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Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democrataidd



To: Cllr Hilary Isherwood (Chair)

CS/NG

Councillors: Alex Aldridge, Haydn Bateman,
Peter Curtis, Ian Dunbar, David Evans,
Veronica Gay, Cindy Hinds, Ray Hughes,
Colin Legg, Ann Minshull, Paul Shotton and
Carolyn Thomas plus two vacancies

5 June 2014

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Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the **DELYN COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD CH7 6NA** on **WEDNESDAY, 11TH JUNE, 2014** 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 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**
To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the Committee.
- 4 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 14)
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 2 April 2014 and 28 April 2014 (Joint meeting with Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee).

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

- 5 **PRESENTATION BY NATURAL RESOURCES WALES**
To receive a presentation from Natural Resources Wales.
- 6 **MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE** (Pages 15 - 24)
Report of Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) enclosed.
- 7 **IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15** (Pages 25 - 60)
Report of Chief Executive enclosed.
- 8 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 61 - 64)
Report of Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator enclosed.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **2 APRIL 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held in the Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold on Wednesday, 2 April 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Matt Wright (Chairman)

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Peter Curtis, Chris Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, David Evans, Veronica Gay, Joe Johnson, Colin Legg, Nancy Matthews and Carolyn Thomas

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Cindy Hinds, Ray Hughes, Ann Minshull and Paul Shotton

ALSO PRESENT: Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

CONTRIBUTORS: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection & Leisure, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Director of Environment, Head of Regeneration, Head of Assets & Transportation and Directorate Support & Performance Manager

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

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

72. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014 had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

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

73. IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT

The Director of Environment introduced Lynne Fensome, who was responsible for collating the performance data on behalf of the Directorate. He introduced the report for the Committee to note and consider elements of the 2013/14 Mid Year Improvement Plan Monitoring Report relevant to the Committee for the period October to December 2013.

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

Business Sector Growth in Deeside

It was noted that in the absence of nationally agreed performance indicators (PIs) for economic development, locally identified PIs were used.

In response to queries from Councillor Nancy Matthews about the Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ), it was explained that the majority of jobs created were on the Deeside Industrial Park which formed part of the DEZ. All Enterprise Zones would have access to high-speed broadband, with a proposal for the companies in Deeside to connect to cable delivered to the kerb edges.

Councillor Veronica Gay referred to the number of enquiries for companies to invest in the DEZ and asked about the potential to use software to enable enquiries to be logged, similar to that used by some other Councils. The Head of Regeneration explained that the Welsh Government (WG) was the lead in promoting Enterprise Zones in Wales and that a range of information was accessible on the DEZ website. The 'Evolutive' database was used to collate information on enquiries received and links had also been established with estate agents for commercial properties.

Following comments from Councillor David Evans, the Head of Regeneration said that a great deal of interest had been generated on the site due to its size in comparison with others in the UK. It was recognised that timing was a key issue to ensure that enquiries were actioned promptly. He went on to give examples of companies who had shown interest and said that developers had also been approached by outside interests. The Director referred to comments on the proposal to build houses on the site and stated that no decision had yet been reached on the number of units to be approved within the planning applications submitted by both landowners, Praxis and Pochin Rosemound Development Ltd (PRDL). A special Planning Committee to be held at the end of the week would determine the application submitted by PRDL but would set a number of conditions to be satisfied, including agreement on the number of houses to be built.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development gave further examples of larger companies who had enquired about the site and spoke about the significance of the three year extension to Enhanced Capital Allowances available to companies investing in Enterprise Zones.

The Chairman reinforced the need to deal with enquiries on the site in a timely manner.

Following concerns raised by Councillor Ian Dunbar on the potential for flooding, the Director said that remodelling work had been undertaken to

confirm that the proposed flood attenuation measures for the site would not create flooding issues elsewhere along the river.

In highlighting the importance of boosting manufacturing in the area, Councillor Colin Legg acknowledged the progress made by the Head of Regeneration with support from Cabinet.

Town and Rural Regeneration

In response to clarification sought by Councillor Chris Dolphin on achievement measures in relation to Linking Flintshire's Communities and the Community Key Fund, the Chairman requested that future performance reports include example case studies.

Councillor Dunbar felt it was important that the Deeside Forum maintained focus on town centres and not just the DEZ. He referred to the decline in use of some town centres, including Connah's Quay, of which the rise in internet shopping was only part of the problem. The Head of Regeneration explained that the focus of the DEZ was in terms of creating employment opportunities and investment in manufacturing businesses whereas the work on the Deeside strip was a separate issue. However, both areas of work could benefit from each other. The steady decline in use of town centres had escalated over a period of time mainly due to an increase in consumers' use of supermarkets although there may be potential to explore options for two town centres within close proximity to operate as a single entity. The Chairman reminded Members that Town Centres was an item included on the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

Councillor Peter Curtis spoke of the need for various groups within communities to work together for the benefit of their towns, for example, Streetscene, Flintshire Connects and local businesses.

More information was requested by Councillor Haydn Bateman on the parking projects at Gamfa Wen in Talacre. The Head of Regeneration advised that through the Rural Development Programme, work was being undertaken to address serious parking problems in the area during busy times following a positive outcome to discussions with Natural Resources Wales.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment took the opportunity to share information on the availability of toilet facilities at Talacre.

The Chairman noted that the PI for 'scale and take up of the Business Grant Scheme in town centres' should have been allocated a green status instead of amber, as the current outturn had surpassed the target.

Social Enterprise

In response to a query from Councillor Matthews on capital seed corn funding, the Head of Regeneration said that each social enterprise was different and that the possibility of offering grants/loans at low interest would

be explored. Funding secured for a part-time project manager would involve dealing with new projects to create social enterprises together with some existing ones with the potential to expand the range of services they provided.

Following comments from Councillor Dolphin on the policy and promotion of Community Asset Transfers (CATs), the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment gave examples of some transfers which had recently been authorised and said that the Cabinet was keen to see a more efficient way of dealing with these to speed up the rate of transfers taking place.

Apprenticeships and Training

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development commented on the success of the Business Entrepreneurship Network, which had been acknowledged by the Minister for Economy, Science & Transport.

Following a question from Councillor Evans on the 'Reaching Higher, Reaching Wider' initiative, the Head of Regeneration explained that funding secured from WG helped an organisation based in Wales to encourage more young people nation-wide to pursue science-based subjects.

Councillor Dolphin suggested that an invitation could be extended to West Flintshire Community Enterprises to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide information on their role.

Traffic and Road Management

In relation to the planned implementation of 20mph advisory zones at the remaining schools in Flintshire, officers provided clarification on the reasons for the delay in receiving authorisation from WG on the signage. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment said that although this particular issue had been a challenge, there was a need to proceed with this important initiative which was already in place at 19 of the county's schools.

Councillor Curtis referred to the County Council issuing parking permits to individuals in essential public services, such as carers who needed to undertake regular visits as part of their work. The Director gave an undertaking to consider the practice of other Councils in North Wales on this issue to ensure a consistent approach across North Wales, with Denbighshire Council as the single enforcement body. A response would be reported back to the Committee.

The Head of Assets & Transportation agreed to respond to queries raised by Councillors Dunbar and Evans outside the meeting in relation to ward issues.

Following a query from Councillor Gay on parking, the Head of Assets & Transportation provided clarification on the Council enforcing yellow line restrictions whereas parking obstructions on pavements where there were no

lines were the responsibility of North Wales Police. Further information was available on the link to the Wales Penalty Processing Partnership (WPPP) site which could be accessed via the Council's website.

Traffic Infrastructure and Services

In response to clarification sought by Councillor Dolphin on the criteria used in the survey to ascertain the condition of roads, the Director agreed to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee.

Following a question from Councillor Bateman on cycleways, the Head of Assets & Transportation explained that the emphasis of funding available had changed from leisure use to supporting the local economy. This was being utilised to improve individuals access to local industry such as Airbus. Whilst the need to provide cycleway facilities between Mold and Flint was recognised, this route did not meet the current criteria for funding.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Dunbar on the Deeside strip, the Head of Assets & Transportation spoke about the restrictions due to the layout but reported that progress was being made to improve the traffic flow, despite a slight delay to the project. Explanation had been given to local residents and acknowledged by local groups who had originally requested that this work proceed. The Director referred to around £1m funding from WG to invest in the synchronisation of the traffic lights along the route and said that although the current impact of work was unavoidable, the benefits of relieving congestion should be seen in the long-term.

Carbon Control and Reduction

The Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection & Leisure reported that options were being explored to seek alternative methods of recycling heavier materials such as timber, as these did not currently meet the criteria for counting towards recycling figures.

