

# Public Document Pack

**Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr**  
Chief Officer (Governance)  
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



To: Cllr Hilary Isherwood (Chair)

CS/NG

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Peter Curtis,  
Chris Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, David Evans,  
Veronica Gay, Cindy Hinds, Ray Hughes,  
Joe Johnson, Colin Legg, Nancy Matthews,  
Ann Minshull, Paul Shotton and Carolyn Thomas

11 September 2014

Maureen Potter 01352 702322

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, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2014** at **2.00 PM** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

## **A G E N D A**

1 **APOLOGIES**

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

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 18)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 11 June 2014 and 9 July 2014.

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

4 **FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP ON CHANGING TIMES: HELPING FLINTSHIRE'S TOWN CENTRES ADAPT TO A CHANGING WORLD**

(Pages 19 - 30)

Report of Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator

5 **PRIORITISATION OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER VARIATIONS** (Pages 31 - 40)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)

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

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

It is not good employment practice or in the public interest for matters the subject of consultation with employees effected and other unions to be discussed in public at this stage of the consultation process.

6 **PROPOSED HIGH LEVEL STAFFING STRUCTURES - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

To receive a presentation from the Chief Officer (Planning and Environment).

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

It is not good employment practice or in the public interest for matters the subject of consultation with employees effected and other unions to be discussed in public at this stage of the consultation process.

7 **REVISED STAFFING STRUCTURE - STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORTATION** (Pages 41 - 46)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)

## **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** **11 JUNE 2014**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Wednesday, 11 June 2014

### **PRESENT: Councillor Hilary Isherwood (Chair)**

Councillors: Alex Aldridge, Haydn Bateman, Peter Curtis, Chris Dolphin, David Evans, Veronica Gay, Colin Legg, Nancy Matthews, Ann Minshull and Paul Shotton

### **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

Councillors: Andy Dunbobbin for Ian Dunbar and Vicky Perfect for Cindy Hinds

### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: Ray Hughes and Carolyn Thomas

### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

Cabinet Member for Environment, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure, Chief Officer (Planning and Environment), Chief Officer (Organisational Change)

For agenda item 5 - Nick Thomas and Richard Weston from Natural Resources Wales and Regional Emergency Planning Manager

For agenda item 6 - Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) and Chief Regeneration Officer

For agenda item 7 – Performance Team Leader

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

## **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chair sought nominations for a Vice-Chairman for the Committee. Councillor Alex Aldridge nominated Councillor David Evans, which was duly seconded.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor David Evans be Vice-Chairman for the Committee.

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 April 2014 and the joint meeting with Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 28 April, 2014 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

#### Matters Arising

##### 2 April 2014

Councillor Haydn Bateman referred to page 5 on Traffic Infrastructure and Services and sought clarity on the emphasis of funding available being changed from leisure use to supporting the local economy. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) said that there had been a change of emphasis on the area of funding to those cycleways that now served the business economy.

Councillor Peter Curtis indicated that he had not received a response to his request at the previous meeting on parking permits for carers who needed to undertake regular visits as part of their work. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) advised that he had replied but indicated that he would do so again. The Cabinet Member for Environment spoke of the specific issue raised by Councillor Curtis and said that once further details had been agreed on Civil Enforcement, updates would be provided to the Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Chris Dolphin about when a report on the criteria used in the survey to ascertain the condition of roads would be submitted to the Committee, the Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator advised that it would be considered at the Committee meeting scheduled for 9 July 2014. The Cabinet Member for Environment advised that Councillor Dolphin could have details of the criteria prior to the next meeting.

Councillor Nancy Matthews asked when the update report on the Energy Switching pilot scheme would be available. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) said that a report could be provided to the 9 July 2014 meeting of the Committee. In response to a query from Councillor Dolphin, he added that a review of C roads would be undertaken once the review of A and B roads had been implemented.

##### 28 April 2014

Councillor Dolphin asked what progress had been made on Housing and Planning colleagues working together to work proactively with owners to bring empty houses back into use. In response, the Chief Officer (Planning and Environment) said that the project was 'work in progress' but that Housing and Planning colleagues were committed to identifying a solution. The Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator advised that a workshop on empty homes had taken place recently and was attended by

both Planning and Housing colleagues. Councillor Peter Curtis referred to the issue of funding being provided for shop fronts to be brought back into use but suggested that a condition should be imposed that any flats above the shops should not be left vacant for several months as had been the case in the past. The Facilitator advised that these issues could be discussed at the Town Centres workshop for Members which was scheduled for 14 July 2014.

Councillor Paul Shotton commented on the Welsh Government Houses to Homes Scheme and asked when work would commence on a particular project in Connah's Quay. The Cabinet Member for Environment requested that Councillor Shotton put his request in writing to the Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) to enable her to provide a response. The Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator advised that the issue had been considered at a recent Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**4. PRESENTATION BY NATURAL RESOURCES WALES**

The Chair introduced Nick Thomas and Richard Weston from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Phil Harrison, Regional Emergency Planning Manager to the Committee.

Nick Thomas and Richard Weston jointly provided a presentation to the Committee on NRW's Work in Flintshire. The main features of the presentation were:-

- Who we are
- Our purpose
- Landowner and Land Manager
- Outdoor Recreation
- Water Framework Directive
- River Alyn Water Framework Directive Project
- Fisheries Management
- Designating Authority
- Species Management
- Rights of Way
- Dee Estuary Regional Park
- Flintshire Coastal Tourism Potential Challenges
- Statutory Consultee on planning applications
- Environmental Regulation
- Compliance and Enforcement
- The River Dee
- Incident Management
- Flood Risk Management

The Regional Emergency Planning Manager provided a detailed background to the work of the Regional Emergency Planning Team which was due to commence on 1 July 2014. He explained that the six North Wales Local Authorities had signed up to provide a Regional Emergency Planning Team which consisted of ten employees with a Manager and a Deputy. The Team was based at two hubs, one for Flintshire, Denbighshire & Wrexham and the other for Ynys Mon, Gwynedd and Conwy and would work closely with NRW and would have close links with the Local Resilience Forum. The Team would introduce best practices across the region and part of the role would involve close working with Elected Members to provide them with information for their residents on issues of concern such as flooding.

