the redevelopment of Daniel Owen Square in Mold.
- 3.06 The Axis 3 quarterly progress updates (Appendix 1) and the financial spreadsheets (Appendix 2) relate to the period **1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013** for the Business Plan 2 projects. The appendices provide more detail on the activity and the financial situation of each project. The Cadwyn Clwyd presentation at the meeting will expand on their Axis 3 and Axis 3 activities in Flintshire.
- 3.07 At the end of February the Welsh Government approved enhancements and extensions to the projects. The projects will now proceed as follows:
- Flintshire Enterprise project – extended to the end of 2014 and an awarded an additional £48,000 of RDP funding.
 - Linking Flintshire's Communities – extended to the end of 2014.
 - Flintshire Community Key Fund – extended to the middle of 2014.
 - TVSE – extended to the end of 2014.
 - Lead Body costs – extended to February 2015.

This 12 month extension should provide the necessary time to ensure the projects are successfully concluded to budget and schedule.

3.08 The Welsh Government recently launched its consultation on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform for the new 2014-2020 RDP programme. Key areas for consideration include:

- The geographical area to be supported by CAP
- The removal of the current Axes and Measures structure to be replaced by 6 priority areas.
- Rural development to be covered by a single priority area 'promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas'
- The re-focus of LEADER activities to support entrepreneurship and innovation.
- The delivery framework and the structures required to implement the new programme.
- Better integration with, and alignment to, the European Structural Funds
- Simplifying and streamlining the implementation processes and procedures.

Flintshire County Council (following consideration of a report to Cabinet on 23rd April), the Flintshire Rural Partnership and Cadwyn Clwyd will all be submitting responses to the Welsh Government by mid April.

European Structural Funds

3.09 The European Structural Fund programmes for 2014-2020 are also under development: at the EU, UK and Wales levels. The overall EU budget has not yet been finalised, but it is expected that less funding will be available than previously.

Welsh Government is currently consulting on its proposed approach to the new programmes and the County Council will be responding to this consultation at the end of April.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Members note the progress in implementing the Rural Development Plan in Flintshire and the briefing material on European Structural Funds.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The only change to the financial implications since the previous report is the increase in the Axis 3 match funding underwrite. As a result of the Welsh Government's approval of enhanced funding this has increased from £524,000 to £536,000. The Axis 4 project which currently has a match value of £473,000 is likely to increase slightly

once the Welsh Government has approved the enhancement application. The County Council also provides funding to support Cadwyn Clwyd's core costs (£17,000 p.a.) up to 2013 and to match fund rural projects (£18,000 p.a.).

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The measures included within the RDP have been identified to assist rural areas, address deprivation and weaknesses such as low productivity, employment, local economic activity rates, the existence of pockets of social exclusion and poor access to services. The programme and the Business Plan projects will therefore make an important contributing towards sustaining communities in rural Flintshire.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 Support will be given to those projects that help to conserve and make the best use of the area's natural and built environment. Environmental sustainability is one of the cross-cutting themes for the programme and all projects will need to integrate this into their design and delivery and their impact will be monitored.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Axes 3 and 4 have measures which aim to increase participation in community life, assist in establishing and expanding community-led initiatives and maximise the contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural regeneration of rural areas. Equal opportunities and social inclusion are cross-cutting themes for the RDP and all projects and contracts will need to integrate these into their design and delivery and their impact is monitored.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The administration and management role of the Lead Body requires considerable staff time to ensure robust programme and project management. Funding is available from the RDP to provide staff resources to manage the programme.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Rural ward members, rural town and community councils, public sector agencies and voluntary and community groups will play a key role in implementing the programme and have an opportunity to be involved in many of the projects to be undertaken.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Consultation has been very wide in developing the themes and projects for the programme. Individual project delivery organisations have been undertaking their own consultation to develop their specific projects. The County Council has utilised a wide range of publicity methods including a launch event, a project publication, articles in local newsletters, development of a website and attending various events to promote the programme.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Axis 3 Quarterly Progress Report
Appendix 2 – Axis 3 Financial Report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 (WG)
Rural Development Strategy for Flintshire
Flintshire Business Plan 1 2008-2010
Flintshire Business Plan 2 2011-2013

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Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

AXIS 3 & AXIS 4 OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WALES 2007 - 2013

QUARTERLY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The purpose of the Quarterly Report is to provide a project level progress update and qualitative assessment of how Axis 3 and Axis 4 activities delivered by the Local Partnership and Local Action Group during previous quarter are contributing to the aims and objectives of the Local Partnership's Local Development Strategy.

A Quarterly Report must be completed for each project electronically and a signed hard copy sent together with the claim form within **20 working days** of the quarter ending.

The Welsh Government will consider the latest Quarterly Report submitted by the Local Partnership in order to make a payment. Failure to submit the Quarterly Report within 20 working days of the quarter ending may result in the Welsh Government withholding payments.

The Quarterly Report may be distributed to other Local Partnerships, departments within the Welsh Government and the Programme Monitoring Committee.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Lead Body/Partnership Costs

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.17

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003165

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

- **Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter**

The main issue this quarter is that there has not been a Finance & Monitoring Officer working as part of the Lead Body. One of the officers is still on maternity leave and the other officer has been on long term sick and has since given their notice to resign from their position. The Rural Development Officer has therefore taken on this role in addition to their other duties and will continue to do so until the other Finance & Monitoring Officer returns from maternity leave in May.

In early December the Rural Development Officer conducted a number of asset monitoring visits with the Monitoring Officer for the Welsh Government - Rural Programmes. This involved monitoring a sample of projects supported under Business Plan 1, namely the Realising the Potential of Tourism project and the Sense of Place project. All assets were still in place and being used for the purposes that were initially intended.

The Flintshire Rural Partnership held a quarterly meeting on 18th December 2012. There was a presentation from the Linking Flintshire's Communities project.

The Rural Development Officer and the Axis 4 Coordinator from Cadwyn Clwyd conducted a joint presentation to the Flintshire Regeneration Partnership on the 6th December. The presentation involved a progress report on the programme as a whole and an update on the developments of the new programme.

In February feedback was received by the Welsh Government on the Axis 3 N+2 applications. This comprised comments from both an initial check and then a thorough appraisal. The majority of queries related to financial matters and the Rural Development Officer submitted the revised finances. At the end of February notification was received from the Welsh Government that the extension and the enhancement for all the Axis 3 projects and Lead Body costs had been approved.

- **Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy**

The aim of the Flintshire Rural Partnership is to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in rural Flintshire by developing and implementing appropriate regeneration initiatives. The Partnership will strive to create a prosperous local economy and an improved quality of life for the people living, working and visiting the area.

The strategic objectives of the Rural Development Strategy for Flintshire (2007 - 2013) are as follows:

- To encourage local enterprise and initiative,
- To enhance the skills of the local workforce, including better opportunities for the young people in the rural area,
- To modernise and diversify the area's economic base,
- To support the development of sustainable rural communities,
- To benefit areas of need and alleviate social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area,
- To improve access to, and the provision of, basic services to the rural communities,
- To enhance the local environmental image of the area and to appreciate the rural heritage,
- To promote and strengthen tourism, culture and crafts in the rural hinterland, and
- To improve community awareness and participation in the area's future.

All activity undertaken this quarter still contributes to the aims and objectives of the Rural Development Strategy. The Business Plan 2 projects aim to tackle a wide range of issues including: encouraging local enterprise and initiative, improving linkages to enhance the access to basic services and facilities and improving the built environment of rural towns and villages.

This report is an accurate reflection of the implementation progress made under this project during the past quarter and has been/will be submitted to the Local Partnership.
For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature..... Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Flintshire Enterprise Bursary

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.52

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003513

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

• **Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter**

During the last quarter, 3 bursary applications were approved. In the January meeting, the panel requested additional information on one application, and this application was later approved by e-mail. Therefore a total of 35 bursaries have been approved to date.

Enquiries and submissions were very low during the quarter. Discussions with other agencies disclosed the fact that business related enquiries always fall before and after Christmas.

The Enterprise Officer, together with the Finance and Monitoring Officer for the Lead Body and the Monitoring Officer for the Welsh Government - Rural Programmes undertook capital asset visits during the quarter. Although time consuming, it was a great opportunity to speak to the bursary recipients about their businesses.

A great deal of time was spent in the last quarter, requesting match-funding, evidence of trading and the other forms needed to claim outputs for the project from bursary recipients.

• **Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy**

The Enterprise Project continues to encourage local enterprise and initiative by enabling people to start their own business.

This provides better opportunities for the young people starting their own business and also young people who may be employed by the new businesses.