In response to a query from Councillor Dunbar on Flintshire Connects, the Head of Assets & Transportation said it was his understanding that the planned completion date for the centre in Connah's Quay was June 2014.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received; and
- (b) That feedback be provided to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

74. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Environment & Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented a report to seek views on the Committee's Forward Work Programme. She referred to the next ordinary meeting scheduled for the

morning of 7 May 2014 to discuss progress on the North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project and suggested that this be changed due to detailed consideration of this topic at the previous meeting. It was agreed that this slot could instead be used for a workshop (from 9am to 12.30pm) to consider town centre planning if the speakers were available, otherwise an alternative date in May 2014 could be scheduled.

Of the items yet to be scheduled, it was noted that Natural Resources Wales had been invited to attend the meeting on 11 June 2014 with the item incorporating discussion on flood alleviation. On the Energy Switching Scheme Update, it was agreed that a briefing note from the Head of Assets & Transportation would be circulated to the Committee prior to scheduling this item for formal discussion. The Director spoke of the need to complete the speed limit review of A and B roads prior to consideration of the item on C roads and that the deferred item on Streetscene should remain on hold, pending the outcome of the restructuring exercise.

Items to be scheduled on the Forward Work Programme were:

- Heritage theme and conservation issues, previously suggested by Councillor Ray Hughes;
- West Flintshire Community Enterprises, suggested by Councillor Chris Dolphin earlier in the meeting;
- Rural development/farming and agriculture, suggested by Councillor Colin Legg, to give reassurance on the support available to farming businesses in Flintshire.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Work Programme be updated accordingly.

75. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 4.00pm)

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Chairman

**JOINT HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28 APRIL 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Housing & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Monday, 28 April 2014

PRESENT:

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Amanda Bragg, David Cox, Peter Curtis, Rosetta Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Jim Falshaw, Veronica Gay, Ron Hampson, George Hardcastle, Cindy Hinds, Brian Lloyd, Nancy Matthews, Mike Reece, Gareth Roberts, Paul Shotton and Matt Wright

ALSO PRESENT:

Cabinet Member for Housing

The following Councillors attended as observers:-

Councillors: Chris Bithell, Kevin Jones and David Mackie

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: Ron Davies, Chris Dolphin, Ray Hughes and Carolyn Thomas
Director of Community Services

CONTRIBUTORS:

Head of Housing and Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator, Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator, Interim Public Protection Manager and Committee Officer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator sought nominations for a Chairman for the meeting. Councillor George Hardcastle nominated Councillor Ron Hampson which was duly seconded and supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ron Hampson be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. TACKLING LONG TERM VACANT PRIVATE HOMES

The Head of Housing introduced a report to provide Members with an understanding of the mechanisms available to tackle long term vacant private

homes; an update on the progress of the Welsh Government (WG) Houses into Homes Scheme and to introduce to Members a proposed enforced sales policy, and to seek support for its use.

The Head of Housing detailed the background to the report and explained that the number of vacant homes had been reducing over the last two years and the figure was now approximately 450 long term vacant private homes. An annual review was undertaken and homeowners of empty properties were contacted to establish whether the Council could give them advice or guidance on how to bring their property back into use. A small budget of £0.200m had been in place for empty homes but this had now significantly increased due to WG making available £20m of funding for the Houses into Homes Scheme across Wales. The scheme was being delivered on a regional basis and Flintshire County Council was the lead authority for the scheme in North Wales. Flintshire had so far claimed £0.950m and distributed that money by way of loans to bring homes into use and the Head of Housing spoke of six terraced properties in Flint which had been brought back into use as a result of the scheme. The original aim of the loans was that they be repaid in two years if the owner wanted to sell the property, or in three years if the property was to be let.

Councillor Rosetta Dolphin spoke of some large properties in Flintshire which had been vandalised and set on fire and too much work was now required by the owner to bring the properties back into use. She also commented on other properties that had been refused planning permission to amend or demolish the property. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager said that he was aware of the properties that Councillor Dolphin had referred to and that the Council was working proactively with the owners to try and bring the houses back into use, but added that lack of planning permission could be a barrier to moving forward and that it was hoped that this could be overcome by closer working with colleagues in Planning.

Councillor Gareth Roberts referred to properties in his ward which were a blight on the community and the residents of the next door property. He highlighted paragraph 3.06 and welcomed that the Housing Act had introduced the power to serve an Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) which allowed the Council to service Notice on the owner of a long term vacant property, stating that it intended to take over all responsibility for the property, renovate it and let it out. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager responded that each case would be looked at on its own merits. Councillor Paul Shotton sought clarification on the timescales involved and the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager explained that when owners had access to a Houses into Homes loan, work had to commence within 12 months of receiving the loan and the owner would have to provide evidence of works carried out before the next tranche of monies would be released.

In response to a question from Councillor David Cox about whether there were many empty homes within Flintshire where the owner could not be traced, the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager said that there were some and that the new measures identified in the report could be used if a

property had been abandoned. Councillor Nancy Matthews asked about houses that were empty but were not finished and properties that were for sale but empty and, in referring to properties which could not move forward because planning applications had been refused, asked whether closer working with Planning colleagues could be ensured. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager advised that officers from Housing and Planning were working closely together and referred to a recent workshop which had been held where colleagues from Housing and Planning had attended. He explained that it was more difficult to bring homes which were for sale but empty back into use, however, the owner would be advised of different options which could help them achieve a sale. For properties which were not quite finished, the Council could work with the owner to establish whether there was any reason for it not being completed such as financial difficulties or refusal of a planning application.

Councillor Veronica Gay referred to a farmhouse owned by Flintshire County Council that was in need of repair and asked whether it would be covered by the scheme. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager advised that there was a need to work with colleagues in Valuations and Estates and to sell the property if it was no longer needed by Flintshire County Council as it was an asset of the Council.

On the new measures available to the Council, the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager spoke of the proposed Enforced Sales Policy which was attached to the report. The Policy explained that if it was not possible to work in partnership with the owner, then there may be a requirement for the Council to carry out works to secure a property or deal with specific issues, with a debt then being owed to the Council for the works carried out to secure the property. The methods of selling the empty property to recover the debt were detailed in the policy.

The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager also referred to the EDMO highlighted earlier by Councillor Gareth Roberts but explained that due to the severity of the measure there were many restrictions to its use. An EDMO would initially operate for 12 months during which time the Council or its managing agent could renovate the property and let it out. The cost of the work to bring the property back to a habitable standard could then be recovered through rental income. After the 12 months, the Council must decide whether to give the property back to the owner or apply to extend the order for a six year period. The owner must demonstrate that they had done everything possible to bring the property back into use. The Council must also make its case to the Residential Property Tribunal which was an independent tribunal set up to resolve disputes relating to private rented and leasehold properties. EDMOs were not extensively used as it could take some time for the EDMO to be granted and the Council would need to provide money upfront to bring the property back into use.

In response to a query from Councillor Cindy Hinds, the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager said that if a property was vacant, the Council could take steps to bring it back into use, and added that this could

still be undertaken if the owner of the property was paying Council Tax. Councillor Matt Wright welcomed the two new measures and the information provided by the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager and asked whether a workshop could be arranged for the measures to be explained to all Members. Councillor Rosetta Dolphin raised concern about whether the new powers would be used. The Head of Housing explained that one of the reasons for the report was because of the concern that the Council was not doing enough. She added that the two measures were not new but had not previously been used by Flintshire County Council.

Councillor Amanda Bragg asked why the EDMO had not been used in the past by Flintshire County Council and queried how successful the scheme had been in England. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager said that a number of local authorities had been successful in gaining orders but it was currently difficult to assess whether they had been able to recoup all of the monies as the ability to serve an EDMO had only been in place since 2006. However, he added that as part of the scheme, properties had been brought back into use. Councillor Kevin Jones said that it was clear from the report that a significant level of criteria applied to obtaining an EDMO. He concurred that a workshop should be arranged to explain to Members what powers the Council had and whether they were used or not and to provide further details of the new opportunities that the Council may be able to use in the future to bring properties into use.

In response to a question from Councillor Mike Reece about a property in his ward, the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager said that an enforced sale for the property could be considered. Councillor Chris Bithell felt that a list should be compiled of empty properties in Flintshire and suggested that a report be submitted to a future meeting about what was being undertaken to bring properties back into use and the measures that could be used. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager explained that a list of the 450 vacant properties indicated in the report had been compiled and he suggested that Members bring details to the workshop of the properties in their wards that were causing concern so that determination could be made of the measures that could be considered to identify a solution.

Councillor Ian Dunbar raised concern about an empty property in his ward where vermin were becoming a nuisance and asked whether the owners of the neighbouring properties would incur costs if there was a need to undertake work to repair a problem which was damaging an adjacent property from the empty dwelling. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager spoke of two pieces of legislation (Environmental Protection Act and Housing Act) which could be used. He explained that the local authority could serve notice under the Environmental Protection Act and insist that any necessary repairs be undertaken, but if they were not carried out, then the Council had the right to undertake the work and bill the empty homeowner for costs and under the Housing Act, the Council could serve an improvement notice on the owner.

