

# Public Document Pack



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To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Leader)

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Chris Bithell, Derek Butler, Dave Hughes, Christine Jones, Billy Mullin and Carolyn Thomas

16 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING**  
**CABINET**  
**TUESDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2020 at 9.30 AM**

Yours faithfully

Robert Robins  
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Due to the current restrictions on travel and the requirement for physical distancing, this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a remote meeting and 'attendance' will be restricted to Committee Members. The meeting will be recorded.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

## A G E N D A

### 1 **APOLOGIES**

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Purpose:** To receive any declarations and advise Members accordingly.

### 3 **MINUTES** (Pages 7 - 22)

**Purpose:** To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

### 4 **EMERGENCY SITUATION BRIEFING (VERBAL)**

**Purpose:** **Purpose:** To update on the latest position and the risks and implications for Flintshire and service and business continuity.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

### **STRATEGIC REPORTS**

### 5 **FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CONSIDERATION OF DEPOSIT CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIONS AND RESPONSES AND SUBMISSION FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION** (Pages 23 - 88)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection

**Purpose:** To consider and agree the responses to the representations received to the Deposit LDP consultation exercise and recommend these to be reported to Council for agreement and submission of the Plan to the Welsh Government and Planning Inspectorate for Public Examination, by an independent Planning Inspector.

### 6 **CARE INSPECTORATE WALES (CIW) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE LETTER** (Pages 89 - 110)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Cabinet Member for Social Services

**Purpose:** To present the content of the recent Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Annual Performance Letter published on the 2nd July 2020.

## **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

### **7 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21 (MONTH 4) (Pages 111 - 138)**

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance

**Purpose:** This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2020/21 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 4, and projects forward to year-end.

### **8 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2020/21 (MONTH 4) (Pages 139 - 166)**

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance

**Purpose:** To present the Month 4 capital programme information for 2020/21.

### **9 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 (Pages 167 - 184)**

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance

**Purpose:** To present the draft Annual Treasury Management Report for 2019/20 for recommendation to Council.

### **10 REVISED CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE PROGRESSION OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS AND WELSH GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDED SCHEMES (Pages 185 - 198)**

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside

**Purpose:** To seek approval for the revised consultation process associated with local transport schemes as a result of the restrictions due to the current emergency.

### **11 SUSPENSION OF TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING CHARGES (Pages 199 - 210)**

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside

**Purpose:** To seek Cabinet approval to extend the suspension of town centre car parking charges until 31 December 2020.

12 **BUS NETWORK REVIEW UPDATE** (Pages 211 - 236)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the progress for reintroducing Local Transport Arrangements.

13 **CHILDCARE CAPITAL GRANT UPDATE** (Pages 237 - 248)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Social Services) - Cabinet Member for Social Services, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education

**Purpose:** To advise Cabinet of progress in delivering the Council's Childcare Capital programme, including the rationale used to prioritise projects.

14 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 249 - 250)

**Purpose:** To provide details of actions taken under delegated powers.

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - COUNTY COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY - FOR INFORMATION**

**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) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains details of proposed contracts and the public interest in revealing the information is outweighed by the public interest in withholding it until the contract has been awarded.

15 **QUEENSFERRY CAMPUS – CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECT** (Pages 267 - 278)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education

**Purpose:** To seek approval to bridge a funding gap through additional Council capital allocation and to enter into a construction contract with Kier Construction for the capital investment project at the campus, subject to Welsh Government approval of the full business case.

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains details of proposed contracts and the public interest in revealing the information is outweighed by the public interest in withholding it until the contract has been awarded.

16 **YSGOL CASTELL ALUN - CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECT** (Pages 279 - 284)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets

**Purpose:** To seek approval to enter into a construction contract with Wilmott Dixon construction for the capital investment project at the school funded through the Council's capital programme.

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**CABINET**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held virtually via Webex on Tuesday 14th July, 2020.

**PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)**

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Chris Bithell, Derek Butler, Dave Hughes, Christine Jones, Billy Mullin and Carolyn Thomas.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Corporate Finance Manager, Chief Officer (Housing and Assets), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Social Services), Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision, Income Generation and Marketing Manager and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

**OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors Ian Dunbar and Patrick Heesom.

**180. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**181. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

**182. ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES**

Councillor Mullin introduced the report which set the rationale for charging and the call for an annual review of fees and charges. The outcome of the review was appended to the report.

The report also outlined work to date on the recommendations, in relation to income generation and fees and charges, which were endorsed by Cabinet in July 2019, including:

- Applying an inflation uplift to applicable fees and charges as part of the 2020 review using either the Consumer Price Index including owner occupier Housing costs (CPIH), market rate comparison or the local/Council's rate (as part of the work to ensure full cost recovery by 2022);
- Work undertaken to assess whether fees and charges were achieving full cost recovery where permitted to do so and the development of a template to enable service areas to calculate it; and

- A review and update of the Income Generation Policy to ensure a framework for income generation, including consistent charging and cost recovery structure.

The Income Generation and Marketing Manager explained that applying the principles contained within the Council's Income Generation Policy, and those agreed by Cabinet in July 2019, to the 2020 annual review of fees and charges, had ensured that any increases were appropriately managed to prevent large or unexpected changes to fees and charges from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

The work to determine whether full cost recovery was being achieved for all services, where it was permissible for them to do so, had taken place. A cost recovery template was developed, which was tested by service area, and the outcome was a finalised and tested cost recovery template. The template was distributed to all service areas as part of the 2020 review of fees and charges for them to use, to assess if the fees and charges applied by their service were set at a level that enabled full cost recovery.

Some services operated in a more commercial market and may have selected to set fees and charges in line with the market rate. Doing so prevented adverse impact on service demand and associated income, and was consistent with the objectives and principles of the Council's Income Generation Policy.

The updated Income Generation Policy provided more detail around the process for the annual review of fees and charges and incorporated the criteria, as approved by Cabinet in July 2019, for the review of existing, and the introduction of new fees and charges.

Councillor Banks welcomed the report, particularly the detail on concessions in the appendix.

The Chief Executive explained that the generation of additional income, including that from fees and charges, was part of the strategy of options to meet the challenge of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

As Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Carver made the following observations:

"I am satisfied with the report and concur with the Recommendations.

Had there been an actual CRO&SC meeting, I would have asked:

1. Under **Garden Waste Collections**, the fees with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October are shown as TBC and the end column states, Decision on charges pending following partial suspension of service during 2020.

This is at variance to what is shown on Flintshire County Councils – Garden Waste Collection Service webpage where it states,

*"Residents who had subscribed for the 2020 service prior to its suspension will*



*be offered a £8 reduction in their subscription charge for 2021 in recognition of the withdrawal of collections between March and June.”*

2. The mechanism of how fees are quoted by Officers when the actual service required is not listed?”

In response to question one, the Chief Executive said the decision to provide a refund to households superseded that question. He would seek clarification with Councillor Carver on his second question and provide him with a response.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the schedule of fees and charges documented in Appendix A, for implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, be approved;
- (b) That the work undertaken to implement the recommendations and criteria endorsed by Cabinet in July 2019 for the annual review of fees and charges, ensuring they are set to enable full cost recovery or market rate comparison wherever possible, be noted; and
- (c) That the updated Income Generation Policy be approved.

**183. COUNCIL PLAN 2019/20 END OF YEAR MONITORING**

Councillor Mullin introduced the report which presented the annual out-turn performance against the Council Plan 2019/20.

The out-turn report showed that 88% of activities within the Council Plan had made good progress at year-end, with 91% on track to achieve their desired outcome. At year-end 78% of performance targets were on target, 14% did not meet target but ended the year within an acceptable range, and 8% were off track. Risks were being managed effectively, the majority being addressed as moderate (67%), minor (12%) or insignificant (6%).