Councillor Paul Shotton raised concern about the erosion at Wepre Gate and the sand dunes at Talacre. He also asked questions on licences for cockling; the Northern Gateway site; funding for flooding and dredging in rivers. In response, Mr. Weston said that erosion works were carried out where land defences were affected and requested that Councillor Shotton discuss Wepre Gate with him following the meeting. Work on the sand dunes had been undertaken but discussions were ongoing on future works. On the issue of funding for flooding, he indicated that there had been no change in the funding streams (one from revenue and the other from capital) since the formation of NRW but a restructure of the service was to be undertaken which could affect the funding streams. Mr. Thomas said that the issue of flooding was likely to worsen in the coming years but explained that significant sums of money had been spent on flood defences and identifying land management issues which could help to reduce flooding problems. He felt that dredging in certain places was appropriate but that widespread dredging of rivers was not suitable. Mr. Weston explained that outline planning permission had been granted on the Northern Gateway site and NRW were working with WG on flood defence works and WG were funding sheet piling works which would remove the issue of breaching the flood defences. Mr. Thomas advised that 50 licences had been issued for cockling and added that the restriction of cockling to those with a licence was a better arrangement than had previously been in place.

Councillor Alex Aldridge extended an invitation to Mr. Thomas and Mr. Weston to visit Flint to look at two issues which were causing concern which he provided full details on; one was the continuation of the cycleway and the other was land fronting Dee Cottages.

In response to a question from Councillor David Evans about how the areas of risk of flooding could be identified, Mr. Weston said that flood maps were available which showed the areas at risk and the level of risk associated with the area. These were available through a link on the NRW website. Councillor Evans also spoke of concerns about land being allowed to flood to alleviate flooding in residential areas. He referred to Balderton Brook and to the problems that flooding of land caused for farmers and asked whether there were any measures to mitigate the flooding. Mr. Weston said that a risk based programme of works was in place and spoke of the brook and added that maintenance of water courses was the responsibility of the land owner.

Following a further query from Councillor Evans about the SSSI site at Wepre, Mr. Weston said that flood defence works on the Northern Gateway site would not increase the risk of flooding on the other side of the river.

Councillor Veronica Gay also raised concern about Balderton Brook. Mr. Weston said that management of flood risk to property was a key priority for NRW and added that regular meetings took place. Councillor Gay extended an invitation to Mr. Weston and Mr. Thomas to visit Saltney Town Council to discuss local issues.

Councillor Colin Legg commented on an issue over the use of the car park at Ysgol Rhos Helyg and spoke of the Halkyn Ranger and asked to be kept informed of any resolution to the problem. He also raised concern about the destruction of cotoneaster plants on Halkyn Mountain as the site was now covered in nettles which he did not agree with. Mr. Thomas confirmed that he would contact Councillor Legg to discuss the issues.

In response to a question from Councillor Chris Dolphin on flooding at the Halfway House public house in Carmel, Mr. Weston said that this would be the responsibility of Flintshire County Council. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) confirmed that he was aware of the issue and the Cabinet Member for Environment indicated that responsibility had come to the Council with no funding and therefore the issue would be considered during the programme of prioritising the order of works required in the County. Councillor Dolphin also spoke about flooding concerns in Greenfield.

The Regional Emergency Planning Manager spoke of community resilience and communities taking responsibility for their own defences. Councillor Dolphin commended Flintshire County Council for their work during the flooding earlier in the year and said that the sandbags had been welcomed by residents.

The Chair thanked Mr. Weston, Mr. Thomas and the Regional Emergency Planning Manager for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the presentation be received.

**5. MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE**

The Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) and Chief Regeneration Officer introduced a report to advise Members of progress regarding the work of Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA).

The Chief Regeneration Officer detailed the background to the report and explained that the MDA was made up of nine partnerships which included Flintshire County Council, Welsh Government (WG) and Glyndwr University. He added that the area of North East Wales and North West Cheshire was

unique in the UK as a major economic area divided by a national boundary. The MDA had been 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.

The report provided information on the work which had been carried out which included the Dee Region Report by Dr. Elizabeth Haywood in 2013. The MDA Board had submitted a case to WG for City Region Status for the MDA and even though the bid had not been accepted, WG had accepted that the MDA was an area that needed further consideration.

Work on a Growth and Investment Prospectus had also been undertaken 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 would focus on the growth potential of the M56/A55 Innovation Corridor, raising the profile of the MDA among key stakeholders and key messages that would form the basis of an inward investment marketing proposition for the MDA area.

In welcoming the report, Councillor Nancy Matthews thanked officers for their work but said that she could not see any movement on the attitude of WG and she felt that they did not appreciate the unique position of the area and its geographical training corridor. She said that discussions had been undertaken in 2008 on the Halton Spur and the electrification of the railway line from Bidston to Wrexham, both of which she felt could make a significant difference to the area. Councillor Paul Shotton spoke of the economy of the area that was greater than Cardiff or Swansea and expressed his disappointment at the bid for City Region Status not being accepted. In response to a question from Councillor Shotton on the electrification of the Bidston line, the Chief Officer (Community and Enterprise) said that the issue had been discussed at a recent meeting of the MDA Strategy Group and work was still ongoing to decide what priorities should be taken up with WG. The Cabinet Member for Economic Development said that he would endeavour to make WG aware of the MDA. Councillor Colin Legg said that there were several instances in Europe where similar joint approaches were taken which worked well and he felt that the raising the profile of the MDA was important.

Councillor Veronica Gay referred to an issue about Broadband coverage in Saltney which she felt needed reviewing and in response, the Chief Officer (Planning and Environment) said that British Telecom had not completed their work in Flintshire yet; he added that he could provide her with a detailed response of the programme of work.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be noted; and

- (b) That an update report be submitted to the Committee in six months time.