Councillor Jim Falshaw asked whether the proposed measures could be used on listed buildings. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager explained that these were more of a challenge and there was a need to ensure that discussions took place with colleagues in Conservation or Planning to ensure that appropriate standards were met.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the mechanisms for returning long term vacant private homes back in to use be noted;
- (b) That the progress the Council has made in delivering the Welsh Government Houses into Homes Scheme be noted;
- (c) That the proposed enforced sales policy and its use in Flintshire be supported; and
- (d) That an all Member workshop be arranged to consider the policies available to tackle long term vacant private homes in Flintshire.

4. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL

The Head of Housing introduced a report to introduce the proposed revisions to the Private Sector Renewal and Improvement Policy, along with the rationale for these revisions and to seek support for the changes proposed.

She detailed the background to the report and explained that the current Private Sector Renewal and Improvement Policy were approved in 2012. The report covered three areas of change which she detailed. Flintshire County Council already had a scheme in place for property appreciation loans which was a long term programme but the Welsh Government (WG) scheme required repayment within a fifteen year period. The Head of Housing added that the scheme could provide additional opportunities for homeowners to improve homes.

The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager commented on the energy efficiency aspects of the scheme and of the anticipated loans to private homeowners for gas infill and said that it was in the Council's interest to provide assistance to homeowners. It was proposed that two loan types be made available, one with a nominal interest rate at up to 2% for customers in receipt of a means tested benefit or spending more than 10% of their disposable income on fuel, and the other loan with a low interest rate of 6.25% which would cover the cost of administering the loan.

In response to a query from Councillors Rosetta Dolphin and George Hardcastle about whether the rate would be altered during the period of the loan, the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager said that even though a customer's circumstances might change, it would not be possible to vary the terms of the loan once it was in place. A charge would also be requested

against the property in case of default of loan repayments and modelling work on the loan schemes had been undertaken to ensure its financial viability. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager added that there was a need to ensure that robust affordability tests were undertaken which would include a customer's income, savings and any regular repayments that they had to make. Work would be undertaken with a local Credit Union to establish which rate of interest was appropriate for each applicant.

Councillor Ian Dunbar spoke of recommendations from the Audit Committee to tighten up on empty homes and the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager explained that the rights of the Council hold nominations rights in terms of lettings had not previously been adequately reflected in the policy document.

Councillor Paul Shotton highlighted paragraph 3.06 where it was reported that an annual fuel bill saving per household of £774 in Aston and Mostyn could be achievable as a result of the connection to gas using support from Flintshire County Council. This saving would contribute to the cost of the loan repayments and would allow the householders to heat their homes more comfortably. Councillor Shotton also referred to paragraph 3.21 where it was reported that the Council was expected to receive £0.250m in year 1, £0.500m in year 2 and potentially a further £0.250m in year 3 in the form of funding from the WG for a Property Improvement Loan Scheme. The Head of Housing explained that this was because year 1 would only be for a period of six months, with year 2 being a full year and year 3 being used for 'mop up' claims. On the issue of why Aston and Mostyn had been chosen as the areas to focus the gas infill schemes in, the Head of Housing advised that this was because of the significant number of council owned rental properties in these areas which would enable the Council to give the utility companies a large level of commitment in terms of gas connections. The loan scheme could be used to allow gas connection to private homes which had previously not been connected to the gas main and was an exciting project. However, she added that there could still be rural areas where the costs would be prohibitive.

Councillor Kevin Jones welcomed the initiatives but, in referring to the two rates of interest for the loans scheme, felt that more people would be eligible for the lower rate of interest. In response to a query from Councillor Jones about whether a cost for administering the loan would be added to the proposed 2% nominal interest loan, the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager advised that this would be covered by the Utility Company funding, not by those qualifying for the 6.25% loan. Councillor Matt Wright welcomed the steps taken by Flintshire County Council to work with the energy companies to allow provision of gas to rural areas and asked when it was envisaged that the scheme would be rolled out to other areas. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager responded that a number of other areas had been explored and where it was economically viable, it was hoped that the scheme would be rolled out over the next two to three years.

Councillor Dolphin said that the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been advised of a scheme in South Wales where residents

could achieve lower bills by switching to a new supplier as a group. The Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager explained that there were benefits to collective switching and that it could be considered in the future. The Head of Housing added that there would be a need to undertake this with a number of other local authorities to get a critical mass and there was a need to look at how this could be addressed. In response to a question from Councillor George Hardcastle about who would be responsible for the costs of converting homes from oil heating to gas heating, the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Manager said that the purpose of the loan was to provide heating to the property and through critical mass the Council had been able to secure a deal which included a 25% reduction in costs for homeowners. Councillor Nancy Matthews said that the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been expecting an update on the outcome of the energy switching scheme pilot undertaken in Cardiff. The Head of Housing confirmed that she would check whether the results were available.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the introduction of new Energy Efficiency loan product, to help deliver gas infill in communities across Flintshire, as outlined in the report, be supported;
- (b) That delegated authority to the Head of Housing to operate the Energy Efficiency loan scheme be supported;
- (c) That the introduction of the Welsh Government Property Improvement Loan initiative be supported with the final terms and conditions of the scheme to be delegated to the Chief Officer for Community & Enterprise and Chief Officer for People & Resources; and
- (d) That the additional clauses to be added to the Empty Homes assistance, relating to the minimum period of rental, being two years for a loan and five years for a grant and that the owner must consent to the property being managed by the Council's chosen social lettings agency be supported.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.06 pm)

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Chairman

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE)**

SUBJECT: **MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE – PROGRESS REPORT**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To advise Members of progress regarding the work of Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA).

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The MDA is a formal partnership of:

- Flintshire County Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
- Welsh Government
- Mersey Travel
- Glyndwr University
- University of Chester

2.02 The area of North East Wales and North West Cheshire is unique in the UK as a major economic area divided by a national boundary. Key features of the MDA area are:

- a largely self contained but dynamic economy with a population of 500,000 and with 81% of all journeys starting and finishing in the area;
- an economy which when measured by Gross Value Added (GVA) is considerably larger than that of Cardiff and Swansea and equivalent to half that of Wales;
- an economy which is characterised by rising economic activity and low unemployment;
- a location for manufacturing and service operations which are of national and regional importance in aerospace, automotive, chemicals, financial services, food engineering and tourism.

2.03 The Mersey Dee Alliance was formed in recognition of the shared interests of both sides of the national border and to develop a joint approach to key economic matters particularly about market planning,

major transport infrastructure and lobbying on issues of shared concern.

- 2.04 The MDA is managed by a Board, with FCC represented by a Cabinet Member and a senior officer. The formal agreement, setting out administrative and governance arrangements has previously been agreed by the Council. The MDA addresses matters which are of sub regional rather than local importance, and its work programme is fully in line with the council's policies and strategies.
- 2.05 The work of the MDA brings together strategy developed by Welsh Government, the North Wales context (particularly the work of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board) with that of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise partnership. The development of new approaches to economic development in both Wales and England make the cross border 'integration' ever more important. As a major economic area crossing national and sub-regional boundaries, the Board recognises that decisions made on one side of the border will have implications on the other, therefore mature cooperation is essential to safeguard the interests of the sub-region.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Over the last year, the following areas of work have been pursued:

(I) Dee Region Report – Dr. Elizabeth Haywood 2013

Members will be aware that the MDA Board submitted a case to the Welsh Government for City Region Status, for the Mersey Dee Area – the 'Dee Region'.

This bid was not accepted but Welsh Government did accept that the MDA was an area that needed further consideration.

Dr. Haywood's report was completed in September 2013 and set out the following key messages:

- MDA has a genuine Unique Selling Point (USP). It is the only functional, cross border economic area in the UK;
- Focus on a few priorities;
- Secure effective business engagement and support;
- Continue to build cross party, cross border political support;
- Consider pooling resources to address priorities;
- Commit to the long term and develop appropriate governance structures, involving both WG and UK Government.

Discussions are ongoing with WG, particularly on how the final bullet point can be addressed.

(II) Growth and Investment Prospectus

Work has been commissioned to inform, implement and secure appropriate recognition for MDA priorities in the strategic economic plans and European Structural funds bids being developed by the two Local Enterprise Partnerships and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. This will focus on:

- The growth potential of the M56/A55 Innovation Corridor and the actions needed to realise this potential;
- The actions necessary to raise the profile of the MDA among key stakeholders – the recommendation of the Haywood report;
- Key messages that will form the basis of an inward investment marketing proposition for the MDA area.