The Chief Executive provided an example of where a target had not been met, which was ‘the number of extra care units provided across Flintshire’. The target had been 239.00 units and the end of year performance was 184.00 units. He explained that Plas Yr Ywen in Holywell had been due to open in February 2020, with apartments being allocated and residents moving in over a period of eight weeks, with the facility being fully operational by the end of March 2020. However, the opening had been delayed due to the interruption of the emergency and the care workers assigned to the facility being deployed elsewhere for Covid-19.

Members welcomed the report and commented on the successful schemes that had been delivered, such as the Well Fed programme, opening of the night shelter for rough sleepers, the opening of Parc Adfer and the expansion of Marleyfield Residential Care Home. Councillor Bithell expressed his particular thanks for the work undertaken to reduce the number of calendar days for delivery of Disabled Facility Grants.

As Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Carver made the following observations:

“The coronavirus situation during the last quarter of 2019/20 precluded "business as normal." Therefore, my view as Chair of CRO&SC, is that I am satisfied with the report and concur with the Recommendations.

Had there been an actual CRO&SC meeting, I would have asked whether the Target should be revised. This where the current Target is somewhat higher than either the Actual or the Previous Year Actual; in cases where lower is better. An example being *CP4.2.3M03 (PAM/022) Percentage of C roads in overall poor condition*. Should the Target figure be reduced in this case”?

**RESOLVED:**

That the levels of progress, performance and risk in the End of Year Council Plan 2019/20 report be noted.

**184. INTERIM REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2020/21**

Councillor Banks introduced the report which provided the first overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2020/21 financial year.

The report explained the impacts of the emergency situation and the significant additional costs and income losses incurred across all portfolios.

The Corporate Finance Manager explained that to date, there had been three significant announcements to meet the financial impacts of the emergency situation in Wales which were detailed in the report. The range of financial risk for 2020/21 was £2.8M to £5.4M (excluding the outcome of the national negotiations over the annual pay award). The figures in the report covered the Council Fund only and did not include the future risks to Aura, NEWydd, Theatr Clwyd and the principal Asset Transfers.

The report provided examples of the emergency actions which had necessitated additional costs, and emergency grant funding. Claims to the emergency grant funding had to be submitted retrospectively, for actual costs incurred, on a monthly basis.

The table in the report showed details of the total claim values submitted, together with the funding received and those elements ‘on hold’ and ‘disallowed’. Further information would be provided to Welsh Government (WG) to challenge the decisions to treat certain parts of the claims as ‘on hold’ or ‘disallowed’. The claim for additional costs incurred in June was to be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> July and was estimated to be in the region of £1.750M.

The report outlined the significant variances and financial risks by portfolio and open risks.

Councillor Banks expressed the importance of WG needing to provide clarity of how the shortfall would be met, and clarification on the consequential arising from UK announcements.

Councillor Roberts asked what measures were put in place internally to reduce cost pressures. The Chief Executive explained that the shortfall was something the authority could not absorb itself and said assistance was needed from both the UK and Welsh Governments as it was Government responsibility to fund the public sector through such a crisis. The Council had paid out £45M of government supported grants and rate reliefs to businesses and remarkable things were being done to protect people.

In response to a question from Councillor Roberts, the Chief Executive explained that Council Tax had not been considered for the following year.

Councillor Thomas commented on how services were still being delivered, albeit some in a different way which was to be commended.

As Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Carver made the following observations:

“The ongoing coronavirus situation precludes "business as normal" at this time and is the direct cause of the additional costs and income losses. Therefore, my view is that I am satisfied with the report and concur with the Recommendations”.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2020/21 budget of the emergency situation be noted;
- (b) That Welsh Government be formally requested to set aside sufficient funds to compensate local government in full for the significant and ongoing additional costs and income losses they have incurred; and
- (c) That UK Government devolve sufficient funding to Welsh Government, to enable it in turn to fully fund the requirements of local government and public services, as set out in recommendation (b).