**6. IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15**

The Performance Team Leader introduced a report to consider the content of the draft Improvement Plan 2014/15 and the "How achievement will be measured" document prior to submission to Cabinet on 17 June 2014 and endorsement by County Council on 24 June 2014.

Councillor Nancy Matthews referred to page 36 on the Transport Infrastructure and Services sub-priority and said that people being able to access employment, local services and facilities was the most important part of the plan. The Chair concurred and raised concerns at the lack of bus services after 6pm in semi rural and rural areas.

Councillor Paul Shotton welcomed the continuation of the Dragons Den initiative, the Young Entrepreneur Programme and the Shuttle Bus Service. He also commented on the Business Sector Growth and the securing of jobs in Flint and new job opportunities becoming available in Buckley.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received.

**7. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the report to consider the Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

The Facilitator provided details of the reports due for consideration at the 9 July 2014 meeting of the Committee which included receiving a report on progress made with speed limits for A, B and C roads in Flintshire. The Cabinet Member had earlier indicated that information could be provided to Members in advance of the meeting, which Councillor Alex Aldridge welcomed, but he requested that the information include details of what the funding stream had been, what it was now and what it would be in the future. The Facilitator added that it had also been requested that an update on the Energy Switching pilot scheme be provided and it was hoped that this could also be submitted to the 9 July 2014 meeting. She also advised the Committee that a Member workshop on Town Centres had been arranged for 14 July 2014 and that a Forward Work Planning workshop needed to be arranged to allow discussion on the items to be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

Councillor Alex Aldridge suggested that the Committee could undertake visits to look at the environment to see the work carried out at Talacre and to visit local employers such as Airbus and Toyota. Councillor Paul Shotton concurred and spoke of a recent visit to Tata Steel which he had found very

informative. The Facilitator advised that visits had been arranged in the past but had resulted in a very low turnout by Committee Members.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved subject to the inclusion of an update report on the Energy Switching pilot scheme being submitted to the 9 July 2014 meeting; and
- (b) That the Environment and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator consider arranging a visit for the Committee.

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

There were no members of the public and one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 12.25 pm)

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**Chairman**

**ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**9 JULY 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, 9 July 2014

**PRESENT:Councillor Hilary Isherwood (Chair)**

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

**SUBSTITUTES:** Councillors: David Cox (for Ann Minshull) and Mike Reece (for Peter Curtis)

**APOLOGIES:** Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection & Leisure and Cabinet Member for Economic Development

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors: Christine Jones and David Wisinger

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Chief Officer (Planning & Environment), Chief Officer (Organisational Change), Energy Manager and Interim Public Protection Manager

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Member Engagement Manager and Committee Officer

**9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Carolyn Thomas declared the following personal interests on Agenda Item 4 - Year End Service Performance Report:

- Husband employed by P&A Mold who had entered into partnership with the Council's Building Control to check applications for the building of timber-framed classrooms;
- As Secretary of Treuddyn Community Association, applied and received grant funding for Treuddyn Fun Day event;
- Interim Chair of Areas of Natural Outstanding Beauty (AONB) Joint Action Committee; and
- Director of Cadwyn Clwyd (not appointed by the Council) and member of Flintshire Rural Partnership - Rural Development Plan funding - managing schemes and grants listed, assessed applications for Cadwyn Clwyd Flintshire Enterprise project and Community Key Fund.

**10. ENERGY SWITCHING SCHEME UPDATE**

The Energy Manager introduced the report to update the Committee with information on the Welsh Government's (WG) sponsored collective switching scheme called 'CydCymru'.

Following reports submitted to the Committee in March and September 2013, it had been agreed not to take up the scheme in Flintshire at that time due to concerns on costs. However, support from WG for a scheme developed by Cardiff City and Vale of Glamorgan Councils and confirmation of funding for the foreseeable future had led to renewed interest by Flintshire. The two fuel switches which had taken place to date had proved successful, with the first enabling 870 households to achieve average savings of £155 each by switching suppliers. The second switch had collected 1,962 registrations of which 34% had switched suppliers, representing a significant achievement, and a third switch was anticipated for the Autumn 2014. A report was being produced by Cardiff City Council, indicating that a combined 1,500 households had achieved an average saving of £180 per household as a result of the two fuel switches.

The Energy Manager said that whilst the initiative aimed to help achieve savings, the energy efficiency measures were of great importance to safeguard households from fuel poverty. Given the minimum resource implications and with support from WG, it was the Council's intention to sign up to the scheme, with no cost implications other than officer time and a small amount of funding taken from the existing budget for engagement packs to be promoted by Members and officers.

In response to a question from the Chair on the cost of producing the engagement packs, the Energy Manager estimated these to be around £2K but agreed to provide confirmation when available.

Councillor Paul Shotton said that the initiative was well-intentioned but commented on the take-up rate and suggested that loft/wall insulation and a different approach by energy companies may be more beneficial to households. In responding, the Energy Manager confirmed that the scheme was open to low-income households with pre-payment meters.

Councillor Nancy Matthews acknowledged the increased number of households which had achieved savings from the second fuel switch and asked if interested residents could seek advice by telephoning the Energy team or were able to receive assistance in registering online at Flintshire Connects offices. The Energy Manager explained that this was a specialist area and that the Energy team, through agile working, could advise residents or refer them to the Energy Advice Centre where appropriate. Officers would work alongside the Centre to help promote the scheme, with engagement packs to be made available at local events and to Members and Town and Community Councils.

Councillor Chris Dolphin commented that the scheme may not suit everyone but that those with pre-payment meters should be encouraged to participate. He felt that promotion of the scheme should emphasise that this was a Council initiative to encourage greater take-up by residents and that the services and help available at Flintshire Connects offices should be more widely publicised to the general public. The Energy Manager advised that 50%

of the 5,373 households registered for the first fuel switch were outside Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan, with approximately 70 from Flintshire. A copy of the report from the fuel switch would be shared with the Committee.