3.02 A copy of the MDA Review of 2013 will be distributed at the meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the report be noted.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Membership of the MDA is £5000 pa and it is proposed that will be held for a further year.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The maintenance of property and targeted approaches to meeting the needs of deprived communities are both MDA priorities.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 The protection and enhancement of the national and built environment are key principles which underpin all MDA strategy.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The maintenance of property and targeted approaches to meeting the needs of deprived communities are both MDA priorities.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None directly.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Not applicable.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Not applicable.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: MDA file

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January 2013 - THINK TANK AT C-TECH



The MDA held a Think Tank feasibility workshop on 25th January 2013 at C-Tech Innovation in Capenhurst. This initial consultation meeting was attended by 22 delegates from a variety of backgrounds including private sector business support, science and technology, SMEs, DCLG / ERDF etc. The aim was to engage relevant partners to advise on the type of body required. Feedback was that an Advisory Board for the MDA area would be a good idea, but that it needed to include representatives with clout from the area's anchor companies as well as the business support community. The work became part of planning for the Future of the MDA.

February 2013 - INNOVATION NETWORK EVENT

MDA Strategy Group met at Redwither Tower on 6th February. Among the items discussed were the Welsh Government City Regions report, and the Industrial Innovation Corridor study.

On 22nd February the first MDA Innovation Network Business Breakfast of 2013 took place at Redwither Tower, Wrexham. A total of 98 delegates attended this event, which included a series of 12 'elevator pitches' showcasing businesses within the network and presenting the latest news on current opportunities within the area, and 17 exhibitors. 25% of delegates completed our survey with 50% saying they had made 4+ new connections during the event.



March 2013 - INNOVATION CORRIDOR REPORT



MDA, NWEF and Cheshire West & Chester Council (Altogether Better) jointly commissioned AED International to produce a Concept Proposal for the development and promotion of the M56/A55 Industrial Innovation Corridor. The final AED Report was released on 12th March.



The MDA Strategy Group met at University of Chester on 19th March. Among the items discussed were cross border barriers to economic growth and feedback from a meeting between BIS North West and the MDA.

The MDA helped to establish the STEMcat partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council and attended a meeting at the Riverside Innovation Centre in Chester. STEMcat has been set up to raise the awareness of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) careers and includes partners such as Cheshire and MerseySTEM, Wirral Met, Semta, Cogent, National Apprenticeship Service and the Cheshire and Warrington LEP.



April 2013 - MDA BOARD WELCOMES NEW CHAIR

The MDA's AGM and first Board Meeting of 2013 was held at the Advanced Composite Training Centre, Hawarden, on 10th April. Cllr Bob Dutton OBE succeeded Cllr Herbert Manley as MDA Chair and Cllr Pat Hackett was elected Vice-Chair. The Board meeting involved a presentation on the M56 Innovation Corridor, next steps following the Think Tank workshop and the future development of the MDA.



The Energy Innovation Centre in Ellesmere Port hosted the Innovation Network on 19th April. The event was once again well attended and included a series of 10 'elevator pitches' that showcased businesses within the network and presented the latest news on current opportunities within the area. 25% of those who attended filled in our online survey with 70% rating the event as 'excellent'.

The MDA attended a STEMCAT meeting held at Ellesmere Port Library on 24th April. A presentation was delivered by Cogent and a regional event planned for June.

May 2013 - WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

The Dee Region Report was published by the Welsh Government in May 2013 with a short consultation period on its findings to 17th May. The report's recommendations were as follows:

- to become a real strategic force in the region, the MDA will need to be given relevant powers and funding. It will also need to change its structure, to incorporate strong private and education (HE/FE) sector membership.
- the MDA should have the authority to develop a cross-border labour market plan, and to develop and deliver a regional skills agenda.
- the MDA should take the lead in promoting the region for investment purposes, making a virtue of its cross-border nature and rejecting the existing tendency to focus marketing on one side of the border or the other.
- there should be an MoU between the Welsh and English Governments covering cross-border transport planning (binding on independent bodies such as Network Rail), with the MDA, or Taith and the Cheshire LTP, having a statutory role to be heard on proposals of regional significance.

The MDA responded positively to the consultation and urged the Welsh Government to accept the recommendations and began planning the future development of the MDA.

June 2013 - INNOVATION NETWORK EVENT

The MDA presented on the Industrial Innovation Corridor at a STEM event on 12th June at Riverside Innovation Centre in Chester. The aim of the event was to increase opportunities for partnership working between STEM stakeholders in the region and provide opportunity for CPD and networking.



On 14th June, OptIC Glyndwr University, St Asaph, hosted the MDA Innovation Network Business Breakfast. A total of 95 delegates attended the event including a series of 8 'elevator pitches' and 18 exhibitors. 30% of those who attended filled in our online survey with 60% indicating that the network is likely to have impact on generating new sales in their company.

The MDA team welcomed Bethany Skinner when she joined the Mersey Dee Alliance on 24th June as a Modern Apprentice.

July 2013 - MDA BOARD AT CHESTER UNIVERSITY



The MDA Board meeting on 11th July was hosted by University of Chester in the Westminster Building. Charlie Woodcock gave a presentation about the University's development plans including the new Food Technology Centre under construction. Paul Hildreth gave a presentation to the board to introduce his proposal for using the MDA as a case study for his PhD. Other things discussed included next steps on from Dr Haywood's Dee Region report, M56 Innovation Corridor and the International Festival for Business 2014.



The MDA gave a presentation to the STEM CAT group on 24th July about the Mersey Dee Alliance and M56 Industrial Innovation Corridor. With the help of the MDA, it was also decided that inviting Welsh partners to join the group would be key to improving the delivery of STEM in the region.

August 2013 - MDA WEBSITE UPDATED

Throughout the month of August, the Mersey Dee Alliance website went through an update. The website was transferred to new software and was given a new look. Not only updating the look, the content of the website was also updated to make sure the information was up to date. We also started to schedule two news items a day to upload to our feed – these being current business, economic and development stories.



The MDA attended a meeting on 22nd August with IchemE and AstraZeneca to discuss the implications of "Chemical Engineering Matters" and the "Concept Proposal for the Development and Promotion of the M56/A55 Industrial Innovation Corridor"

Paul Hildreth undertook a site visit of the Mersey Dee Alliance area from 27th August – 29th August. Over the three days Paul spoke to key MDA partners and completed visits of Chester, Ellesmere Port, Flintshire and Denbighshire.

September 2013 - DR HAYWOOD MEETS MDA



MDA Strategy Group met at CWAC HQ on 3rd September.

Following the Strategy Group Meeting on 3rd September, members were invited to a meeting with Dr Elizabeth Haywood to discuss the Great Western Partnership, Dee Region Cross-Border Economy and the role of the MDA. Dr Haywood gave the MDA key pointers for its future development.

Paul Hildreth completed the second week of his MDA area site visit from 3rd – 5th September completing further interviews in Chester and Wirral.

On 19th September Melissa Parsons attended the North West Business Leadership Team's Innovation Report Workshop on behalf of MDA, attending with several senior Innovation Leaders from across the region.

October 2013 - MDA EVENT AT LAUNCH FBW 2013

The Mersey Dee Alliance opened Flintshire Business Week 2013 with our Innovation Network Business Breakfast at Deeside Leisure Centre. A record 148 delegates attended the event on Tuesday 15th October including a series of 11 'elevator pitches' and 20 exhibitors. 25% of those who attended filled in our online survey with 50% indicating the network is likely to impact on new business growth and development.



**Flintshire
Business
Week**

13

15th October - 25th October

The MDA welcomed PhD student Herryman Moono from Lancaster University who is undertaking a project entitled "the Role of Coordinating Agencies in Regional Growth Strategy" using the MDA as a case study.

Herryman agreed to keep the MDA informed of his progress on a regular basis and will start his studies based in the area in October 2014.

On 31st October, Vince Cable opened the Fab Lab Ellesmere Port which the MDA supported the bid of. The Fab Lab is a partnership between The Manufacturing Institute, Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Ellesmere Port Development Board and the Cheshire & Warrington LEP.



November 2013 - HS2 LEADERS MEETING



On 25th November, a HS2 North Wales and Cross Border Leaders Meeting took place in Northop to exchange views with the national HS2 Growth Task Force about HS2 benefits for the area and in particular what needs to be considered to unlock the schemes that will lead to economic growth.



The MDA Board Meeting on 27th November was hosted by Sharp Manufacturing in Wrexham. Paul Hildreth gave an update on his recent findings and Nigel Wilcock from Mickledore gave a presentation regarding the Growth and Investment Prospectus. Governance & Linkage with EAB/LEPs was discussed.