The three applicants who were awarded a bursary in the last quarter were unemployed. Assisting them into self-employment and to come off benefits helps to alleviate social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area.

This report is an accurate reflection of the implementation progress made under this project during the past quarter and has been/will be submitted to the Local Partnership.
For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature.....Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Linking Flintshire's Communities

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.54

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003530

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

- Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter

Mold/ Sychdyn - Northop/Flint Cycleway

Still awaiting a promotion plaque from the Welsh Government to erect on the site.

Gronant Pegasus Scheme

The implementation of this scheme has not gone to schedule but tenders have now been invited from 6 contractors on the list. The works should be complete on site by May 13th. It is likely the claim for this scheme will be made at the end of Sept 2013.

Talacre

The ecology report is now complete and indicates that a number of mitigation measures will be required on site. The project officer convened a meeting between the landowners (BHP and Environment Agency), RSPB, CCW, FCC Ecologist, Rights of Way and Legal to explore 3 different parts of the route. Discussions focused on the following:

- appropriate screening measures due to winter roosting birds;
- tenant farmer negotiations regarding the tenancy agreement;
- design issues at the entrance from Colliery Road.
- it is a Ramsar site;
- access issues for the Environment Agency to undertake flood alleviation works;
- there is badger sett on site, and
- landownership clarification and negotiations.

The Environment Agency suggested that an application for flood defence consent be issued for the whole route. FCC will apply for flood defence consent after planning permission. There are still a lot of meetings and discussions to be held. The window for the work to be carried out on site is May to August – likely to be 2014. A request has been made for a Valuer to be appointed to negotiate the easement between FCC and the landowners.

Footpath 64 & 69, Mostyn

Designs work for FP 64 is now complete. This will not go out to tender until the design work for FP 69 is finalised as they will be progressed as one scheme for cost effectiveness. Negotiations with Network Rail (landowner) have been ongoing for months regarding the enhancement of FP 69. Still need to agree what surface should be laid on the route. There is also an ongoing issue with mud being carried across the path by cattle. The adjacent fields are very boggy, particularly by the gates where the cattle congregate before crossing. The most the Highway Authority can do is get the tenant farmer to clear the mud after the cattle crosses. Negotiations are ongoing.

- Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy

The three schemes being developed in the last quarter will provide sustainable access to the Coast and to Tourism sites from rural villages in areas of social deprivation.

This report is an accurate reflection of the implementation progress made under this project during the past quarter and has been/will be submitted to the Local Partnership.
For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature..... Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: Flintshire Rural Partnership

PROJECT NAME: Flintshire Village Enhancements

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: FLI.55

PROJECT PAYMENT REFERENCE: R6003541

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: 1st December 2012 to 28th February 2013

- Give an overview of progress made in implementing this project over the last quarter

FLI.55(a) – Flintshire Community Key Fund

Projects developed and approved:

During the quarter, no projects have received funding through the Flintshire Rural Key Fund, however projects have been developed in the last quarter which will be presented to the Steering Group in the near future.

Projects completed:

Nannerch Memorial Hall – Renovations

In the last quarter the Nannerch Memorial Hall - Renovations Project was completed. The project provided funding for the construction of an extension to the rear of the building to provide much needed storage. This has helped existing user groups and has also increased the halls usability and flexibility. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £24,994.

Halkyn Parish Hall – Improvements

In the last quarter the Halkyn Parish Hall – Improvements Project was completed. The project provided funding for the development and enhancement of community facilities for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. This included improvement to the main hall flooring, provision of user friendly tables, energy efficiency measures, ICT facilities and the renovation of the hall meeting room. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £20,613.50.

Pentre Halkyn Village Hall – Renovation

In the last quarter the Pentre Halkyn Village Hall - Renovation Project was completed. The project provided funding to replace the old felt roof with a long lasting waterproof membrane with improved insulation. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £20,735.88

Cilcain Village Hall - Internal Improvements

In the last quarter the Cilcain Village Hall – Internal Improvements Project was completed. The project provided funding for the improvement to the heating and the insulation of the building and the electrical services. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £24,999.

Treuddyn Village Hall - Roof Renovation

In the last quarter the Treuddyn Village Hall – Roof Renovation Project was completed. The project provided funding for the renovation of the roof. The project replaced the old felt roof with a long lasting waterproof membrane with improved insulation. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £21,670.

Brynford Church - Community Space

In the last quarter the Brynford Church – Community Space Project was completed. The project provided funding for the provision of a community space developed at the rear of the church providing new facilities within the building, which included the toilet, kitchen and meeting room facilities and a hearing loop system. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £24,999.

Holywell Art & Craft Mill - Facility Improvements

In the last quarter the Holywell Art & Craft Mill – Facility Improvements Project was completed. The project provided funding to improve the facilities decoration, ventilation and storage. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £10,966.

Rhydymwyn Football Club – Community Room Improvements

In the last quarter the Rhydymwyn Football Club – Community Room Improvements project was completed. The project provided funding to improve facilities within the community room of the club for the benefit of the community. As such, the project supported the fitting of triple glazed windows. The total amount of RDP funding awarded was £4,318.

Future Projects:

There continues to be keen interest in the Flintshire Rural Key Fund from a range of organisations and it is envisaged that a number grant proposals will be presented to the Steering Group for assessment in the near future.

FLI.55 (b) – Town & Village Streetscape Enhancements

Talacre and Gronant Streetscape & Access Improvements

Work Stream 1 - Overspill Car Parking Sites

- Ramboll has now completed its commission on exploring the feasibility of overspill parking in Talacre; detailed designs have been completed on 2 sites: Bridlewood Riding Centre and Crofts Club. Proposed designs have been completed on the Warren, Gamfa Wen following ground investigation. An assessment is awaited on the possibility of using the ditch as off street parking in Talacre.

Work Stream 2 – Sense of Arrival/ Place

- 5 tenders were received on the 25th January and 4 interviews were held on 4th February to appoint an artist for the public art commission to create a better sense of place by designing, fabricating and installing arrival and place making features.
- The inception meeting has taken place with the Artwork Committee and a programme of work has been agreed with community consultation taking place in the coming weeks.

Work Stream 3 – Streetscape Improvements

- FCC Engineers have been requests to explore the feasibility of the 2 small sections of pavement improvements in both Talacre and Lower Gronant. Outline plans and costs due back by the end of March.
- Following an initial quote for the enhancement of the public toilets, a review of the specified works is being undertaken with the aim of bringing down the cost. This project will then be tendered locally with building contractors.

- Initial discussions have taken place to explore the possibility of lamp post banners in Talacre. A meeting with all relevant parties is to take place in the coming weeks. Additional funding to complement this work has been secured through Cadwyn Clwyd to appoint an artist to work with the community and design and produce the banners; the TVSE project will just fund the assessment and installation of the necessary post brackets.

Work Stream 4 – Signage

- A signage proposal has been considered by FCC Highways and signage applications are now being submitted for Gronant and Bridlewood signs. These will be subject to an initial assessment to determine whether such signs are feasible in this location and for the proposed content.

Holywell Streetscape & Access Improvements

- FCC Engineers have commenced the feasibility of the public realm improvement concept for Holywell High Street. The commission includes feasibility, consultation and detailed designs and is programmed to be completed in June 2013.

Mold Streetscape & Access Improvements

- Harrison Design Consultancy was appointed to complete the feasibility, consultation and detailed design of the re-design of Daniel Owen Square.
- Consultation sessions were held in early January with stakeholders and officers of the Council.
- Initial designs are being presented next week following assessments and feasibility. A couple of options will be chosen and further consultation will take place in March/ April.

Streetscape Improvement Grant Scheme

- One grants panel took place during the quarter – 26th February which considered 1 full application and 2 EOIs.
- To date 13 EOIs and 3 full applications have been approved and the scheme is now fully committed.
- Works has commenced on 2 of the 3 schemes awarded grant assistance and are due to be completed in March.

- Describe how the activities delivered have contributed to achieving the aims and objectives listed in the Local Partnership's approved Local Development Strategy

FLI.55(a) – Flintshire Community Key Fund

Within the last quarter the activities listed above have taken place with advice and assistance from the Rural Key Fund Project Officer. The activities have broadly met the strategic objectives of the Partnership, as they supported the development of sustainable rural communities, benefitted areas of need and alleviated social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area and improved access to, and the provision of, basic services within the rural communities of Flintshire.

FLI.55 (b) – Town & Village Streetscape Enhancements

The Axis 3 projects continue to address the aims and objectives of the Strategy through

the following activities undertaken this quarter:

To promote and strengthen tourism, culture and crafts in the rural hinterland

- Improvements being planned in main tourism hubs – Talacre / Gronant, Mold and Holywell.
- Visitor facilities being considered alongside rather than as part of the project in Holywell.