**185. 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOOLS – MUTUAL INVESTMENT MODEL UPDATE**

Councillor Roberts introduced the report which provided an update on the Welsh Government’s (WG) 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Programme, Mutual Investment Model (MIM).

The report provided detail on progress to date and the next steps of the MIM process. It sought approval to execute the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) with the Welsh Education Partnership company (WEPco) when appointed by WG in autumn 2020.

The Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision explained that MIM was a new form of Public Private Partnership (PPP) which enabled WG to deliver infrastructure projects beyond that set by present UK Government borrowing limits. If WG did not use MIM, £500M of investment in the education estate would not be available to councils within Wales and that would have implications on the Council's proposed programme locally.

A private sector contractor was appointed via a new WG framework and the contract financed, constructed and provided a 25 year 'life-cycled' building product. That meant that the responsibility for funding and constructing the building, and then repairing and maintaining the building for 25 years once built, remained with the contractor. This resulted in buildings funded by MIM being maintained at a consistently high level for 25 years. In response to a question from Councillor Roberts, the Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision explained the differences between Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and MIM and said PFI had been abolished in 2018.

In order to proceed with the MIM process, the Council was required to sign a Strategic Partnering Arrangement (SPA) with WEPco.

A Strategic Partnering Board (SPB) would be set up and would act as the primary mechanism for managing WEPco's performance. The SPB would be the central forum in which the participants could work together with WEPco, WG and other stakeholder representatives to ensure that the key principles of the SPA were met. Neil Cockerton was being recommended as the Council's Participant Representative to sit on the SPB.

Annual contractual payments over the lifespan of MIM based on the Council's intervention rate (19% Council, 81% WG), would commence post school construction/handover.

As Chair of Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Healey made the following observations on behalf of Councillor Mackie, who had received responses to his questions:

The questions and comments are as follows:-

- This report proposes that the MIM progresses to the next stage. This is a form of PFI which the UK Public Accounts Committee have repeatedly expressed concerns about. To quote from the Forty-Sixth report "However the ongoing costs to the institutions at the front line have been high and the contracts inflexible".
- I believe the report should contain a full comparison of the cost of the MIM against the usual form of financing for such projects and full details of the WG intervention rate funding.
- I would be interested to know how a 81% 19% split will achieve the same value of money through this model as the traditional capital intervention rate, see paragraph 1.02 of the Cabinet report.

- I also wondered why the SPA lasts for a maximum of 15 years whilst the building and maintenance contract lasts for 25 years.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That Cabinet underpins its previous commitment to the Ysgol Mynydd Isa 3-16 project as a Welsh Government MIM Pathfinder;
- (b) That the execution, delivery and performance of the Strategic Partnering Agreement with the Welsh Education Partnership Co in autumn 2020 to facilitate the delivery of a range of infrastructure services and the delivery of the proposed 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa be approved; and
- (c) That the appointment of Neal Cockerton, Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) be approved as 'Participant Representative' to sit on the national Strategic Partnering Board (SPB).

**186. COMMUNAL HEATING CHARGES 2020/21**

Councillor Hughes introduced the report and explained that the Housing and Assets portfolio currently operated eight communal heating schemes within Flintshire. The Council negotiated fuel costs in advance and tenants benefited from the Council's Industrial and Commercial Contract rate.

The Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) explained that new communal heating charges were based on the previous year's energy use to ensure a more accurate assessment of costs and impacts (negative or positive) on the heating reserve account.

The proposed charges for 2020/21 were set out within the report. In the majority of cases, the recharge to tenants had reduced, which as in other years would allow Flintshire to recover the projected costs of the heating charges whilst still passing on the benefit of reduced energy costs to tenants.

Acacia Close in Mold identified an increase in heating charges of 7%, an average across the three property types of £0.59p per week. Flintshire County Council's Energy Team would work with the supplier to install automatic readers on the meters at Acacia Close which would support more accurate and timely billing by the utilities provider and would, in turn, allow the Council to bill tenants based on more accurate information going forward.