December 2013 - INNOVATION NETWORK EVENT

On Friday 6th December, Chester University hosted the MDA Innovation Network Business Breakfast at the Riverside Innovation Centre. A total number of 103 delegates attend the event including a series of 11 'elevator' pitches and 25 exhibitors. In our post-event survey, 55% of delegates said that the network is likely to impact on new sales and 40% new growth.



The last STEMCAT meeting of 2013 was held at Fab Lab Ellesmere Port on Tuesday 3rd December. Items on the agenda included a £10k My Science Bid and plans for the STEM Festival 2014 being organised by BOOST Ellesmere Port.



January 2014 - MICKLEDORE STUDY UNDERWAY



Mickledore

Solutions in regional development

A Growth and Investment Prospectus to be undertaken by Mickledore Consulting got underway taking into consideration the recommendations made by Dr Haywood's Dee Region Report and the M56/A55 Innovation Corridor. Key deliverables include:

- Executive summary on shared cross regional priorities for communications purposes
- Inward investment key messages
- Short review of economic corridors in Europe
- Prioritised projects matched to funding opportunities
- Options/recommendation on Governance & addressing barriers

The MDA also set up a Twitter account with the username @mdainnov8. This will be used to promote the MDA Innovation Network and to date has 35 followers including Sci-Tech Daresbury, MerseySTEM and Glyndwr University.



Melissa Parsons attended Paul Hildreth's PhD 'Upgrade Seminar' at UCL in mid January 2014. Paul has now chosen the MDA as his main (and currently only) case study. Paul will now give closer focus to the central issue of realising the economic and social potential of the MDA area and how governance institutions (locally and nationally) can contribute to this. There is a very strong emphasis on understanding the MDA economy.

The MDA/Mickledore presented at the North Wales Regional Leaders Board on 24th January along with Dr Haywood, to outline the Growth and Investment Prospectus and cross border issues.

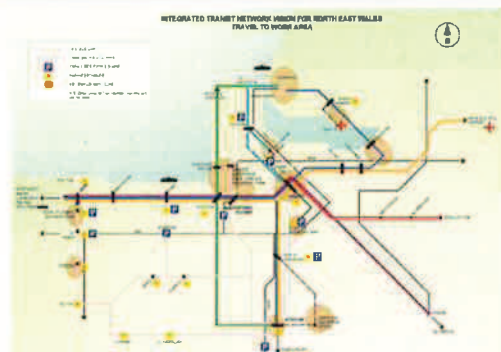
The MDA also presented at the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the Heads of Economic Development in North Wales on the MDA work programme and its future direction.

Representatives from the MDA met with the Welsh Finance Minister Jane Hutt on 30th January 2014 in Wrexham, in partnership with the WLGA. The Minister outlined the context for her interest. Early in January the Minister met with Lord Deighton, Commercial Secretary to the Treasury and stressed the significance of cross border issues in Wales and the need to consider how both Governments consider assisting cross border infrastructure projects. Further to the meeting the Minister undertook to report to her colleagues on the meeting and to highlight identified issues at the next opportunity at a UK Government level.

2014/15

The 2014/15 year will bring new challenges and opportunities for the MDA, including building on the Greengauge and Mickledore studies, and aligning with the relevant economic partnerships across the region to realise economic potential.

The potential for an Integrated Transport Project building on the NEWITT work is something for the MDA to consider.



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To consider the content of the draft Improvement Plan 2014/15 and the “How achievement will be measured” document prior to final publication in June.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan. It is a statutory requirement for the County Council to adopt the Improvement Plan.

2.02 Improvement Objectives and an accompanying Improvement Plan were first set and adopted by the Council in 2011. For 2013/14 the Council thoroughly reviewed the priorities to streamline them and reset them with clearer outcome based aims. A revised set of eight priorities supported by a structure of sub-priorities was adopted.

2.03 The Plan presentation also changed providing detail for each of the priorities which were to have the most impact during the year. This has helped the organisation to concentrate on the outcomes where most immediate attention was needed.

2.04 The refresh also took into account the comments of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on:-

- the opportunity to present a plan which would engage the wider public
- the adoption of a smaller set of ‘in-year’ priorities
- the further development of outcome based objectives which identify the impact for each priority
- the need to ensure that any revisions of the Plan are updated on the public website.

2.05 The WAO in its letter of September 2013 said that the presentation and content of the Improvement Plan (2013/14) “enables public

engagement with the Council priorities more effectively than in the past". It also commented positively that "The Plan is much shorter than before and now communicates clearly and succinctly how each of the Improvement Objectives relates to the Council's eight medium-term corporate priorities and to those of partners in the Local Service Board".

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 For 2014/15 a review of the current priorities and sub-priorities has been undertaken to set: -

- priorities that continue into 2014/15 for sustained attention;
- priorities that can now be removed as completion of a time-limited piece of work e.g. Single Status;
- priorities which could be merged e.g. School Improvement and School Modernisation; and
- emerging priorities for 2014/15 e.g. People Change and Development.

3.02 For each sub-priority which continues to be high profile for 2014/15 there has been a review based on: -

- the reasoning for the priority status;
- what we will do and how we will measure achievement; and
- the risks that will need to be managed.

3.03 The extract from the working draft Improvement Plan (Appendix A) is presented for member consultation by Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to adoption of the Improvement Plan in June. Any slight technical changes are to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.

3.04 Appendix A contains those sub-priorities that will be monitored and reviewed by Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of quarterly Improvement Plan monitoring process. A full draft version of the Improvement Plan is available for Members to view in the Member's Library.

3.05 Following Member consultation the Improvement Plan for 2014/15 will be presented to Cabinet and later the County Council, for formal adoption, in June. It will be accompanied by an appendix which details the specific measures and milestones on which achievement will be measured.

3.06 An extract of the supporting document "How achievement will be measured - supporting milestones and measures" is attached at Appendix B. This extract details the measures with targets and milestones with completion dates that will be reported as part of the quarterly Improvement Plan monitoring.

- 3.07 A further document is attached at Appendix C which gives benchmarking information (2012/13) for the national indicators which Flintshire has including in its Improvement Plan. This is attached so that Members can compare Flintshire's historic performance with other Local Authorities in Wales and better consider the targets for 2014/15. The national data for 2013/14 is not yet available.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Members to consider the content of the draft Improvement Plan 2014/15 and the "How achievement will be measured" document prior to final publication in June.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is aligned to resource these priorities.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 Poverty is a specific priority within the Improvement Plan 2014/15.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 Environment is a specific priority within the Improvement Plan 2014/15.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 Equalities will be taken into consideration through any policy changes determined by the Plan and its implementation.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 Any personnel implications will be considered through any relevant changes determined by the Plan and its implementation.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Overview and Scrutiny Committees are being invited to review the priorities, and particularly the "How achievement will be measured" document.

- 10.02 Feedback on the Improvement Plan is invited to assist with both contributing on our priorities and further improvement in presentation and format. This feedback is encouraged from the public, workforce, our key partners and businesses.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 **Appendix A** – Draft Improvement Plan Sub-priorities for Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Appendix B – Extract of the supporting document “How achievement will be measured”.

Appendix C – Benchmarking data for 2012/13 for the national indicators included in Flintshire’s Improvement Plan.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Economy and Enterprise	Business Sector Growth	Creating jobs and growing the local economy

This is a priority in year because we need to:

- Continue to meet the employment needs of local people.
- Continue to attract businesses to the area to support economic growth.
- Develop the energy and advanced manufacturing sectors in line with regional and national priorities.
- Grow the local economy creating opportunities for all sectors of our community.

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Promote and support the growth of the Flintshire economy including Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ) as a recognised centre for energy and advanced manufacturing.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Percentage of enquiries converted to investment in Flintshire
- Number of jobs created and sustained in Flintshire
- Percentage of enquiries converted to investment in the DEZ
- Number of jobs created and sustained in the DEZ

2. Implementation of the “masterplan” for the Northern Gateway site to facilitate development of a key part of the Enterprise Zone.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Approval of the Northern Gateway site “masterplan” by April 2014
- Scale of development on the site beginning with the commencement of infrastructure works in July 2014

3. Explore with Welsh Government the opportunities to improve local infrastructure (transport, utilities, environment etc.)

Achievement will be measured through: -

- The approval by Welsh Government and implementation of the Infrastructure Business Plan for the DEZ

Risks to manage:

- Ensure the DEZ can be continued with pace as part of the Welsh Government group of Enterprise Zones.
- Ensure the DEZ has proportionate financial support from Welsh Government
- Work with local employers and learning providers to meet the skills based needs of the future.

What we mean by:

Enterprise Zone – a Welsh Government initiative to stimulate growth and support business in designated areas.

Masterplan – the plan that sets out the intentions and actions for the Northern Gateway site.

Learning providers – Schools, Further and Higher Education establishments.