To enhance the local environmental image of the area and to appreciate the rural heritage,

- Streetscape improvements being planned in Mold, Holywell and Talacre / Gronant.
- Exhibition facilities being considered alongside rather than as part of the project in Holywell.

To benefit areas of need and alleviate social problems, especially associated with marginalised communities in the rural area,

- The improvements planned for Talacre / Gronant will benefit the residents in this Communities First area.

This report is an accurate reflection of the implementation progress made under this project during the past quarter and has been/will be submitted to the Local Partnership.
For and Behalf of Flintshire County Council

Signature.....Date.....

Print name.....Sharon Barlow

Commitment/Spend and Match Analysis

As at 28th February 2013

Due to the drawn out and bureaucratic process of claiming from the Rural Development Programme it has become apparent that the activity of the projects is not always shown in the best light. All projects have submitted the expenditure that they have committed to activities alongside the actual amount that has come through the claiming process.

Target - This is the amount that the project has said it will spend on each budget heading over the life of the project

Committed Spend - This is money that has been awarded to an activity however has not necessarily been spent. Committed money is then promised to an activity and can not be spent elsewhere. Please note that this amount does include the actual expenditure.

Actual Expenditure - This is the amount of money which has been claimed from the lead body and processed

Contributed - This is funding that has been brought in as match however has not yet been spent and so can not be included in the claim process

Actual Match Spent - This is the match which has been received and spent by the project. The match is supported by all of the necessary evidence of expenditure

An Analysis of the match brought in by Axis 4 projects which has been underwritten by Flintshire County Council has also been included.



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Flintshire Rural Development Plan (Business Plan 2)

Actual & Committed spend analysis as at 28th February 2013

LEAD BODY SPEND

FLI.17 - Partnership Running Costs			
Cost Heading	Total Project Approved Spend	Amount claimed to Feb 2013	Total Committed Spend
Salaries	£615,657.28	479999.14	573752.99
Recruitment	£9,032.52	4516.52	4516.52
Travelling	£9,779.01	7079.77	7485.43
Training	£4,254.00	2787.12	2787.12
Lead Body Overheads	£51,262.26	26766.29	29603.74
Partnership Costs	£11,250.85	6551.76	9022.16
LATEST APPROVED SPEND	£701,235.92	£527,700.60	£627,167.96
		75.25%	89.44%

Flintshire Rural Development Plan (Business Plan 2)

Actual & Committed spend analysis as at 28th February 2013

BP2 - SPEND

FLI.52 - Flintshire Enterprise Project (Cadwyn Clwyd)			
Cost Heading	Total Project Approved Spend	Amount claimed to 31st December 2012	Total Committed Spend to 28th February 2013
Capital Bursaries	£51,250.00	£29,905.20	£33,159.00
Revenue Bursaries	£73,750.00	£40,268.63	£53,652.00
Consultancy (workshops & business development)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Consultancy (role models/mentoring)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Marketing	£9,000.00	£172.00	£2,000.00
Officer salary	£51,000.00	£33,291.86	£51,000.00
Overhead costs	£8,500.00	£5,430.46	£8,500.00
Facilitation	£8,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
LATEST APPROVED SPEND	£201,500.00	£109,068.15	£148,311.00
		54.13%	73.60%

FLI.54 - Linking Flintshire's Communities (FCC)			
Cost Heading	Total Project Approved Spend	Amount claimed to 31st December 2012	Total Committed Spend to 28th February 2013
Coastal Community Links Project - signage and interpretation	£5,950.00	£0.00	£5,950.00
Coastal Community Links Project - development (design/consultation)	£19,561.75	£0.00	£19,561.75
Coastal Community Links Project - infrastructure works & construction	£199,250.00	£0.00	£199,250.00
Inter village connections - signage and interpretation	£19,950.00	£0.00	£0.00
Inter village connections - development (design/consultation)	£29,840.75	£0.00	£0.00
Inter village connections - infrastructure works & construction	£449,350.00	£0.00	£178,826.52
Promotion of routes/Web development	£20,000.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
Project Management (2 officers)	£150,230.12	£37,587.16	£66,405.65
LATEST APPROVED SPEND	£894,132.62	£37,587.16	£474,993.92
		4.20%	53.12%

FLI.55 - Flintshire Village Enhancements (Flintshire Community Key Fund - Cadwyn Clwyd)			
Cost Heading	Total Project Approved Spend	Amount claimed to 31st December 2012	Total Committed Spend to 28th February 2013
Capital Grant	£488,000.00	£258,911.55	£466,407.00
Revenue Key Fund	£5,000.00	£1,374.26	£4,000.00
Marketing	£2,000.00	£1,374.26	£2,000.00
Officer Salary	£99,218.00	£57,057.77	£99,218.00
Overheads	£19,782.00	£8,997.08	£19,782.00
LATEST APPROVED SPEND	£614,000.00	£327,714.92	£591,407.00
		53.37%	96.32%

FLI.55 - Flintshire Village Enhancements (Town & Village Streetscape Enhancements - FCC)			
Cost Heading	Total Project Approved Spend	Amount claimed to 31st December 2012	Total Committed Spend to 28th February 2013
Talacre/Gronant Streetscape and Access Improvements	£380,000.00	£1,266.05	£83,407.00
Mold Streetscape and Access Improvements	£100,000.00	£0.00	£10,000.00
Holywell Streetscape and Access Improvements	£100,000.00	£0.00	£25,000.00
Streetscape Improvement Grant	£150,000.00	£0.00	£21,043.71
Project Officer - Salary & Costs	£95,929.25	£33,789.29	£62,861.69
Promotion	£4,000.00	£332.59	£961.77
Technical Support	£36,000.00	£13,133.83	£36,000.00
LATEST APPROVED SPEND	£865,929.25	£48,521.76	£239,274.17
		5.60%	27.63%

ALL PROJECTS (COMPARISON AGAINST ORIGINAL APPROVED SPEND)			
Cost Heading	Total Project Approved Spend	Amount claimed to 31st December 2012	Total Committed Spend to 28th February 2013
FLI.52 - Flintshire Enterprise Project (Cadwyn Clwyd)	£201,500.00	£109,068.15	£148,311.00
FLI.54 - Linking Flintshire's Communities (FCC)	£894,132.62	£37,587.16	£474,993.92
FLI.55 - Flintshire Village Enhancements (Cadwyn Clwyd)	£614,000.00	£327,714.92	£591,407.00
FLI.55 - Flintshire Village Enhancements (FCC)	£865,929.25	£48,521.76	£239,274.17
TOTAL	£2,575,561.87	£522,891.99	£1,453,986.09
		20.30%	56.45%

Flintshire Rural Development Plan (Business Plan 2)

Axis 3 Project Match analysis as at 28th February 2013

BP2 - MATCH

FLI.52 - Flintshire Enterprise Project (Cadwyn Clwyd)					
Match Funder	Target	Actual Match Spent to December 2012		Total Contributed as at 28th February 2013	
Bursary Applicants	£22,500.00	£14,344.00		£20,020.00	
School Bursary Applicants	£2,500.00	£0.00		£0.00	
Flintshire County Council	£15,300.00	£6,587.44		£6,587.44	
	£40,300.00	£20,931.44	51.94%	£26,607.44	66.02%

FLI.54 - Linking Flintshire's Communities (FCC)					
Match Funder	Target	Actual Match Spent to December 2012		Total Contributed as at 28th February 2013	
Regional Transport Fund (WAG)	£178,826.52	£0.00		£178,826.52	
	£178,826.52	£0.00	0.00%	£178,826.52	100.00%

FLI.55a - Flintshire Village Enhancements (Flintshire Community Key Fund - Cadwyn Clwyd)					
Match Funder	Target	Actual Match Spent to December 2012		Total Contributed as at 28th February 2013	
Community Groups	£118,750.00	£58,864.00		£121,611.00	
Flintshire County Council	£4,050.00	£0.00		£0.00	
	£122,800.00	£58,864.00	47.93%	£121,611.00	99.03%

FLI.55b - Flintshire Village Enhancements (Flintshire Town & Village Streetscape - FCC)					
Match Funder	Target	Actual Match Spent to December 2012		Total Contributed as at 28th February 2013	
Grant Recipients	£75,000.00	£0.00		£26,363.71	
Regeneration Funding (FCC)	£88,185.88	£9,704.36		£88,000.00	
Town & Community Councils	£10,000.00	£0.00		£0.00	
	£173,185.88	£9,704.36	5.60%	£114,363.71	66.04%