The Energy Manager agreed to take forward to the Project Board the suggestion made by Councillor Joe Johnson to extend the scheme to include a switching model for mobile telephones and broadband.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the initiative be supported; and
- (b) That Members utilise the engagement packs (when available) to promote the CydCymru fuel switching scheme, and promote energy efficiency when doing so.

**11. YEAR END SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report to note and consider the 2013/14 Year End service performance report produced under the adopted business model of the Council. The responsible officers each gave a short presentation on performance, outlining work which had been undertaken to improve performance and areas where improvement was needed, as outlined within the report.

**Public Protection**

Councillor Paul Shotton welcomed the appointment of two additional Environmental Crime Officers and intelligence on dog fouling received from members of the public, but felt that more could be done on education. He noted the significant increase in fixed penalty notices issued during 2013/14 and asked about the 'Doggy Do' presentations at schools. The Interim Public Protection Manager confirmed that presentations at local schools were part of the long-term strategy to help educate pupils to encourage their parents on responsible dog ownership.

On work to tackle domestic violence, the Chair said that a DVD highlighting this issue had been well received at a meeting of the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and gave her view that appropriate discussion on this topic should take place in schools to raise awareness about behaviour from a young age. The Interim Public Protection Manager replied that the 'Cat's Paw Theatre' company were delivering an annual presentation to high schools and that this had been well received last year.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment reminded Members that the Council was the first in Wales to sign up to the White Ribbon campaign to tackle domestic violence and that a Cabinet Member from each Authority would be appointed as an ambassador.

Clarification was sought by Councillor David Evans on fly tipping on private land, particularly rented properties. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) agreed to follow this up with the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) but said that communication channels should be in place to ensure that any fly tipping identified by Council officers was appropriately reported to engage with relevant outside bodies.

The Chief Officer (Planning & Environment) advised that the Council had legislative powers to serve Section 215 Notices to owners of untidy land. The Chair felt that all Members should be made aware of this.

The Interim Public Protection Manager agreed to provide separate clarification on a query from Councillor Ray Hughes on whether action could be taken if incriminating evidence was found on fly tipping on private land.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas pointed out that the increase in fixed penalty notices issues related to litter as well as dog fouling, and that it was important to enforce both.

In response to queries raised by Councillor Haydn Bateman, the Interim Public Protection Manager expanded on work undertaken by the Substance Misuse Co-ordinator to tackle discarded needles and the partnership between the Council and P&A Mold.

Following a question from Councillor Cindy Hinds, it was noted that the Community Safety team included an anti-social behaviour officer who worked in partnership with Police and other agencies. Alternatively, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment said that Members could report any specific issues to the Interim Public Protection Manager to pass on to the Neighbourhood Wardens who were able to collect evidence whilst on patrol.

### Regeneration

Councillor Shotton welcomed the significant increase in new jobs created within the Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ), praised the Dragon's Den project and requested an update on funding for Phase 2 of the North Wales Advanced Manufacturing Skills & Technology Project. Having only recently taken responsibility for Regeneration within her new portfolio, the Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) was aware from recent discussions that the second phase had been commissioned and that locations were under consideration. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment advised that an announcement on funding was expected shortly and it was hoped that Flintshire would be successful in securing the Centre.

Councillor Thomas pointed out that reference made in the report to the Flintshire Enterprise Project and Community Key Fund had not indicated the partnership working with Cadwyn Clwyd. She went on to mention the availability of funding from Cadwyn Clwyd for innovation projects.

In response to a question from Councillor Mike Reece, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment agreed to clarify the availability of grant funding for businesses (eg cafes, public houses, etc) where toilet facilities were available to the public.

### Assets & Transportation

Councillor Nancy Matthews asked if a report on the Flood Alleviation Scheme could be submitted to a future meeting. The Member Engagement Manager would relay this to the Facilitator who had arranged a workshop in September 2014 for Members to populate the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

As a point of accuracy, under the Highways Policy and Strategy work update in the report, Councillor Evans pointed out that the main roundabout was in Queensferry and not Shotton.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Shotton about slippage on work to the Deeside Corridor, the Chief Officer (Organisational Change) stated that mechanisms were in place within the contract to deal with this. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment was aware of these concerns but gave assurances that he was involved in progressing the matter.

Whilst Councillor Colin Legg recognised the financial constraints on transport contracts, he raised concerns at the withdrawal of bus services on Halkyn Mountain which had not been publicised. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment said that withdrawal of commercial services required 56 days' notice but agreed to follow up this query.

On the introduction of 20mph speed limits outside schools, the Chief Officer (Organisational Change) explained that this would only apply to those currently at 30mph. Schools with a higher speed limit would need to reduce to 30mph before they could be brought into line with 20mph. Responding to comments on dangerous cycling routes, he said that the national cycle network was mapped and that a well-defined local cycle network was in place where user judgement could assess safety levels. This was being further developed with the introduction of schemes such as a route from Sandycroft to Airbus.

Councillor Veronica Gay pointed out that the bus timetable on the Council's website did not allow for a user to search for a route by inputting the start point and destination. She asked what steps could be taken to prevent cyclists from travelling on the pavements and incidents of dangerous parking adjacent to a junction within her ward. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member said that these may not be issues for the Council. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) felt that the junction may lie outside the Flintshire boundary but agreed to discuss outside the meeting.

## Streetscene

The Chair questioned why the relevant officer was not available to present this section of the report. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment said that due to leave taken by the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) and the absence of his stand-in officer, he would take questions and provide a separate explanation to the Committee on the absences. The Chair requested that her extreme disappointment be noted.

In response to a question from Councillor Matthews, it was confirmed that the design of the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) enabled users to access facilities without the need to climb steps.