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Economy and Enterprise	Town and Rural Regeneration	Making local communities viable

This is a priority in year because we need to:

- Protect the commercial and business viability of our town centres and rural areas.
- Protect the vitality of town centres as centres for economic activity and social contact.
- Support the local and regional economy through the provision of sustainable infrastructure.
- Develop the tourism economy to maximise expenditure within the County.

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Progress and invest in the eight Town Centre Masterplans to meet local priorities and need.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Scale and take up of the Business Grant Scheme in Town Centres
- Delivery and completion of actions set out in the Masterplans

2. Deliver an integrated programme of regeneration in Flint to realise the vision set out in the Flint Masterplan

Achievement will be measured through:

- Completion of heritage trail and St. Mary's Square renovation
- Delivery of the Townscape Heritage Initiative including the renovation of the Old Courthouse
- Phased demolition of the maisonette blocks
- Purchase of former Police station and court building
- Completion of Flint House over 55s development

3. Complete the rural development schemes in Mold, Holywell and villages; extending accessibility and improving the local environment.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Delivery and completion of in-year rural development schemes with final outputs including:
 - 40 jobs created
 - 40 micro enterprises created
 - 35 village renewal projects supported
 - 21 community facilities sustained
 - improved visitor facilities created in Talacre / Gronant

Risks to manage:

- Maximisation of funding opportunities through external programmes to invest in our urban and rural areas.
- Ensuring sufficient project management capacity to successfully complete the programmes.

What we mean by:

Town Centre Masterplans – Plans that set out the regeneration priorities for each Town Centre.

Business Grant Scheme – Grant available to Town Centre property owners and tenants to refurbish properties and improve their frontages.

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Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Economy and Enterprise	Social Enterprise	Supporting and creating new forms of local business

This is a priority in year because we need to:

- Develop alternative economic models to strengthen and expand the local economy.
- Develop a stronger Social Enterprise community in Flintshire which can provide opportunities including employment.
- Maximise social benefits in the community e.g. increasing training opportunities for young people; keeping local money in the community.

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Raise awareness of the Flintshire Social Enterprise Fund.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Establish or assist 10 social enterprises

2. Develop effective support for social enterprises.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Establishing a wider range of community benefit clauses to be used when procuring services
- The number of Social Enterprises which survive and prosper
- Strengthening and consolidating the Social Enterprise Network

3. Develop new Social Enterprise projects to meet the Council's priorities.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Establishment of further social enterprises from within the Council

Risks to manage:

- How we maintain the necessary capacity and investment to support the development of social enterprises.
- Building the skills in the community to develop social enterprises.
- Local social enterprises need to compete effectively in the market.

What we mean by:

Social Enterprises – businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are mainly reinvested for that purpose in the business or community.

Flintshire Social Enterprise Fund – financial assistance for start-up or development of social enterprises.

Community benefit clauses - benefits to local communities from major procurements e.g. training and employment opportunities, community facilities. This incorporates social value by taking wider impacts and benefits into account other than price.

Priority	Sub-Priority	Impact
Skills and Learning	Apprenticeships and Training	Meeting the skills and employment needs of local employers

This is a priority this year because we need to:

- Extend and improve the education, employment and training opportunities available for people.
- Improve the employment prospects of local people.
- Meet the needs of local employers.
- Help young people take the step from education to employment.
- Place and retain people in work.

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Work with the public, private and voluntary sectors to increase the number of apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience opportunities.
2. Make an impact with the Employers' Promise in key areas e.g. developing further apprenticeship opportunities and employees' skills.
3. Market and communicate broadly the range of apprenticeship and training programmes available.
4. Identify sectors with skills gaps in order to develop apprenticeships and alternative programmes and investment in training.
5. Support the Young Entrepreneur Programme with the Flintshire Business Entrepreneurship Network.
6. Continue to develop and increase the number and range of Communities First job clubs.
7. Commission and deliver skills development programmes in partnership with local employers.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Reducing the number of 18 – 24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance
- Securing high levels of 16 years olds in education, employment and training
- Improving the local skills base to improve employability and earning prospects through improved qualifications
- Increasing the number of people who successfully establish and grow a business
- Increase the number of apprenticeships in the public and voluntary sector

Risks to manage:

- Ensuring that employer places match current and future aspirations and needs.
- Ensuring capacity to support paid work placements and other programmes.
- Ensuring that education providers participate fully.
- Strengthening the links between schools, colleges and employers.
- Work with local employers and learning providers to meet the skills based needs of the future.

What we mean by:

Employers' Promise – employers committed to working together to create additional training, apprenticeships and work opportunities.

Communities First job club programmes – work to support adults into employment.

Young Entrepreneur Programme – an opportunity for young people to work with mentors on their business ideas.

Flintshire Business Entrepreneurship Network – employers working together to support Entrepreneurship Programmes.

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Priority	Sub-Priority	Impact
Safe Communities	Traffic and road management	Improving road safety

This is a priority in year because we need to:

- Make roads safer in our communities by:
 - Having high quality street lighting
 - Having roads in good condition
 - Minimising reportable accidents

What we will do in 2014/15

1. Complete implementation of the first phase of our 20mph zones outside schools.
Achievement will be measured through:
 - Implementation of 65 schemes of 20mph advisory zones
2. Prioritise the Council's road infrastructure repairs and maintenance to improve road safety.
Achievement will be measured through:
 - Numbers of collisions in 'collision cluster sites' following safety improvements schemes completions
 - Time taken to repair street lamp failures
 - Time taken to respond to service requests for highway defects
3. Implement Regional Transport Plan road safety schemes.
Achievement will be measured through:
 - Completion of road safety schemes

Risks to Manage:

- Gaining public and local support for our road safety schemes.
- Making best use of our resources to meet our priorities for road safety.
- Being able to obtain timely decisions of statutory approval for schemes from Welsh Government.

What we mean by:

'Collision Cluster Site – a site where there have been 5 or more collisions, resulting in personal injury, recorded in the past 3 years within a 50 metre radius

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Environment	Transport Infrastructure and Services	People being able to access employment, local services and facilities

This is a priority this year because we need to:

- Improve accessibility to and between employment, homes, leisure, health and social activity.
- Provide convenient and affordable travel services.
- Help to reduce congestion on our highway network.
- Facilitate economic growth.

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Use available funding to support Council priorities for accessing employment, health, leisure and education.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Completion of funded projects within the Regional Transport Fund

2. Prioritise the Council's road infrastructure for repairs and maintenance and implement network improvement programmes.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Condition of the highway's infrastructure
- Road works being completed within agreed timescales
- Minimising the disruption to our road network through reduction in the number of revisits to defective road-works

3. Improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Undertake mapping for the Active Travel Bill by March 2015
- Increased usage of the County's cycleways

4. Seek approval from Welsh Government for the Deeside Infrastructure Business Plan and implement its proposals.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Approval of the Northern Gateway site "masterplan" by April 2014
- Scale of development in the site beginning with the commencement of infrastructure works by July 2014

5. Develop proposals for coordinated transport across the region.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Development of the Regional Transport Plan/Local Transport Plan by March 2015
- Developing proposals to enable the implementation of the Regional Bus Strategy by March 2015

6. Continuously review the Council's subsidised bus services to improve access to employment, health, leisure and education.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Scale and take-up of bus passenger numbers

Risks to manage:

- Ensuring that the County's infrastructure is adequate to support economic growth.
- Securing funding to ensure our highways infrastructure remains safe and capable of supporting economic growth.
- Ensuring sustainable transport options remain attractive to users.
- Transition of TAITH to new model for regional transport including contingency planning and resourcing.
- Reductions in Welsh Government grants for subsidising services.

What we mean by:

Deeside Infrastructure Business Plan – A plan that has been developed to improve the highways, transport and utility services capacity around the Deeside Enterprise Zone.

Deeside Enterprise Zone – Deeside Enterprise Zone is one of the first to be created in Wales and covers over 2000 hectares that will provide space for new and existing businesses to grow.

Infrastructure – Facilities, systems sites and networks that are necessary for the County to function.

Sustainable transport – Changing behaviour in the promotion of more resource efficient and healthier ways to travel including car sharing, public transport, cycling and walking.

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Environment	Carbon Control and Reduction	Reducing our carbon impact on the natural environment

This is a priority in year because we need to:

- Reduce our carbon 'footprint'.
- Continue to reduce our carbon emissions to meet Welsh Government targets.
- Play our part in helping to address the consequences of climate change.
- Reduce the Council's energy costs.
- Sustain our natural resources for future generations.

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Market and promote carbon reduction measures within the Council, with our partners and with the public to help manage and reduce emission levels.
2. Challenge the Council's carbon emissions, through our assets, vehicles and behaviour:-
 - investing in renewable energy schemes;
 - investing in a more efficient fleet (vehicles);
 - improving the efficiency of our street lighting; and
 - increasing recycling of the Council's own waste.