Project	Target	Actual Match Spent to December 2012		Total Contributed as at 28th February 2013	
FLI.52 - Flintshire Enterprise Project	£40,300.00	£20,931.44		£26,607.44	
FLI.54 - Linking Flintshire's Communities	£178,826.52	£0.00		£178,826.52	
FLI.55a - Flintshire Village Enhancements (Cadwyn)	£122,800.00	£58,864.00		£121,611.00	
FLI.55b - Flintshire Village Enhancements (FCC)	£173,185.88	£9,704.36		£114,363.71	
	£515,112.40	£89,499.80	17.37%	£441,408.67	85.69%

Flintshire Rural Development Plan (Business Plan 2)
Axis 4 Project Match analysis as at 28th February 2013

BP2 - AXIS 4 MATCH

Match underwritten by FCC

FLI.57 - Innovation Flintshire					
Match Funder	Target	Actual Match Spent to December 2012		Total Contributed as at 28th February 2013	
Public	£266,950.00	£40,632.00		£159,998.00	
Private	£206,050.00	£63,731.00		£148,238.00	
in-kind					
	£473,000.00	£104,363.00	22.06%	£308,236.00	65.17%

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Flintshire Rural Partnership
26th March 2013

FLI.52 – Flintshire Enterprise Project

This project is administered by Cadwyn Clwyd and activity on the project commenced in March 2011.

The project is subject to an enhancement and extension application and, following written confirmation from the Welsh Government, will see its budget increase to £261,500. There will also be some changes to the budget headings.

To date £109,068.15 (54.13%) of the budget has been spent and £148,311 (73.6%) of the costs has been committed. The match funding contributions are slightly lower. No match has been secured from school bursary applicants and there is still a significant amount to be claimed from Flintshire County Council.

FLI.54 – Linking Flintshire's Communities

This project is administered by Flintshire County Council and activity on this project commenced in March 2012.

The project is subject to an extension application which will also result in changes to the budget headings.

To date the only spend has been on salaries under the project management budget heading.

The match funding of £178,826.52 for this project has been contributed from the Regional Transport Fund (WG) for the construction of the cycle path from Mold to Sychdyn, and Sychdyn to Flint. This will represent the sole scheme under the inter village connections budget heading. The three coastal community links schemes are progressing and the indicative spend has been committed for those 3 budget areas.

FLI.55 – Flintshire Village Enhancements

Flintshire Community Key Fund

This element of the project is administered by Cadwyn Clwyd and project activity commenced in March 2011.

This project is subject to an extension application.

The project budget is nearly committed, with sufficient funding under the capital grant heading to support another scheme, two at a maximum. The last quarter has seen the completion of a number of capital schemes which has resulted in an increase in the capital expenditure. The match funding amount

which has been spent is slightly lower than the spend levels, however the majority of the match has been committed.

Town & Village Streetscape Enhancements

This element of the project is administered by Flintshire County Council and activity on this project commenced in March 2011.

This project is subject to an extension application.

Actual spend and committed spend levels on this project are still low. This project is subject to lengthy and protracted negotiations and agreements and consents need to be secured before any implementation activity can proceed. However a 12 month extension should ensure that the project concludes successfully on time and on budget.

Actual match is on target compared to the actual spend amount and 66% of the match has already been contributed.

FLI.17 – Lead Body Running Costs

The Lead Body budget is paid 100% from the RDP and no match funding is required. Currently the Lead Body project runs up until February 2014, but this is also subject to an extension enhancement.

The majority of the budget comprises of staff costs. Staff costs are incurred because the Lead Body accounts for, and administers, the Rural Development Plan Programme. The Lead Body does not implement project activity, but is responsible for processing and accounting for the claims from the projects. It then makes the appropriate financial claims to the Welsh Government to draw down the funding.

The current staffing situation provides the opportunity for the Lead Body to review its current management structure and arrangements. This may result in changes to the current budgets.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2013

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: COMMUNITIES FIRST

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update Members on the new Communities First Programme in Flintshire, following Welsh Government (WG) approval of the revised two Cluster bid approved by Cabinet on 12 June 2012.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The report to Cabinet of 12 June 2012 set out Flintshire's revised proposals for the next phase of the CF programme. Cabinet approved proposals for continuing to deliver a Communities First (CF) programme through the establishment of two CF Clusters with Flintshire County Council as the Lead Delivery Body (LDB).

2.02 The revised Cluster proposals were based on advice from WG and further negotiation about which areas of Flintshire could form a viable bid. The following revised Cluster arrangements were approved by WG:-

Flintshire East

LSOAs	WIMD Rank	Population
Shotton Higher 2	83	1,478
Connah's Quay Golftyn 4	153	1,450
Connah's Quay Central 2	260	1,668
Shotton Higher 1	297	1,098
Sealand 2	330	1,383
Queensferry	498	2007
	TOTAL POP	9084

Flintshire West

LSOAs proposed	WIMD Rank	Population
Holywell Central	155	1,875
Mold West 1	184	1,073
Flint Castle	209	2,129
Greenfield 1	214	1,534
Flint Oakenholt 1	351	1,421
Flint Coleshill 2	421	1,248
	TOTAL POP	9,280

- 2.03 Cabinet also approved a revised staffing structure, with no reduction in staffing, but with significant efficiency savings on administration, accommodation, agile working and shared staff resources across the two Clusters. This will enable greater focus to be put on delivering the desired outcomes from the CF programme.
- 2.04 In November 2012, Flintshire's programme was one of the first to be confirmed. Following a period of transitional funding between 1 April 2012 and 30 September 2012, the two Clusters bid was agreed in full with £1,713,201 awarded for the period from 1 October 2012 to 31 March 2015, annual resources of approximately £709,000. This exceeded the original proposal for annual resources of £638,555 for three years from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015. This is in contrast to other CF areas where resources were significantly reduced. It is understood that some areas did not submit a viable bid by the deadline, or have not yet had approval for their delivery plans.
- 2.05 In addition to the core staff structure, CF will be part funding one FTE Youth Service post, one FTE Careers Wales post and one post through Coleg Harlech Workers Educational Association (WEA). Each will be subject to Service Level Agreements which will measure and monitor performance. These will draw down partner resources of approximately £36,000 per annum and will ensure CF and partner services (including those of FCC) are closely integrated.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 This funding will enable Flintshire to address the three priorities of: improved prosperity; learning; and health, in the most disadvantaged areas of the County. The new programme will extend into areas not previously eligible and it will serve a larger population than before (18,000 people, an increase of about 3,000 overall).
- 3.02 The West Cluster includes parts of Holywell, Mold and Flint Castle, with two new areas including the more disadvantaged areas of Flint Oakenholt and Flint Coleshill. This CF Cluster falls within the larger Rural Development Plan area. The East Cluster now includes all of Higher Shotton and the more deprived parts of Connah's Quay, Sealand and Queensferry. This CF Cluster falls within the Deeside Regeneration Area.
- 3.03 The relationship between the CF programme areas and important partner programme areas with similar aims, demonstrates clear opportunities for integration with CF supporting people in the supply chain for employment, education and training.

- 3.04 Communities First has therefore been developing a range of local labour market approaches to support the aims of the Jobs Growth Wales Strategy, to improve opportunities for Flintshire's young people whose options are being limited by the supply of jobs, and by tough competition for those jobs which are available. This includes community based activities around employment, employability, further education, informal and formal learning, and entrepreneurship.
- 3.05 Communities First is also working with public, private and third sector partners and the LSB to develop viable Flintshire models from the Jobs Growth Wales Strategy. These 'Academy' models are aimed at improving the range and number of work experience and apprenticeship places in Flintshire, mainly targeted at young people 16-24 who are not in employment education or training (NEET), or in danger of becoming NEET.
- 3.06 Academy models include mentored training, work experience and an accredited traineeship or apprenticeship. The Flintshire enhanced work experience pilot model for young people with additional needs will see its first two participants start their shift at the Council's Jade Jones Pavilion in September 2013.
- 3.07 Other Academy models include up to 8 weeks paid pre-traineeship work experience under the Job Centre Plus scheme, and an accredited traineeship or apprenticeship for up to 26 weeks. Such models provide an alternative, accessible route to work and training for people NEET who do not meet the requirements for some of the apprenticeship schemes run by Flintshire's companies.
- 3.08 CF is actively supporting the all Wales Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy (YES). CF has helped establish Flintshire Business Entrepreneurship Network (BEN) as a mechanism to drive forward the entrepreneurial skills agenda for 16-24 year olds. Its Deeside Leisure Centre location helps maximise BEN and other initiatives and activities, being a place where young people socialise in significant numbers, and being close to Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ).
- 3.09 The BEN's Entrepreneurship model is unique, and well underway to help people, and especially young people, to start or grow a business. They are supported by the first Flintshire Enterprise Club established by CF in January 2013, and a second Enterprise Club will operate from CF Hollywell Connects from June 2013.
- CF is supporting the growth of enterprise for the creativity confidence, ambition and opportunity that entrepreneurial talent brings, and the additional value that social enterprise brings to