As Chair of Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Dunbar made the following observation:

"We have eight Communal Heating Schemes in Flintshire to cover the Communal areas represented in Table 1, in which the authority pays through the Heating Reserve Account then fuel costs are apportioned to each individual tenant to ensure we have an accurate assessment of costs and impacts on the HRA based on each scheme.

With the cost of energy rising which is out of the authorities hands it was noted in the previous 2018/19 colder years a small increase of usage but the opposite in 2019/20 with a mild winter saw a decrease in the majority of schemes. An upgrade in heating systems in Panton Place Holywell and one area in Glan-y- Morfa Connah's Quay tenants are billed on their own readings with their chosen supplier,

In the majority of cases the recharge to tenants has been reduced which allowed Flintshire to recover costs of heating charges and our tenants received the benefit of the reduced energy costs. One exception in Table 1. Acacia Close Mold a combined increase across the three properties of 7% of approx. £0.59p per week against a reduction of 18% for this area last year, so the Energy Team working with suppliers are installing Automatic Readers to give a more accurate reading to allow billing to tenants to be accurate going forward, this also applies to Glan-Y-Morfa Block 1 later in 2020/21.

On this understanding after many questions the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee during its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July supported the Communal Heating Charges 2020/21 report".

### **RESOLVED:**

That the changes to the current heating charges at council house properties with communal heating schemes as outlined in the table in the report, taking effect from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, be supported.

## **187. REVIEW OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS**

Councillor Thomas introduced the report on the review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's). PSPO's can last for a maximum of three years before a review was required. The Council's Orders were now due for review, or would expire on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020. To extend a PSPO the Council must firstly undertake a public consultation and notification exercise in accordance with the Act, as if it were making a new order.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) explained that under the provisions of the Act, Flintshire's Alcohol Designated Public Place Order transitioned automatically into a PSPO. This order would give Police Officers the power to ask members of the public to surrender alcohol if a member of the public were believed to be causing a nuisance in a public place. It was not a total alcohol ban in public areas, and it was not applicable to licensed premises, but encouragement of sensible drinking. That Order also needed to be reviewed.

Since the implementation of the dog control PSPO, over 1,100 dog walkers had been approached and provided with information and advice on the prohibitions of the Order. A total of three Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) had been issued for dog fouling and 45 for dogs entering the boundaries of marked sports pitches.

Consultation was proposed to take place through two online surveys, one for each PSPO, asking for residents and statutory consultees' views on the PSPO's to be extended and whether the requirements of the order were proportionate. They would be on the Council's website for a period of five weeks throughout August 2020 and the first week in September 2020. The consultation responses would be considered by the Council before a decision was made on final PSPO's.

An interactive map would be made available online with colour coding of each land category showing which restriction was in force at which location, including relevant land adopted by the local authority since the Order was made in 2017, along with a document explaining frequently asked questions. With regard to the Dog Control PSPO consultation, it was proposed to write to the following outlining the proposal to extend the PSPO and where they were able to take part:

- Elected Members
- School head teachers
- Town and Community Councils
- Bowling club secretaries
- Lease holders of affected land, i.e. sports clubs
- Charities and organisations such as the RSPCA and Kennel Club
- North Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Any other appropriate community representatives

Councillor Thomas explained that the report had recently been considered at Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee where they proposed an additional recommendation be put to Cabinet "that representations be made through the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) that PSPO's be extended to last five years". The Chief Officer (Governance) suggested alternative wording of "That representations be made to UK Government through the Local Government Association and professional networks requesting that the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 be amended to extend the interval at which PSPO's must be renewed to 5 years" which was supported. Councillor Thomas said she would feed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the agreed wording to the additional recommendation.

Other feedback from Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee included: armed forces veterans to be included in the consultation; appropriate signage on posts; and dogs to be exercised on the periphery of pitches and on leads at all times.