Achievement will be measured through:

- carbon reduction commitment
- renewable energy and energy retrofit schemes
- monitoring the fuel consumption of our fleet
- carbon emissions from Council street lighting
- recycling performance

3. Encourage public utilisation of recycling facilities and services.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Improved recycling performance

4. Encourage residents and employees to use more sustainable forms of transport.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Increased bus passenger numbers and use of cycleways

5. Complete the review and rationalise the Council's assets.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Reduction in the Council's assets portfolio

Risks to manage:

- Ensuring that buildings are used effectively to match our priorities.
- Securing sufficient funding for renewable energy schemes, further street lighting improvement programmes and to maintain the Council's recycling service.
- Ensuring that recycling and energy efficiency programmes are supported up by the public and employees.

What we mean by:

Carbon footprint – The amount of Carbon Dioxide that enters the atmosphere through electricity and fuel used.

Renewable energy schemes – Schemes designed to use energy from a source that is naturally replenished e.g. sunlight

Carbon reduction commitment – A mandatory scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions in large public sector and private organisations.

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Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Economy and Enterprise	Business Sector Growth in Deeside	Creating jobs and growing the local economy

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Promote and support the growth of the Flintshire economy including Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ) as a recognised centre for energy and advanced manufacturing.				
Achievements will be measured through				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of enquiries converted to investment in Flintshire ▪ Number of jobs created and sustained in Flintshire ▪ Percentage of enquiries converted to investment in the DEZ ▪ Number of jobs created and sustained in the DEZ 				
Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
Percentage of enquiries converted to investment in Flintshire	Chief Officer – Community & Enterprise	N/A New Measure	Baseline Year	TBC once baseline established
Number of jobs created and sustained in Flintshire		N/A New Measure	Baseline Year	TBC once baseline established
Percentage of enquiries converted to investment in the DEZ		54%	60%	60%
Number of jobs created and sustained in the DEZ		1234 jobs	1300 jobs	1300 jobs

2. Implementation of the “masterplan” for the Northern Gateway site to facilitate development of a key part of the Enterprise Zone.

Achievements will be measured through

Approval of the Northern Gateway site “masterplan” by April 2014

Scale of development on the site beginning with the commencement of infrastructure works in July 2014

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

Approval of the Northern Gateway site “masterplan” by April 2014

Commencement of infrastructure works in July 2014

3. Explore with Welsh Government the opportunities to improve local infrastructure (transport, utilities, environment etc.)

Achievements will be measured through

The approval by Welsh Government and implementation of the Infrastructure Business Plan for the DEZ

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

The approval by Welsh Government and implementation of the Infrastructure Business Plan for the DEZ by Summer 2014.

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Economy and Enterprise	Town and Rural Regeneration	Making local communities viable

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Progress and invest in the eight Town Centre Masterplans to meet local priorities and need.

Achievements will be measured through
 Scale and take up of the Business Grant Scheme in Town Centres
 Delivery and completion of actions set out in the Masterplans

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
IPEE2M1 - Scale and take up of the Business Grant Scheme in Town Centres	Chief Officer – Community & Enterprise	10 grants	25 grants	25 grants

2. Deliver an integrated programme of regeneration in Flint to realise the vision set out in the Flint Masterplan

Achievements will be measured through

- Completion of heritage trail and St. Mary’s Square renovation
- Delivery of the Townscape Heritage Initiative including the renovation of the Old Courthouse
- Phased demolition of the maisonette blocks
- Purchase of former Police station and court building
- Completion of Flint House over 55s development

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

- Completion of heritage trail and St. Mary’s Square renovation by 31 March 2015
- Delivery of the Townscape Heritage Initiative including the renovation of the Old Courthouse by 31 March 2015
- Phased demolition of the maisonette blocks by 31 March 2015
- Purchase of former Police station and court building by 31 March 2015
- Completion of Flint House over 55s development by 31 March 2015

3. Complete the rural development schemes in Mold, Holywell and villages; extending accessibility and improving the local environment.

Achievements will be measured through

Delivery and completion of in-year rural development schemes with final outputs including:

- 40 jobs created
- 40 micro enterprises created
- 35 village renewal projects supported
- 21 community facilities sustained
- improved visitor facilities created in Talacre / Gronant

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

Improved visitor facilities created in Talacre / Gronant in by 31 March 2015

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
Creation of 40 jobs through the delivery and completion of the in-year rural development schemes	Chief Officer – Community & Enterprise	11.26 jobs	40 jobs	N/A
40 micro enterprises created through the delivery and completion of the in-year rural development schemes		16 micro enterprises	40 micro enterprises	N/A
35 village renewal projects supported through the delivery and completion of the in-year rural development schemes		10 renewal projects	35 renewal projects	N/A

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

21 community facilities sustained through the delivery and completion of the in-year rural development schemes		12 community facilities	21 community facilities	N/A
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Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Economy and Enterprise	Social Enterprise	Supporting and creating new forms of local business

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Raise awareness of the Flintshire Social Enterprise Fund.				
Achievements will be measured through Establish or assist 10 social enterprises				
Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
Establish or assist 10 social enterprises	Chief Officer – Social Services	N/A New measure	10 social enterprises	11 social enterprises

2. Develop effective support for social enterprises.
Achievements will be measured through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishing a wider range of community benefit clauses to be used when procuring services ▪ The number of Social Enterprises which survive and prosper ▪ Strengthening and consolidating the Social Enterprise Network by a numerical increase in numbers and how effectively the network is working
Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans: Establishing a wider range of community benefit clauses to be used when procuring services by October 2014.

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
The number of Social Enterprises which survive and prosper	Chief Officer – Social Services	New Measure – baseline data not available	N/A – Management Information	N/A – Management Information

3. Develop new Social Enterprise projects to meet the Council’s priorities.

Achievements will be measured through

Establishment of further social enterprises from within the Council

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
Establishment of further social enterprises from within the Council	Chief Officer – Social Services	New Measure – baseline data not available	1 social enterprise	2 social enterprises

Priority	Sub-Priority	Impact
Skills and Learning	Apprenticeships and Training	Meeting the skills and employment needs of local employers

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Work with the public, private and voluntary sectors to increase the number of apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience opportunities.
2. Make an impact with the Employers’ Promise in key areas e.g. developing further apprenticeship opportunities and employees’ skills.
3. Market and communicate broadly the range of apprenticeship and training programmes available.
4. Identify sectors with skills gaps in order to develop apprenticeships and alternative programmes and investment in training.
5. Support the Young Entrepreneur Programme with the Flintshire Business Entrepreneurship Network.
6. Continue to develop and increase the number and range of Communities First job clubs.
7. Commission and deliver skills development programmes in partnership with local employers.

Achievements will be measured through

- Reducing the number of 18 – 24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance
- Securing high levels of 16 years olds in education, employment and training
- Improving the local skills base to improve employability and earning prospects through improved qualifications
- Increase the number of apprenticeships in the public and voluntary sector

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

- Agree to purchase and use the Annual Business Enquiry for business registration in order to provide baseline, progress and comparison of business performance Flintshire by August 2014.
- Refine and improve the processes and systems of apprenticeship data collection for Flintshire both in line with national measures and as the basis for year-on-year comparison by January 2015.

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	Baseline Data (Summer	2014/15 Target (Summer	2016/17 Aspirational Target

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

		2014)	2015)	(Summer 2016)
Reducing the percentage of 18 – 24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance	Chief Officer Education and Youth	5.7%	5.1%	4.9%
Reducing the number of 18 – 24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance for at least 6 months		1%	0.95%	0.9%
Reducing the number of 18 – 24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance for at least 12 months		0.8%	0.75%	0.7%
Securing high levels of 16 years olds in education, employment and training*		96.4%	97.9%	98%
Proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 qualified to NVQ level 2 and above.		71.5%	72%	74%
Proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 qualified to NVQ level 3 and above.		52.5%	53%	54%
Proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 qualified to NVQ level 4 and above.		29.7%	30%	31%

**target may be subject to a mid-year review due to recently raised enquiries about the methodology and subsequent calculation. We do, however, want to keep this target aspirational.*

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Priority	Sub-Priority	Impact
Safe Communities	Traffic and road management	Improving road safety

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Complete implementation of the first phase of our 20mph zones outside schools.