- 3.10 communities from alternative kinds of economic activity.
- 3.11 West Flintshire Community Enterprise, a company limited by guarantee, is based at Holywell Connects, and is supported by CF. WFCE already manages the Art and Craft Mill, a community based Flintshire County Council asset in Holywell which hosts both community and private enterprise. WFCE intends to expand its range of social enterprise activities, including the provision of support services for growing other community enterprises in both the West and East Cluster areas. WFCE is a valuable legacy from CF investment in the previous programme, and is important to the sustainability of the new programme beyond 2015.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Members note this CF progress report.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The CF Programme is 100% funded by WG. In a change to previous arrangements, the costs will include CF programme management costs of up to 10%, as defined by the criteria. This means that FCC support services such as accountancy and senior line management, previously not funded at all, can be claimed.
- 5.02 The approved funds support shared partner roles on top of the core staff budget. These include one FTE post to work with disengaged young people through shared provision with the Council's Youth Service, a Further Education provider through Coleg Harlech Workers' Educational Association (WEA), and a shared service to support the jobs and skills agenda with Careers Wales. This adds approximately £36,000 to CF resources through the provision of three additional FTE posts.
- 5.03 As the approved Lead Delivery Body, FCC is aware that CF programme funding will in future be paid in arrears, not in advance.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 The CF Programme is responsible for developing policy and practice to mitigate deprivation in Flintshire relating to low household income, unemployment, low levels of skills and educational achievement, and poor health. The CF programme is undertaking a range of interventions such as local labour market initiatives, community based learning and healthy lifestyle opportunities, and in order to maximises the impact of individual activities, to gain the broadest possible public,

private, voluntary and community sector support.

7.00 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None.

8.00 **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None.

9.00 **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 All existing CF staff have been assimilated to the revised roles within the structure. The JE scores for the revised posts are awaited.

10.00 **CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None.

11.00 **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Extensive partner, including community consultation was undertaken between July 2011 and January 2012, in advance of the report to Cabinet, and before the bid was submitted.

12.00 **APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

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

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON NORTH WALES RESIDUAL WASTE
TREATMENT PROJECT AND THE SUB-REGIONAL
FOOD WASTE PROJECT

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01** To update Members on progress of the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project's (NWRWTP) procurement process.
- 1.02** Also, to update Members on progress of the sub-regional food waste project.

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 County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council with Flintshire County Council as Lead Authority) to seek a solution to managing residual waste on behalf of the five Partner Authorities over a 25 year period. 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** The three Council's forming the Sub-Regional Food Waste Partnership are Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council and Flintshire County Council, with Denbighshire acting as the Lead Authority on the project.
- 2.03** One of the key issues for the Projects 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%

Welsh Government (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 environment and economic benefits.

2.04 If the Council fails to meet these targets, 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)

Both projects will play a key role in helping Flintshire County Council (FCC) to meet the Municipal Waste targets show and hence help the Council to avoid the substantial fines outlined above.

2.05 The North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project

2.5.1 At around £600m value and 25 years duration, this is an extremely complex procurement process, where property consideration needs to be given to all matters by both the Partnership and by the bidders.

2.5.2 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 (now Amec), 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.

2.5.3 On 15th July 2010, the procurement process was formally started with the publication of the OJEC (Official Journal of the European Union) notice. This was followed by a formal Pre Qualification Questionnaire Stage (PQQ) where companies that formally put forward an expression of interest were assessed on their financial and technical capabilities.

2.5.4 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 (now Amec) 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 2.5.5 below).

2.5.5 On 29 October 2010, the North Wales Residual Waste Joint Committee approved the next stage of the procurement process. 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

2.5.6 ISOS submissions were received on 4 February 2011 and the Joint Committee met on 25 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 (ISDA):-

- Sita UK Ltd

- Veolia ES Aurora Ltd
- Wheelabrator

2.5.7 The Project Team pursued the possibility of rail being used as part of the solution to transport the waste to the main facility. To this end, discussions were held with Network Rail and the bidders, who showed a positive stance towards the use of rail.

2.5.8 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 27th 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 16th 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 5th April 2012.

2.5.9 On 1st August 2012, the Joint Committee decided to deselect one of the bidders, leaving the following two companies:-

- Sita
- Wheelabrator

2.5.10 Both bidders were proposing to use Energy from Waste technology at a site in the Council's ownership on Deeside Industrial Park.

2.06 Sub-Regional Food Waste Project

2.06.1 The OBC(Outline Business Case for the project was approved by Executive on 27th October 2009. The OBC demonstrated that the proposed procurement would provide a long term solution for the treatment of our food waste and would be cheaper over the term of the contract than continuing to landfill food waste, or than continuing with short term treatment arrangements where the gate fees for treatment could not be guaranteed over time.

2.06.2 Flintshire County Council approval on project affordability was presented and agreed at the Executive meeting on 20th April 2010.

2.06.3 The Partnership has purchased the former abattoir site at Rhualt using WG funding, for the development of the proposed treatment facilities.

2.06.4 Following an extensive evaluation process, on 5th July 2011, the Council's Executive approved TEG Environmental as the Preferred Bidder, leaving BiogenGreenfinch as Reserve Bidder. Following this

award, TEG Environmental continued to work towards Financial Closure and finalising contract documentation.

2.06.5 During the period leading up to the Financial Close, TEG Environmental experienced several funding issues, causing delays to the project timetable. The Partnerships Board granted additional time to secure funding on several occasions. As the process could not be allowed to run on indefinitely, the Board (consisting of Lead Members from Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire) voted unanimously during a meeting held on 21st February 2012 to impose an absolute deadline of 30th March 2013 for TEG Environmental to secure the required funding.

2.06.6 Accordingly, on 27th March 2012, the Council's Executive approved the removal of TEG Environmental as Preferred Bidder on the NE Hub Food Waste project, should they fail to secure funding by the deadline date of 30th March 2012. The Executive also approved the selection of Reserve Bidder, BiogenGreenfinch, to be awarded Preferred Bidder status, should TEG Environmental fail to secure funding by the deadline date, which they failed to do. Accordingly, BiogenGreenfinch were awarded preferred bidder status.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project

3.01 Since the last report considered by the Committee on 9th January 2013, the following key points have developed:-

- Withdrawal from the procurement process of Sita UK Ltd
- Partner Authority Member sessions with Welsh Government and the Health Protection Agency
- Drop in sessions at Connah's Quay
- Procurement Programme
- PM2.5 Monitoring
- Community Benefit Scheme

The following text outlines each of the above.

Withdrawal of Sita UK Ltd from the Procurement Process

3.02 In late January 2013, the Partnership was notified by Sita UK Ltd that the company intended to withdraw from the procurement process for commercial reasons. Following notification by Sita UK Ltd of its decision, the Project Team and the Lead Chief Executive for the project agreed a risk assessment and management approach to managing the implications of the withdrawal. The first consideration was a thorough assessment of the procurement process itself. Secondly, the Lead Chief Executive for the project contacted Sita UK at a high level to review the decision to withdraw and to ensure

consistency in any public announcements made. This team approach ensured that the process was managed sensitively, swiftly and that a thorough and co-ordinated response was provided.

3.03 Guidance has been sought from the Partnership's external legal advisors, Pinsent Masons, to identify any relevant procurement guidance that would apply in these circumstances. The key guidance is set out in Appendix 1.