Following a question from Councillor Bateman, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment explained that a hand-held sweeping device was being trialled to collect small items of litter, which it was hoped would be rolled out across all town centres.

Councillor Gay raised concerns at the potential for fly tipping as the Sandycroft HRC site did not allow for trade waste. Following confirmation that trade waste could be taken to the sites in Mold and Greenfield, Councillor Bateman advised of alternative trade waste recycling facilities available in Sandycroft.

Councillor Ian Dunbar welcomed the Cabinet decision to move the portable toilet facilities from Connah's Quay to Talacre and said that facilities available in the Connah's Quay Flintshire Connects office may encourage greater use of the library.

## Planning

The Chair referred to the enforcement statistics and questioned whether sufficient progress was being made. The Chief Officer (Planning & Environment) explained that the performance measured the percentage of enforcement cases resolved within 12 weeks which may not necessarily have been achieved through prosecution, as often the threat of doing so was enough to reach a satisfactory resolution. The Chair requested that a breakdown of the 77.85% of resolved cases be provided to the Committee, indicating the nature of these issues to distinguish between minor and significant matters.

Councillor Shotton offered his congratulations to the Planning team for their hard work on major developments such as the Northern Gateway and Broughton Park cinema complex. He also commented on the informative training on planning issues which would benefit all Members. The Chief Officer (Planning & Environment) said that all Members were invited to the Planning training sessions and that suggestions on any particular areas of development were welcomed.

Also on Planning training, Councillor Evans said it would be helpful for some training sessions to be scheduled outside the working day. When asked about progress on the Coastal Improvement Programme, he was advised that proposals were likely to be submitted to Cabinet in the Autumn.

Councillor Dolphin spoke about an arrangement previously in place for the Enforcement team to report to Town and Community Councils any issues within their wards and felt that it would be helpful for this to continue with updates on progress. The Chief Officer (Planning & Environment) said that the usual practice was for local Members to be informed of issues in their wards. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment offered to pursue a response for the Committee on the arrangement in place.

Councillor Dunbar thanked officers for the work which had taken place at Wepre Park.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be endorsed;
- (b) That the Cabinet Member and officers be invited to take away the comments and provide responses; and
- (c) That the comments/observations of the Committee are fed back to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee who are responsible for the overview and monitoring of performance.

**12. YEAR END IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee received a report to note and consider elements of the 2013/14 Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report relevant to the Committee for the period January to March 2014.

The responsible officers 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**

On supporting the growth of the existing business on Deeside to safeguard jobs, Councillor David Evans queried the year end outturn in comparison with the target. The Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) explained the need to review this performance target due to a reduction in the number of businesses facing challenges in the current climate, which impacted on the 'RAG' status showing the level of work by the Council to safeguard jobs. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment commented on the impact of interventions by the Welsh Government (WG) and the Council to help some businesses.

## Town and Rural Regeneration

The Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) agreed to check that information on the forthcoming meeting on Town Centres had been circulated to all Members. She gave assurances that Town Centre Action Plans were under review including those in rural areas.

## Social Enterprise

No queries were raised.

## Apprenticeships and Training

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment questioned whether this sub-priority area should be under the remit of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the lead officer was the Chief Officer (Education & Youth). The Member Engagement Manager agreed to ask the Facilitator to look into this.

## Traffic and Road Management

The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) provided explanation to Councillor Cindy Hinds on a 40mph speed limit warning sign located near a bend near Pen-y-ffordd.

Councillor Ian Dunbar thanked the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment for his support of the reduction of speed limits outside schools. It was reported that generally signage would be located on the approach to schools.

Following a query from Councillor Haydn Bateman on the increase in failures of lamps and photocells during Quarter 4, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment said that this may have been due to a batch of rogue lamps which had subsequently been replaced, but would ask officers to clarify and respond to Councillor Bateman and the Chair. He was not aware of any cost implications arising from the fault.

On the review of speed limits on A and B roads, Councillor Chris Dolphin referred to previous discussion on the possibility of reviewing adjacent C roads at the same time, as this would be more cost-effective. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment was unable to give a commitment that this would be looked at, due to financial constraints and other priorities. He added that any issues on specific C roads would need to be considered on their own merits with consideration of cost implications. The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) said that it had been clear that the speed limit review applied only to A and B roads, and that interconnections with C roads would need to be dealt with separately as resources were limited.

Officers agreed to investigate comments by Councillor Veronica Gay that there appeared to be an increasing number of “day burner” street lights, particularly along the Broughton to Saltney route.

#### Transport Infrastructure and Services

In response to a question from the Chair on the cessation of TAIH, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment was unaware of the rationale behind the Ministerial decision, despite representations being made. However, the six North Wales Councils continued to work together to support community transport. It was agreed that officers would provide a written update on future regional transportation arrangements to the Committee following a forthcoming regional board meeting.

#### Carbon Control and Reduction

The Chief Officer (Organisational Change) provided clarification to Councillor Bateman on the work carried out by the Carbon Trust to address concerns over the ventilation systems in school kitchens.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Committee endorse the Improvement Plan progress together with those elements to be addressed, and look forward to the responses on matters of detail which had been offered; and
- (b) That the comments/observations of the Committee are fed back to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee who are responsible for the overview and monitoring of performance.

#### **13. CLOSING REMARKS**

Following discussion earlier in the meeting, Members were reminded of the meeting on Town Centres to be held at Clwyd Theatr Cymru on the morning of 14 July 2014.

The Member Engagement Manager also gave a reminder of the workshop in September 2014 to consider the Committee’s Forward Work Programme and sought agreement that the Facilitator would liaise with the Chair and Vice-Chair on items to be submitted to the next scheduled meeting on 17 September 2014.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Facilitator liaise with the Chair and Vice-Chair to schedule items for the next meeting of the Committee on 17 September 2014.