Achievement will be measured through:
Implementation of 65 schemes of 20mph advisory zones

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
IPSC2M1 - Implement 20 mph advisory zones	Chief Officer – Transport and Streetscene	0 schools in 2013/14 *	65 schools	90 schools (All Schools)

**19 schools cumulative total as at 2013/14 year end*

2. Prioritise the Council’s road infrastructure repairs and maintenance to improve road safety.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Numbers of collisions in ‘collision cluster sites’ following safety improvements schemes completions
- Time taken to repair street lamp failures
- Time taken to respond to service requests for highway defects

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
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Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Number of collisions in collision cluster sites following safety improvement schemes	Chief Officer – Transport and Streetscene	N/A New Measure	0 collisions	0 collisions
THS/009 - The average number of calendar days taken to repair street lamp failures during the year		3 days	3 days	3 days
Time taken to respond to service requests for highway defects		N/A New Measure	1 day	1 day

3. Implement Regional Transport Plan road safety schemes.

Achievement will be measured through:
Completion of road safety schemes

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
IPSC2M7 - Implement road safety schemes	Chief Officer – Transport and Streetscene	100%	100%	100%

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Environment	Transport Infrastructure and Services	People being able to access employment, local services and facilities

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Use available funding to support Council priorities for accessing employment, health, leisure and education.

Achievement will be measured through:
Completion of funded projects within the Regional Transport Fund

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
IPE1M1 - Completion of funded projects within the Regional Transport Fund	Chief Officer – Transport & Streetscene	3 projects	3 projects	3 projects

2. Prioritise the Council’s road infrastructure for repairs and maintenance and implement network improvement programmes.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Condition of the highway’s infrastructure
- Road works being completed within agreed timescales
- Minimising the disruption to our road network through reduction in the number of revisits to defective road-works

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
THS/012 - The percentage of principal (A) roads, non-principal (B) roads and non principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition		4.3%	6%	6%

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Road works being completed within agreed timescales	Chief Officer – Transport & Streetscene	N/A - new measure	Baseline Year	TBC once baseline established
Number of revisits to defective road-works		N/A - new measure	Baseline Year	TBC once baseline established

3. Improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

Achievement will be measured through:

Undertake mapping for the Active Travel Bill by March 2015
Increased usage of the County’s cycleways

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

Undertake mapping for the Active Travel Bill by March 2015

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
IPE1M7 - Number of users on the cycleway networks evidenced through counter data	Chief Officer – Transport & Streetscene	82,500 users	120,000 users	150,00 users

4. Seek approval from Welsh Government for the Deeside Infrastructure Business Plan and implement its proposals.

Achievement will be measured through:

Approval of the Northern Gateway site “masterplan” by April 2014
Scale of development in the site beginning with the commencement of infrastructure works by July 2014

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Approval of the Northern Gateway site “masterplan” by April 2014
 Scale of development in the site beginning with the commencement of infrastructure works by July 2014

5. Develop proposals for coordinated transport across the region.

Achievement will be measured through:

Development of the Regional Transport Plan/Local Transport Plan by March 2015
 Developing proposals to enable the implementation of the Regional Bus Strategy by March 2015

Achievement Milestones for strategy and action plans:

Development of the Regional Transport Plan/Local Transport Plan by March 2015
 Developing proposals to enable the implementation of the Regional Bus Strategy by March 2015

6. Continuously review the Council’s subsidised bus services to improve access to employment, health, leisure and education.

Achievement will be measured through:

Scale and take-up of bus passenger numbers

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
THS/007 - The percentage of adults aged 60 or over who hold a concessionary travel pass	Chief Officer – Transport & Streetscene	80.94%	78%	80%
Number of passengers on Deeside Shuttle		63,500 passengers	64,000 passengers	64,000 passengers

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Priority	Sub-Priority	Outcome / Impact
Environment	Carbon Control and Reduction	Reducing our carbon impact on the natural environment

What we will do in 2014/15:

1. Market and promote carbon reduction measures within the Council, with our partners and with the public to help manage and reduce emission levels.

2. Challenge the Council’s carbon emissions, through our assets, vehicles and behaviour:-

- investing in renewable energy schemes;
- investing in a more efficient fleet (vehicles);
- improving the efficiency of our street lighting; and
- increasing recycling of the Council’s own waste.

Achievement will be measured through:

- Carbon reduction commitment
- Renewable energy and energy retrofit schemes
- Monitoring the fuel consumption of our fleet
- Carbon emissions from Council street lighting
- Recycling performance

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
EEFLM1 - Carbon Reduction Commitment - Reduce our carbon footprint through delivery of our Carbon Reduction Strategy (non domestic portfolio)		1.51% (increase)	29% (reduction)	60% reduction by 2021

Appendix B – Extract from ‘How achievement will be measured?’ document

Investment in renewal energy schemes	Chief Officer – Transport & Streetscene	£300k	Between £100k and £200k	TBC subject to budget setting
Monitoring the fuel consumption of our fleet (litres)		N/A New Measure	Baseline Year	TBC once baseline established
Reduction in carbon emissions from Council street lighting through installing improved and energy efficient street lighting, signs and bollards.		1.8%	1.75% per annum	2.5% per annum
WMT/009b - The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated bio wastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way.		55.07%	57%	58%

3. Encourage public utilisation of recycling facilities and services.				
Achievement will be measured through: Improved recycling performance				
Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
WMT/011 - The percentage of local authority municipal waste received at all local authority household waste amenity sites that is prepared for reuse, recycled or of source segregated bio waste that is composted or treated biologically in another way.	Chief Officer – Transport & Streetscene	54.47%	67%	75%

4. Encourage residents and employees to use more sustainable forms of transport.

Achievement will be measured through:
Increased bus passenger numbers and use of cycleways

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
Increased bus passenger numbers.	Chief Officer – Transport & Streetscene	N/A New Measure	Baseline Year	TBC once baseline established
IPE1M7 - Number of users on the cycleway networks evidenced through counter data		82,500 users	120,000 users	150,000 users

5. Complete the review and rationalise the Council’s assets.

Achievement will be measured through:
Reduction in the Council’s assets portfolio

Achievement Measures	Lead Officer	2013/14 Baseline Data	2014/15 Target	2016/17 Aspirational Target
IPE2M11 - Reduce the number of corporate office buildings we own and occupy	Chief Officers – Organisational Change	0	Reduction of 1 building	Reduction of 2 buildings

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Achievement Measure	Flintshire Performance 2012/13	Flintshire Rank and Quartile	Wales Average 2012/13 (median)	Best in Wales 2012/13	Upper Quartile 2012/13	Worst in Wales 2012/13
THS/009 - The average number of calendar days taken to repair street lamp failures during the year.	2.98 days	9 th Mid Quartile	3.48 days	1.4 days	2.79 days	9.47 days
THS/012 - The percentage of principal (A) roads, non-principal (B) roads and non principal (C) roads that are in overall poor condition.	5.4%	1 st Top Quartile	9.5%	5.4%	8%	20.1%
THS/007 - The percentage of adults aged 60 or over who hold a concessionary travel pass.	81.1%	15 th Mid Quartile	85.1%	98.2%	88.4%	63.8%
WMT/009b - The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated bio wastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way.	54.92%	7 th Mid Quartile	52.98%	58.02%	55.15%	46.20%
WMT/011 - The percentage of local authority municipal waste received at all local authority household waste amenity sites that is prepared for reuse, recycled or of source segregated bio waste that is composted or treated biologically in another way.	53.70%	20 th Bottom Quartile	63.14%	93.04%	73.78%	45.31%

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2013/14 data is not yet available for comparative purposes

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2014**

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

SUBJECT: **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the 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 or a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:

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

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

N/A

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme

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

None.

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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Draft Forward Work Programme

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/ Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
14 July 2014 9am – 1pm	Town Centres workshop at Theatr Clwyd		Strategic Direction	Facilitator	
9 July 2014 10.00 a.m.	2013/14 Year End and Quarter 4 Performance Data	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Performance Monitoring/Service Improvement	Facilitator	
	Highways	To receive a report on progress made with speed limits for A, B and C roads in Flintshire plus information on Matrix system for setting the Highways maintenance Programme	Progress Monitoring	To be confirmed	

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ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED as agreed by Committee

Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Responsible / Contact Officer
Carbon Reduction Strategy	To receive a report on the outcome of the independent assessment undertaken by the Carbon Trust	Neal Cockerton
Energy Switching Scheme update	Results of Welsh Government pilot scheme to be reported in briefing note.	Neal Cockerton

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Responsible / Contact Officer
Heritage & Culture	To receive a report on the role of the Council with regard to listed buildings and restoration and conservation in Flintshire.	Gerry Spencer (initial contact)
Streetscene – next steps	To advise members on the way Streetscene will move forward to include cross-departmental work.	Steve Jones
Agriculture	How Flintshire support the sustainability of farming in the County.	Chief Officer
West Flintshire Community Enterprises	Invite to future meeting	Facilitator

REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
Quarterly/ Half Yearly	Improvement Plan Monitoring and Chief Officer Performance Reports	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Chief Officers
Quarterly	North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project & sub regional food waste project	To receive and consider further details on the progress of the project.	To be confirmed

Visit to HRC Site Sandycroft – Early 2015