3.04 In summary, UK guidance states that any procuring Authority needs to consider whether it should invite bids at all in a situation where a single bidder remains. The guidance advises that other steps should be taken to secure value for money, but that a procurement process should not automatically be stopped as a result. Some general principles that procuring Authorities in the Partnership's position should consider are:

- reviewing the strength and quality of the remaining single bidder, and
- ensuring that there is transparent competition in the remaining bidder's supply chain

3.05 The Project Board's (which comprises the Lead Chief Executive and Directors from each of the Partner Authorities, supported by the Project Team and advisors) view is that the Partnership is still in a good position to secure the value for money. This is based on the following grounds:-

1. Both bidders that progressed past the Detailed Solutions stage of the procurement were proposing the same waste treatment technology on the same site, indicating that Wheelabrator's bid represents what the waste market have identified as best suiting the needs of North Wales.
2. The procurement process had reached an advanced stage with both remaining bidders prior to Sita's decision to withdraw. This included having the benefit of an extremely competitive process throughout each procurement stage.
3. This competitive process has meant that the Partnership also has the benefit of receiving detailed prices at the Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) stage. The Partnership therefore has a very clear indication of what a competitive and value for money tender should be.
4. Wheelabrator Technologies Inc (WTI) has already proposed that a significant proportion of sub contracted services would be subject to market testing to ensure value for money obtained for the Partnership

- 3.06** The position the NWRWTP is in with one remaining bidder is not unique, and indeed there are a number of examples in the UK where contracts have been secured with a single bidder at a late stage in the procurement process that demonstrated value for money. Continuation of the procurement process in no way commits the Partnership to an automatic Preferred Bidder award (as would also have been the case if two bidders had remained to submit final tenders). The Partnership would consider a final tender submission from WTI on its own merits and decide at that point if it wished to recommend award of Preferred Bidder status or to recommend termination of the procurement at that stage.
- 3.07** The Partnership has received written confirmation from WTI that it remains committed to the procurement process. The Lead Chief Executive has also met with senior representatives from WTI for both parties to reaffirm their commitment to the procurement process.
- 3.08** The Lead Chief Executive received a letter from Jasper Roberts at WG. A copy is included at Appendix 2. The letter confirms that WG are content for the NWRWTP procurement to continue with a single bidder.
- 3.09** The Council's Section 151 Officer (Chief Financial Officer) and the Monitoring Officer were asked to give an opinion in their statutory roles about proceeding with only one bidder. Both confirmed that they did not think that the best interests of the Partnership would be served by running a fresh process because bidders that have already dropped out or been rejected would be unlikely to submit more competitive bids knowing that this initial process had failed.
- 3.10** They specifically advised that "before proceeding the Board should receive evidence to show the savings and value that had already been generated by the competitive process to date. The Board should also examine the extent to which it would be possible to require elements of the contract to be subcontracted through a competitive process. This would involve assessing the feasibility of competitively procuring every element of the contract that is not currently going to be treated in that way. Needless to say, any element that can be competitively procured without harming the project should be subject to competition in order to increase levels of transparency around value for money".
- 3.11** Based on the advice and assurances given by all advisors and by Welsh Government that the procurement process could and should be continued, the Joint Committee at the meeting of 20th February 2013 agreed to continue with the procurement process as follows :-
- "The Joint Committee, which is made up of the five Councils of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Ynys Mon has agreed to proceed with the final stages of 'competitive

dialogue' with the remaining bidder, Wheelabrator Technologies Incorporated, before making a final decision whether to select Wheelabrator as the preferred bidder to construct and operate a residual waste facility for the region. This final selection decision will be made later in 2013.

- The Joint Committee was satisfied with the advice of its advisors and the advice of Welsh Government officials to proceed. The Joint Committee is satisfied that the project will fully meet Welsh Government policy on waste, that there are no legal risks to completing the procurement process, and that it is fully meeting H M Treasury guidance for major procurement projects. The Committee is satisfied that the remaining bidder is developing a competitive bid which is already well within the cost limit it had set for all seven bidders at the outset. The project team will continue to negotiate the most competitive bid possible to assure the consortium councils, the Welsh Government and the public that value for money is secured.
- The Joint Committee noted that the bids of Wheelabrator and SITA UK were almost identical in technology, proposed location and inward waste transportation and that competitiveness of price had been the only issue to be closed before making a final decision between the two. Given the advanced stage the procurement process has reached and the on-going negotiations with Wheelabrator the Joint Committee was in complete agreement to proceed."

3.12 In accordance with the advice provided by the Council's s.151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, the Project Board would not seek to request agreement to close dialogue or call for final tender until it had full opportunity to consider the report(s) as described. The Project Team intends to continue dialogue with WTI during this period so that the procurement timetable is not delayed.

Partner Authority Member Sessions with Welsh Government and the Health Protection Agency

3.13 Two sessions were held for Members of all Partner Authorities on the 6th and 7th of February 2013 (one "east" session in Mold and one "west" session in Bangor). The purpose of the sessions was for Welsh Government to outline their waste strategy with regards to residual waste to put the NWRWTP in a national context, and for a representative of the Health Protection Agency to present their stance on the risk to health from Energy from Waste Facilities.

3.14 Jasper Roberts from the WG gave a presentation and answered queries from a WG perspective, and Professor David Russell from the Health Protection Agency gave a presentation and answered

questions from Members.

- 3.15** Feedback received from both sessions indicates that Members found them very informative and helpful. Jasper Roberts re-iterated his previous offers to Members of all Partner Authorities to attend future meetings of not only Partner Authorities but also local Town/Community Councils, and Professor Russell also indicated his willingness to attend such future sessions.

Drop-in Sessions at Connah's Quay

- 3.16** The project put on a series of public "drop-in sessions" during March where residents were able to speak directly to a member of the Project Team or one of the Project's experts about any queries they had, such as on emissions and traffic impact. The sessions were held on the 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th of March in Connah's Quay and were widely publicised beforehand. This approach proved effective with the vast majority of people attending the sessions feeling more reassured about the project afterwards. It is intended that similar sessions will be held in the future at appropriate times.

Procurement Programme

- 3.17** WTI has indicated that it is still refining its solution with the aim of reducing costs, and as a result has requested that the Partnership consent to moving the call for Final Tenders from April 2013 to June 2013. The Project Board considered WTI's request and recommended that WTI be given additional time to further value engineer their solution in order to seek to further reduce the costs of the solution and to further improve value for money to the Partnership. The Joint Committee, at its meeting on 20th February 2013, approved this request. An amended programme is show at Appendix 3.

PM2.5 Monitoring

- 3.18** Following feedback provided by Members WTI were requested to provide further information on costs and practicability of potential additional PM2.5 monitoring (additional to the twice yearly monitoring already reported).
- 3.19** WTI have provided this information and the Joint Committee has been advised to progress with the additional PM2.5 monitoring.

Community Benefit Scheme

- 3.20** Further work has been done on the options for funding a Community Benefit Scheme and it is intended to take a report back to the Joint Committee for consideration at it's meeting in the early summer.

Sub-Regional Food Waste Project

- 3.21** Since the last report considered by Committee on 21st November 2012, the following progress has been made:-
- 3.22** The 'Interim Service' has been operating since November 2012. To date, 3,500 tonnes of food waste collected by Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire has been processed at the Harper Adams University AD plant and Biogen's Twinwoods site in Bedfordshire. The Interim Service has been running smoothly with no problems reported by the Council's Operations teams.
- 3.23** Planning consent for the treatment facility was granted on 21st November 2012. The final pre-commencement planning conditions are being discharged prior to the construction phase beginning. Biogen have arranged for clearance work to be undertaken in preparation for the construction works.
- 3.24** To mark the commencement of the construction phase of the Anaerobic Digestion plant, Biogen were organising a Term Cutting Event for 18th April 2013 which the then Minister, John Griffiths, was to attend. This is now being reviewed, to ascertain the availability of the new Minister for Natural Resources and Food, Alun Davies, for the date.
- 3.25** A key element of the communications plan during the procurement phase of the project was to ensure there was a high level of engagement with local residents. That level of engagement has been a success and it is intended to carry on with this approach during the operational phase of the project. A new 'Residents' newsletter was sent out on 9th March 2013 (and is received by every household within a 2 mile radius of the site).
- 3.26** Similarly, it is important to keep the local Town and Community Council, as well as Members across all three Councils informed and up to date on project progress / performance. A 'Members' newsletter is attached at Appendix 4. This will be sent to all Council Members after today's meeting.
- 3.27** The Welsh Government are interested in purchasing the western portion of the site for development as a strategic contingency salt store. The exact area of the site that WG require is being discussed with Denbighshire's Property Services.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01** 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**

6.01 None

7.00 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None

8.00 **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None

9.00 **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None

10.00 **CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

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

11.00 **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 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**

12.01 Appendix 1 – Legal Guidance.

Appendix 2 – Letter from Welsh Government

Appendix 3 – Project Programme

Appendix 4 – Members' Newsletter

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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Appendix 1 NWRWTP - Procurement Process Legal Advice

As Supplied by the Partnerships external legal advisors by email 18/01/13

Legal Summary

The Authority is at an advanced stage of dialogue with WTI in respect of the Project Agreement and Schedules and the majority of the Authority's proposed commercial positions have now been accepted. There remains a requirement for some dialogue before any call for final tender (in line with what would be expected at this point) but there are only a limited number of commercial issues that remain. The majority of the remainder of the dialogue will involve work to ensure that the terms of the Project Agreement accurately reflect the final proposed WTI technical solution, including the final position in relation to property matters, site conditions and the extent of any hand back obligations upon expiry or early termination. The main outstanding issues relates to the effect on the Project of the Authority (or any Partner Authority) altering its current collection process. The Authority continue to resist any attempt to restrict their ability to alter such process. Discussions are also continuing in relation to Welsh Government's continued energy efficiency requirements in respect of the Project (although it should be noted that this issue has been driven by Welsh Government and not WTI).