#### **14. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE**

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 12.15pm)

.....  
**Chair**

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** **WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**REPORT BY:** **ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

**SUBJECT:** **FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP ON CHANGING TIMES: HELPING FLINTSHIRE'S TOWN CENTRES ADAPT TO A CHANGING WORLD**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.01** To feedback to Members of the Committee on the Changing Times: Helping Flintshire's Town Centres adapt to a changing world workshop held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July.

**1.02** To consider the outcomes from the workshop and make recommendations to Cabinet.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

**2.01** The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a report in January to consider how the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee could assist in the rejuvenation of town centres and High Streets.

**2.02** It was agreed that a workshop would be held involving a range of stakeholders including all Members of the Council, officers from relevant Flintshire County Council departments, Town Council representatives, Town Centre Managers, Landlords and Business representatives.

**2.03** A workshop was held at Theatr Clwyd on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July with over 45 delegates in attendance representing a range of stakeholders. Presentations were given by representatives of the Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales, Towns Alive and Flintshire Economic Development department.

**2.04** Following the presentations, delegates formed into three discussion groups to consider what the top 5 priorities the Council and its partners should focus on in the next 3 years to revitalise town centres and high streets.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.01** The feedback received from each group was recorded and the key messages are listed below. The full feedback is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **3.02** Group 1

- To re-vitalise Town/Centres and High Streets responsive planning and implementation and joined up thinking is required.
- Need to get the 'right mix' of uses in the towns (retail, restaurants, etc)
- The Council needs to speed up processes and have better two way communication with other stakeholders.
- The Council needs to foster a 'can do' attitude – very negative experiences expressed by delegates with regard to timescales, etc.
- Resources for Town Partnerships – e.g. facilitators.

#### Group 2

- Inter-disciplinary Groups at the Council – so departments work together more effectively to deliver a joined up approach in town centres. Planning, schools, transport, regeneration – all Council services.
- Improve engagement with local businesses (how?)
- Business Rates – National charities receive a reduction. Delegates suggested giving it to local independents instead.
- Towns as destinations – not just retail. Don't pull public services out of Town Centres.
- Communication / engagement / involving community – more focused and targeted.

#### Group 3

- Residential Users – need to assemble land for larger units e.g. offices
- Greater local ownership including Business Improvement Districts where appropriate.
- Communication – especially business
- More involved planning – more proactive / land assembly – link in with developments – promote development – regeneration strategy/land assembly
- Local Development Plan – clear development briefs for sites
- Resources and decision making powers need to match vision
- Better promotion of County and better destination management, especially cycling – A55 Signage
- Promote healthy living and link to Town Centres.

**3.03** Following analysis of the feedback from the group discussions, there are clear messages emerging which have been summarised for consideration by the committee.

1. The need for joined up thinking within the authority with a cultural shift from 'need to know' to 'need to share' between departments internally and stakeholders. Inter disciplinary groups within the authority may act as enablers.

2. The need to speed up decision making in-house to avoid the drawn out cumbersome and lengthy processes which appear to be stifling progress in enabling Town Centre revival to move forward in some instances.

3. Town Centres need to have a balanced offer described as 'the right mix' of retail, restaurants/cafés, services, night time economy, etc with suitable transport, parking, public conveniences, and a balance of business and charity shops. This may offer greater potential for town centres to be marketed as tourism destinations. Signposting to Town Centres from major routes etc was also considered to be extremely important and further cooperation from other agencies to achieve this needed to be secured.

4. Communication between the Council and stakeholders needs developing both within and outside the Council. Community engagement needs to be focused and targeted. Consideration should be given to how resources can be made available to appoint facilitators for town centre partnerships in order to facilitate progress in raising local interest and ownership of town centre revival.

5. The need for a more active and structured approach to town centre revival and land management was considered important in order to secure long term sustainable town centres and high streets.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**4.01** That the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider the comments in 3.03 and agree what recommendations should be made to Cabinet.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None arising directly from this report.

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

None arising directly from this report.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**  
None arising directly from this report

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**  
None arising directly from this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**  
None arising directly from this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**  
Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**  
Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Feedback - Changing Times Workshop

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

Town Centres, High Streets & Retail areas report to Environment  
Overview & Scrutiny 22 January 2014.

**Contact Officer:** Margaret Parry-Jones  
**Telephone:** 01352 702427  
**Email:** Margaret.parry-jones@flintshire.gov.uk

**Feedback from Workshop on: Changing times - helping  
Flintshire Town Centres adapt to a changing world  
14th July 2014 9.00 am – 1.00 pm**

**What do you think are the Top 5 priorities the Council and  
its Partners should focus on in the next 3 years to  
revitalise the (High Street) Town Centres**

- Responsive Planning and Implementation - implications of housing developments with more joined up thinking needed
- Getting the right mix – ensuring the Town Centres have the right amount of retail, restaurants etc
- Speeding up processes ensuring improved two way communication
- A ‘can do’ attitude – action plan with a timescales to get things done
- Resources for Town Partnerships – Facilitators

## Different services for different user groups

- Niche businesses
- Increase shop variety
- Easier access
- Reduce charity shop 'dominance'
- Review licensing to encourage evening and night time economy
- Increase opening hours
- Street cafes
- Different solutions for each town - overlapping catchments – need different roles
- More anchor stores
- Start up business space

- (1) Residential Users – There is a need to assemble land for larger units such as office space
- (2) Greater local ownership
  - Stronger business groups
  - Loyalty Schemes
  - Bids
  - Suitable parking regime
  - Rates for parking areas
  - Improve signage and information – advertising £
  - Cycle routes and parking
  - Mobile information
  - Internet access
  - Child friendly
  - Providing space for young people with Wi-Fi and out of the weather
  - Improved public realm
  - Bus / coach / parking
  - Joined up policies
- (3) 3.1. Communication – especially with local businesses
- 3.2 More involved proactive planning – land assembly – with stronger links with developers. Development of briefs, Masterplans etc.

Promote development with a regeneration strategy, land assembly

Local Development Plan - Clear development briefs for sites
- 3.3 Resources and decision making powers need to match vision
- (4) Better promotion of County and better destination management especially cycling, A55 Signage
- (5) Promote healthy living and links to Town Centres.