As was always the case, the final WTI derogations from the Authority's base Project Agreement will require sign-off from Welsh Government.

Sole Bidder Situation

Although the Regulations don't deal expressly with the issue of single tenders arising under a competitive dialogue, they do state that at the final tender stage the authority "shall ensure that the number of economic operators is sufficient to ensure genuine competition to the extent that there is a sufficient number of economic operators to do so". Guidance from the European Commission says that "reduction [of bidders/solutions] by application of the award criteria might ... show that there is only one appropriate candidate or solution, which does not prevent the contracting authorities from continuing with the procedure".

The Council should proceed with the procurement within the confines of the terms of the procurement. This is to avoid the risk of another bidder complaining that the Council has changed the terms of the procurement in a way that might have impacted on its decision to withdraw.

UK guidance says that in the absence of two acceptable bids, the authority needs to stop and consider whether it should invite bids at all, as a single bidder is "not appropriately incentivised to offer its best price terms and conditions". The guidance advises that other steps be taken to secure value for money, but that a procurement should not automatically be stopped as a result of market failure. Some general principles that the Council might consider:

- reviewing the strength and quality of the remaining single bidder and the extent to which the competition so far has been able to drive out and demonstrate value for money; and



- ensuring that there is transparent competition in the bidder's supply chain – "if the bidder will not agree to market testing its subcontracts, the procurement is unlikely to deliver value for money and should be halted".

Finally, as discussed, notwithstanding anything in the guidance or regulations, it is important that the Authority ensure that Welsh Government continue to support the Project and, to the extent they do, confirm whether WG themselves expect any additional safeguards or processes to be included within the procurement.

Set out below is and extract from guidance issued by HM Treasury relevant to procuring authorities left with a sole bidder following the premature and voluntary withdrawal of a bidder

Value for Money Assessment Guidance November 2006 HM Treasury

Section 5.10

It would be difficult, and inappropriate, to provide a set of definitive rules to follow in the event of market failure. It is inevitable, and appropriate, that each case should be considered on its merits. It is however possible to identify some general principles that should be adopted:

- if the market failure occurs early on in the procurement process (i.e. before bids have been received), the procurement should be halted unless there are systemic market failures which would equally affect any alternative procurement route;
- where failure occurs after bids have been received, the procuring authority will wish to consider the strength and quality of the remaining or only credible bid, and will need to consider the extent to which the competition has been able to drive out and demonstrate VfM; and
- in any circumstance where a procuring authority considers it is appropriate to continue with a single bidder it should ensure there is transparent competition in the bidder's supply chain. Benchmarking is not an adequate alternative to market testing. If the bidder will not agree to market testing of its subcontracts, the procurement is unlikely to deliver VfM and should be halted.



NWRWTP
North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project

Appendix 2 Copy of letter received from WG

Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Colin Everett
Lead Chief Executive -
North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold CH7 6NB

31 January 2013

Dear Colin

WG Confirmation of Continued Support for NWRWTP

The Welsh Government is disappointed that Sita has withdrawn from the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project (NWRWTP). However, we understand that wider factors contributed to their decision, and we are aware that Sita has withdrawn from other projects at a similar late stage. It is clear that given the cost of bidding for such projects, and pressures on the availability of funding, bidders are being increasingly selective regarding the projects they continue to participate in. This is something that all parties need to be mindful of.

I can confirm that the Welsh Government remains committed to the project and remains satisfied that the procurement, if properly managed to reflect single bidder status, can still provide a demonstrable value for money solution for the five partner authorities. The Welsh Government is keen to continue to support the hub to achieve this outcome.

We are aware that dialogue is at a very advanced stage and most of the key issues have already been resolved. NWRWTP has received priced detailed solutions from the remaining bidder, and sector benchmarks are available against which the final tender can be assessed. In addition, the project has the benefit of a standard form solution (i.e. a largely dedicated facility, located on the reference site and which will revert to the authority on expiry) to which the market accepted contractual standard form drafting applies. We refer you to the OGC and other guidance that exists regarding "sole-tender" situations, though much of this relates to situations where projects are faced by a sole tender situation at a far earlier stage than that faced by NWRWTP.

I look forward to participating in the forthcoming Member workshops, which will provide an opportunity to discuss whether the partner authorities have now agreed a mutually



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NWRWTP
North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project

acceptable approach to the quantum of community benefits, thus allowing the project to progress to final tender in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely

keat roberts,
Jasper

JASPER ROBERTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
WASTE AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY DIVISION

cc: Stephen Penny, Project Director, North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project.

Appendix 3 Project Programme

Item	Start	Finish
WG Readiness review (readiness to close dialogue)	Apr-13	May-13
Joint committee to confirm close of dialogue and rail deliverability		May-13
Issue Call For Final Tender + Close CD		Jun-13
Final Tender preparation Period		Jun-13
Final tender submission		Jun-13
JC approve preferred bidder, FBC and IAA2		Oct-13
Individual authority approved bidder & FBC & Contract award approvals	Oct-13	Jan-14
All partner authority approvals in place		Jan-14
Final PB Clarifications, Due Diligence	Feb-14	Jun-14
Financial close		Jun-14
Contract Award		Jul-14
Planning Application (Treatment)		Feb-14
Determination (estimated)	Jun-14	Feb-15
Construction Period (Treatment)	May-15	Dec-17
Mobilisation	May-15	Jul-15
Construction period	Jul-15	Oct-17
Facility fully available		Dec-17

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NE Hub Food Waste Project – County Councillor Newsletter March 2013

1. What is this Project?

The NE Hub food waste project is a three authority partnership between Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire, to procure food waste treatment capacity.

2. Update Since Last Newsletter

Interim Services

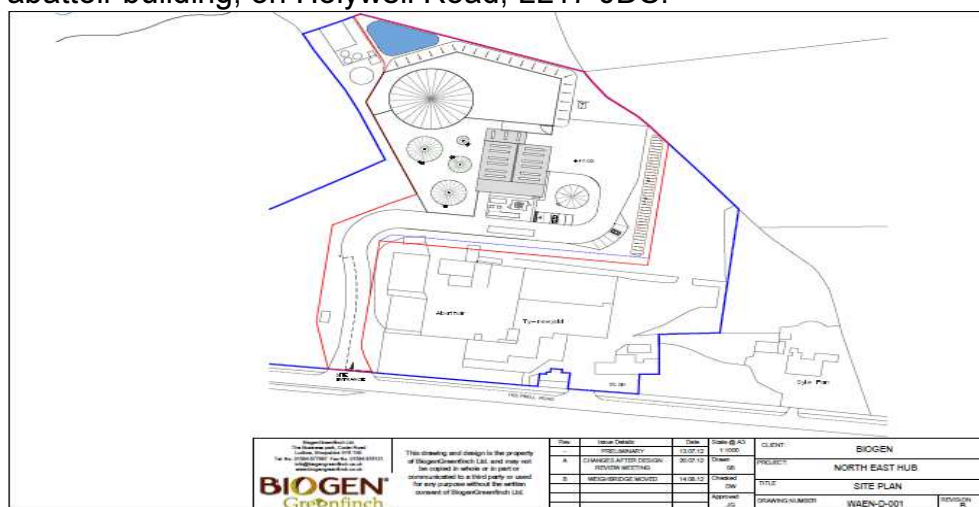
From the 1st November 2012, the three Authorities' food waste has been treated by Biogen at their plants at Harper Adams, Shropshire and Twinwoods, Bedfordshire. The feedback from Biogen is that the food waste has been of excellent quality during the first few months. This interim agreement will continue now until Full Service Commencement at the site in Rhualt, which is expected to be in spring 2014.

Planning Permission

Biogen submitted their planning application for the Old Abattoir, the Waen on the 20th August 2012. Planning permission was granted on the 21st November 2012, construction will commence in early spring and should take around 15 months to complete.

3. Plan of the Biogen facility.

Below is a plan of how Biogen's plant will be laid out. The entrance is located just past the old abattoir building, on Holywell Road, LL17 0DS.



4. Are there any uses for the remainder of the site?

The Welsh Government have expressed an interest in the western portion of the site. An extract of their proposal is shown below:

Welsh Government Interest

The Welsh Government has been working closely with the Welsh Local Government Association,

Welsh Unitary Authorities and salt suppliers to find suitable locations across Wales for potential salt storage.

The Waen site (to the West of the Old Abattoir), has been identified as meeting the strategic requirements of the Welsh Government and it is ideally located to support local Authorities in times of severe weather.

Between 2008 and 2011, difficulty in maintaining a suitable salt level was experienced, leading to major disruptions in education, health, transport, industry and retail. The Welsh Government hopes to avoid a repeat of this by providing salt storage facilities at strategic locations across Wales, supplying salt (where required) both quickly and efficiently.

The proposed new building will provide permanent and secure storage for the salt, alleviating any potential wastage and environmental disbenefits associated with either open or temporary sheeted stockpile storage.

5. Next steps for the Biogen facility?

- It is anticipated that construction to commence in spring 2013

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
SUBJECT: DEESIDE ENTERPRISE ZONE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of progress relating to Deeside Enterprise Zone.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 On 2nd April 2012, Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ) was officially launched as Wales' designated area for Manufacturing and Advanced Manufacturing. DEZ has the potential to create 7,000 new sustainable jobs, to grow Welsh GDP, to drive the economy of North Wales and to deliver an advanced manufacturing hub to underpin economic renewal in the area. DEZ is attracting new investment interest from local, national and overseas sources.

2.02 Deeside Enterprise Zone has the potential to be a catalyst not only for the revitalization of the Deeside area, but for the regional economy as a whole. DEZ adjoins the most deprived communities in Flintshire and designation of the Enterprise Zone provides a once in a generation opportunity to transform these areas. Local residents will benefit from both new job opportunities and the improved local environment. It is essential that this improvement is embedded within the community so that benefits extend beyond the five year life of the Enterprise Zone.

2.03 Progress on DEZ will be largely determined by the wider economic environment, but planning permission has been granted for the eastern part of Northern Gateway (known as 'The Airfields'), whilst an application for the western area (alongside the River Dee) is expected soon.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 DEZ now has a strategy based on securing expansion of local businesses, growing the key sectors of aerospace, automotive engineering, food, pharmaceuticals, electronics, paper and packaging and sustainable energy.

Key challenges for DEZ are;

- to create 7,000 new, sustainable jobs.
- to make Deeside an internationally recognised centre for advanced manufacturing
- to create an employment pipeline, helping local people develop the skills needed.
- to develop a new North Wales Advanced Manufacturing Centre as a focus and shop window for the sector
- to attract new inward investment.
- to strengthen links with the wider local community, ensuring that investment in DEZ helps bring new life back to Deeside.

Progress in Quarter 3, 2012/13

3.02 Jobs

122 new jobs have been created in DEZ during the third Quarter ;

- Hexagon Metrology, a Swiss-based company opened an aerospace manufacturing support operation in Sandycroft creating 4 high skilled jobs
- Argo Aviation opened an aerospace design unit creating 10 high skilled jobs
- Henrob, manufacturer of self-piercing rivet at Deeside has created 26 new jobs, with a further 34 planned for during 2013
- Ralawise, distribution depot for work and leisure wear based on Deeside has expanded, creating 12 new jobs
- Toyota has announced 70 new jobs at the Deeside plant

As a result of new investment, there has been a significant take up of property with 50,000 sq ft let in January alone on Deeside Industrial Park and a further three enquiries are expected to complete by the end of March.

3.03 Advanced Manufacturing Centre

The Minister for BETS has confirmed support for the feasibility study, taking this exciting project forward to develop a new North Wales Advanced Manufacturing Centre. This will be the skills and technology, research and development centre for the region.

3.04 Promotion and Marketing

A significant amount of promotional activity relating to the Enterprise Zone by way of planned events and high profile visits to the County as follows:-

- DEZ trade journal event will be held 20 March at WG London

offices to promote DEZ to developers, the media and interested end-users.

- A high level visit by a Chinese trade mission to Flintshire took place on 25-26 March. Chinese businesses are looking to develop trade links with local companies and to consider investment opportunities within Flintshire including DEZ.
- 'Flintshire Goes to The Senedd' has been confirmed for 14 May, this will promote DEZ and Flintshire Business Week 2013 to Welsh Government Ministers and officials.

3.05 Advanced Manufacturing

Development of DEZ is being integrated with the wider regional approach to supporting advanced manufacturing across North Wales. Nearly 50% of all manufacturing output is concentrated in Flintshire and Wrexham, but all North Wales counties have important businesses in the sector and a new joined up approach to skills, inward investment and technology support is being developed. A bid for Regional Collaboration Fund has been made to Welsh Government.

Skills within the manufacturing sector is the priority issue. Work is underway to raise the profile of the sector, increase numbers of apprenticeships and develop more integrated approaches across North Wales. Initially, this will focus on developing a new regional business network, based on the Cambridge Network model, extending the Business Entrepreneurship Network (BEN), Make It In Manufacturing and Girls in Engineering.

3.06 Governance in Deeside

Regeneration has established a new Deeside Partnership that will bring together all public sector stakeholders, to better integrate regeneration activities across the community and will include DEZ.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the progress report is noted.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

DEZ will contribute significantly to the work of the Council in the period 2012-2017 and will have a significant sustainable impact to the local economy.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

DEZ will have the potential to make a significant contribution to tackling poverty as a result of private investment encouraging local opportunities for training, skills and employment; under which DEZ will

be expected to demonstrate impact.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

DEZ will have the potential to make a significant contribution to environmental enhancement as a result of Welsh Government and private sector infrastructure investment, under which DEZ will be expected to demonstrate impact.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

DEZ has the potential to make a significant contribution to equalities and this is included as a cross cutting theme under which all investment projects will be expected to demonstrate their impact.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

Welsh Government as the lead body for all Enterprise Zones. DEZ Board as the advisory body to WG.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Welsh Government as the lead body for all Enterprise Zones. DEZ Board as the advisory body to WG.

12.00 APPENDICES

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contact Officer: Rachael Byrne
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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2013**

REPORT BY: **ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND 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 Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council, or Directors. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges.

2.02 In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for 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 where 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 had been updated following the last meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 and approve/amend as necessary.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 N/A

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme

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

None.

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Email: Margaret.parry-jones@Flintshire.gov.uk

Draft Forward Work Programme

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
22 May 2013	Extended Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	To receive a report on the extended area of outstanding natural beauty and the importance of the AONB to FCC and neighbouring authorities.	Awareness raising	Head of Planning	13 May 2013
	Tourism Partnership North Wales	Update on tourism strategies and projects in Flintshire	Strategic	Facilitator	
26 June 2013	Quarterly Performance Reporting	To consider Quarter 4 and year end outturns for improvement targets against directorate indicators.	Performance Monitoring	Director of Environment	17 June 2013
	Draft Flood Management Strategy & Flooding issues	To consider the draft Flood Management Strategy prior to approval by Cabinet and flooding issues - invitation to be extended to Environment Agency.	Pre-decision scrutiny	Director of Environment	

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
	<p>Planning</p> <p>Energy Switching Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive a report on planning to include enforcement • Role of Conservation Officer • Turn around times of applications • Inter-departmental (internal) consultation <p>To receive a further update as requested at Committee on 6th March 2013.</p>	Service Delivery	<p>Head of Planning</p> <p>Neal Cockerton</p>	
23 July 2013	<p>North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership</p> <p>Deeside Enterprise Zone</p>	<p>To receive and consider further details on the progress of the project.</p> <p>Progress report</p>	<p>Strategic (Collaboration)</p> <p>Monitoring</p>	<p>Director of Environment</p> <p>Head of Regeneration</p>	19 July 2013

ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED as agreed by Committee

Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
Dog fouling	To receive a report on the review of enforcement options re dog fouling	Director of Environment
Carbon Reduction Strategy	To receive a report on the outcome of the independent assessment undertaken by the Carbon Trust	Neal Cockerton
North East Wales Area Based Transport Study	To consider the potential solutions to transport in the region highlighted within the report.	Director of Environment
Rights of Way	Invite Natural Resources Wales, once established to discuss new arrangements.	Director of Environment
Mersey Dee Alliance	To receive an update report on the Mersey Dee Alliance	Director of Environment

Page 73

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

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
Quarterly	North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project	To receive and consider further details on the progress of the project.	Director of Environment
Quarterly	Deeside Enterprise Zone	To receive quarterly progress reports	Head of Regeneration
6 monthly	Rural Development Plan	To receive regular updates on the progress of Business Plan 2 with particular consideration to any downturns in progress.	Head of Regeneration

Site Visit – Recycling & Missed Collections Technology demonstration – end of May (date to be confirmed)