## How can we attract a wider range of users into the Town Centres?

<b>Flintshire C.C.</b>	<b>As Individuals</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning – less out of town stores / developments</li> <li>• Use powers that they have got</li> <li>• Be helpful (planning)</li> <li>• Highways – better infrastructure</li> <li>• Have a ‘can do’ attitude (banner on lamp post example took 2 years)</li> <li>• Negative perception</li> <li>• Cross border issues</li> <li>• Signage to towns</li> <li>• Resist temptation to turn everything into housing</li> <li>• Resist displacement to Deeside</li> <li>• UDP               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing of Town Centres</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Access and parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Traders are negative</li> <li>• Be supportive</li> <li>• Negativity</li> <li>• Apathy</li> <li>• Uphill struggle</li> <li>• Sponsorship of roundabouts? (floral)</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Positive attitude</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners working together</li> <li>• Town partnership</li> <li>• Good signposting within towns</li> <li>• Signage to town centres</li> <li>• Broadband / Wi-Fi essential</li> <li>• Late opening</li> <li>• Night time economy opportunities</li> <li>• Selling and branding of attractions – CADW / RSPB Flint</li> <li>• Promotion – more events etc.</li> </ul>

## How can we work more closely together to improve the quality of the Town Centre user experience?

Flintshire C.C.	Partners	Individuals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the County Charter</li> <li>• Breakdown the barriers</li> <li>• Facilitators for Town Partnerships</li> <li>• Cleanliness</li> <li>• Sensible enforcement</li> <li>• Education – schools – litter/recycling</li> <li>• Issues with refuse collection and litter</li> <li>• Pride in the Community</li> <li>• Recycling implications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Spring Clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of Pride – show more pride in your Town Centres</li> <li>• Cleanliness</li> <li>• Take responsibility for litter e.g. pubs, Takeaways / individuals</li> <li>• Get involved in Community events / organisations</li> </ul>

## Suggestions for actions for the County Council and Partners

(1) Inter Disciplinary Groups at the Council – to ensure departments work better together for example Planning, Schools, Transportation, Regeneration

- Cross Border links with marketing and promotion

(2) Improve engagement with local businesses ..... but how??

- Business Rates - National Charity reduction – this should be given to local independents instead to support more local businesses

(3) Towns as destinations – not just retail.

- Don't pull public services out of Town Centres

(4) Communication (including with young people)

Encourage more public engagement and involvement with the local community

- More focused and targeted

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN ISSUES FACING YOUR TOWN CENTRE?

Please place your stickers against those issues you regard as the most important.

1) Too many empty shops.  <b>20</b>	2) Poor appearance and cleanliness.  <b>17</b>
3) Limited variety of shops.  <b>20</b>	4) Too few customers.  <b>16</b>
5) Business rates are too high.  <b>18</b>	6) Parking availability and prices.  <b>7</b>
7) High rents.  <b>11</b>	8) Range of places to eat and drink.  <b>14</b>
9) Street market vitality.  <b>7</b>	10) Limited shop opening hours  <b>3</b>
11) Too many Charity Shops.  <b>12</b>	12) Worn out public realm – street furniture / paving etc.  <b>7</b>
13) Out of town competition  <b>9</b>	

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## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** **WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF OFFICER, TRANSPORT AND STREETSCENE**

**SUBJECT:** **PRIORITISATION OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES AND TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER VARIATIONS**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To inform the Committee of the proposal to introduce a matrix which will be used in future to assess and prioritise highway improvement schemes to provide County wide consistency and ensure maximum benefit is derived from any available funding source.

1.02 To inform the Committee of the proposal to introduce a matrix which will be used in future to assess and prioritise Traffic Regulation Order related requests to ensure that the revisions and variations are carried out on a defined priority basis.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Authority is able to bid for funds from the Welsh Government (WG) to undertake improvements to the road network. Up to April 2014, this was mainly organised through the Taith Partnership with bids for the Safer Routes in the Community funding (SRIC) made directly sent to WG.

2.02 Since April 2014, all bids are made directly to WG from each Local Authority, and currently include the following areas:

- Local Transport Fund (LTF) – to provide sustainable travel initiatives, including walking and cycling
- Road Safety Capital – to undertake improvements on the road network linked to casualty reduction
- Road Safety Revenue – to provide education, training and publicity measures to reduce casualties in identified high risk groups
- SRIC – measures aimed at walking/cycling links to schools, which may also have general community benefits.

- 2.03 During the last few years, the WG have introduced an increasing number of recommendations, and conditions which need to be met by any bid which are generally linked to improvement in travel opportunities, eg cycle routes, casualty reduction for the road safety bids, and school/community safety initiatives for the SRIC bid.
- 2.04 Currently, the conditions are different for each of the different bids, to reflect the varying nature of the identified problem, and the relevant remedial measures that could be applied.
- 2.05 The Authority also has a list of highway locations which have been the subject of requests for various highway improvements and compiled over many years. These have been logged but not currently subject to any prioritisation and there is currently no internal funding to carry out the work.
- 2.06 In order to be able to assess the benefit that may be gained from undertaking any particular scheme, it is proposed to introduce a matrix to quantify both the scale of the current problem, and to calculate the benefits of the improvement. The matrix would produce a numerical assessment or value for the schemes allowing a true comparison and subsequent prioritisation of the various projects across the County to be produced.
- 2.07 The proposed matrix is a combination of measurable factors, ie casualty and traffic data, together with an engineered assessment of the present conditions and a prediction of the benefits of the scheme to the various road user groups.
- 2.08 It is not possible to devise a meaningful matrix that relies solely on directly measurable factors and the professionally engineered input allows for consideration of what may be unique local conditions which can be appropriately scored within the listed parameters. The matrix would be applicable to all schemes forwarded for a WG bid and to those general improvements which could be completed from internal Capital funds as and when they become available.
- 2.09 A copy of the matrix is included in Appendix A of this report.
- 2.10 Following adoption of CPE powers by the Council in 2013, there are constant demands from local members, T&CC's and residents to review, relax or provide new Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) to control parking on various streets and roads across the County.
- 2.11 Currently there is no mechanism to prioritise these requests for TRO amendments and this has resulted in frustration for the individual or organisation requesting the change. No indication of the likely date for considering the request can currently be provided and the scheme is added to a long list of similar requests.

2.12 The proposal is to introduce a matrix to evaluate each enquiry in order to produce a defined list of priority schemes for TRO variations. As with the matrix for minor improvements the matrix will produce a numeric score for each of the proposals to allow a true comparison and priority list to be produced.

2.13 A copy of the matrix is included in Appendix B of this report.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 There are currently many different types of highway and safety improvement schemes being promoted, and requested, such as casualty reduction schemes, school/community based safety schemes, and various requests to improve the network for road users.

3.02 For schemes which can be supported by appropriate funding from WG, increasing conditions have been linked to bids, generally data led, to ensure that approved schemes provide a positive return in terms of casualty reduction and school/community benefits.

3.03 The matrix proposed will provide a single assessment method for all types of improvements and will be utilised to identify schemes which provide the greatest benefits and those which are most likely to be successful in achieving external funding.

3.04 The matrix will also provide an assessment method for all other highway/safety schemes which may be requested and which could be financed internally, or from other source.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That members of the Committee note the benefits of introducing a Highway Improvement Matrix, and recommend the introduction of the matrix to evaluate future Highway Improvements and to form the basis for prioritising future funding bids to WG and the Councils own capital works programme.

4.02 That Members note the benefits of introducing a TRO Assessment Matrix, and recommend the introduction of the proposed matrix for evaluating and prioritising TRO amendments, variations or the provision of new TRO's.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 The Highway Improvement Matrix will help identify qualifying schemes, and will strongly support the justification for any bids forwarded for funding.

5.02 The TRO Improvement Matrix will improve budget monitoring arrangements allowing a specific number of requests to be taken forward each year.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 No identifiable impact.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 Environmental impact will form part of both of the matrix. The highway/safety schemes progressed will be those possessing the greatest benefits to the local communities and road users and those delivering improvements to the Environmental impact of the network.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 No identifiable impact.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None at this time.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 With Cabinet Member.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix A – Improvement matrix for Highway Improvements.  
Appendix B – Matrix for prioritising TRO requests

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

**Contact Officer:** Stephen O Jones  
**Telephone:** 01352 704700  
**Email:** [stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk)

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**Scoring (S)**

5 = Outstanding

4 = Very Good

3 = Good

2 = Adequate

1 = Poor

0 = No Evidence

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

CRITERIA	WEIGHTING (W)	SCORING (S)	ASSESSMENT VALUE (WxS)
Evidence to support the need for intervention and to evaluate effectiveness in terms of reducing casualties.	4		
Targets Sites, Routes or Areas with a history of KSI casualties (5 yrs)	5		
Supports casualty reduction (by user) <i>( more than one weighting may apply )</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Risk Groups = 4</li> <li>• Vulnerable Groups = 2</li> </ul>		
Recorded Vehicular Speeds <i>(above enforceable speed limit)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 % <math>\geq</math> 20mph = 5</li> <li>• 10 % <math>\geq</math> 30mph = 4</li> <li>• 10 % <math>\geq</math> 40mph = 3</li> <li>• 10 % <math>\geq</math> 50mph = 3</li> <li>• 10 % <math>\geq</math> 60mph = 3</li> </ul>		

Traffic Flows (AADF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1000 - 2000 = 1</li> <li>• 2000 - 3000 = 2</li> <li>• 3000 - 4000 = 3</li> <li>• 4000 - 5000 = 4</li> <li>• 5000 + = 5</li> </ul>		
Potential impact on improving routes including to and from School	<b>5</b>		
Schemes effectiveness in changing behaviour / attitude to active travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Pupils = 5</li> <li>• Wider Community = 4</li> </ul>		
Environmental Impact of scheme.	<b>3</b>		
Equalities Impact of scheme	<b>5</b>		
Evidence of support / involvement  ( more than one weighting may apply )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Member = 5</li> <li>• School = 4</li> <li>• Community = 3</li> </ul>		
Value for Money / Deliverability	<b>3</b>		
			<b>Total:</b>



**Traffic Regulation Order  
Assessment Matrix  
(Excluding Speed Limits)**

**Scoring (S)**

5 = Outstanding

4 = Very Good

3 = Good

2 = Adequate

1 = Poor

0 = No Evidence

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

CRITERIA	WEIGHTING (W)	SCORING (S)	ASSESSMENT VALUE (WxS)
Effectiveness in improving safety and reducing casualties / associated with Parked Vehicles	<b>5</b>		
Recorded Accidents associated with Parked Vehicles ( Including Schools & Pedestrian Generators )	<b>5</b>		
Assist the free Flow Movement of Traffic ( more than one weighting may apply )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognised Route to School = <b>5</b></li> <li>• Principle Roads / Arterial Routes = <b>4</b></li> <li>• Non Principle Roads = <b>2</b></li> </ul>		
Provide / Assist Residential Parking.	<b>3</b>		

Negative Residential Displacement Impact ( Anticipated or Actual )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max. Impact = 1</li> <li>• Min. Impact = 5</li> </ul>		
Detrimental impact to Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max. Impact = 1</li> <li>• Min. Impact = 5</li> </ul>		
Available Alternative Parking (within 400m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate Parking = 5</li> <li>• Minimal Parking = 1</li> </ul>		
Scheme Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community = 3</li> <li>• Local Member = 5</li> </ul>		
Deliverability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Risk = 1</li> <li>• Minimal / No Risk = 5</li> </ul>		
			<b>Total:</b>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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