In response to a comment from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a PSPO to deal with drug taking, the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) explained that the Police did not see the benefit to this as the Police already had the power to deal with drug taking and such activity would be dealt with as a criminal activity. He would write to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to advise them of the response from the Police. The report would be submitted to Cabinet in September, outlining the outcome of the consultation, in preparation for the new Order to begin in October.

## **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That consultation with the required statutory consultees and members of the public with the purpose of gaining views to extend the two current PSPO's in Flintshire for a period of three years be approved;
- (b) That the consultation methods proposed to gain views on extending the two current PSPO's in Flintshire for a period of three years be approved; and
- (c) That representations be made to UK Government through the Local Government Association and professional networks requesting that the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 be amended to extend the interval at which PSPO's must be renewed to 5 years.

## **188. SUPPORTING LIVING FRAMEWORK AND COMMISSIONING OF SERVICES**

Councillor Jones introduced the report and explained that an electronic procurement exercise had been undertaken by Denbighshire County Council with the purpose of introducing a North Wales Supported Living Framework.

By adopting the Framework, it would enable Flintshire to commission its supported living services when they came up for renewal, effectively and efficiently whilst ensuring consistency and quality of provision across North Wales.

The Chief Officer (Social Services) explained that Social Services currently had three supported living services that required commissioning/re-commissioning and it was proposed that the new North Wales Support Living Framework (call off contract) be utilised to tender and select a new provider.

To meet Contract Procedure Rules for the Council, approval from Cabinet was required to progress with the tender and award the contracts.

As Chair of Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor McGuill asked the following questions, with the answers shown provided in response prior to the meeting:

Q - Clarification requested regarding the length of these contracts 35 providers in all - I couldn't see a length does this mean they are open ended?

A - They are open ended contracts to ensure continuity of care for the most vulnerable. As with all contracts, the quality of the service delivery is constantly monitored by the contracts and commissioning team and any issues will be addressed.

Q - No mention of who is responsible for providing protective clothing for those employed who might find themselves needing to use it in client's homes etc.

A - Regulated providers have a responsibility to provide PPE for staff use, this will form part of their Health & Safety Policy. During the pandemic, as Social Care Providers, they would receive the Welsh Government provision of PPE through NHS Shared Services, this is used to supplement their usual order of stock.



Q - There also doesn't seem to be a 'time by' stated when we have to be informed of any change of circumstances of the service user i.e.; hospitalisation - how long before we are informed so payment can be reduced etc. - same with death.

A - There is a clause within the Supported Living Framework call off contract that enables a temporary planned or unplanned suspension of the Service, which may occur due to: hospitalisation, absence, pre-planned absence or death. In the event of a temporary suspension of the Service, the Provider and the Commissioner shall follow the process as set out in Schedule 6 Variation and Termination.

Q - Lastly can we ensure that the service user has a photo of all staff who they come into contact with on the pen portrait file?

A - As part of any SL commissioning/ re-commissioning there is a robust processes for ensuring individuals are familiar with the staff that are supporting them. In recognition to the importance of individuals getting to know people who support them, the contract includes a staff matching tool and a template for staff one page profile. Due to the positive impact that Progress for Providers has had in the older peoples residential and domiciliary services, Social Services is looking to roll this out into learning disability services over the next 12 months, with a bespoke process for learning disability residential. In addition, all new contracts incorporate a transition period giving individuals and their families' opportunities to get to know their new support team (6-8 week period of visits and familiarisation with service delivery). In some service settings staff pictures are used in order to communicate with individuals who their staff team for that day will be.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That approval be given to adopt the North Wales Support Living Framework for all future supported living commissioning exercises; and
- (b) that the proposal to re-commissioning the 3 supported living properties detailed in the report, as per the Contract Procedure Rules that required Cabinet approval for the award of contracts with a value over £2M be approved.

### **189. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS**

An information item on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted. The actions were as set out below:-

#### **Streetscene and Transportation**

- **B5129 Bus Lanes – Contract Award**

Award of the B5129 Shotton Lane to Queensferry Bus Lanes Contract.

## **Social Services**

- **Marleyfield House Expansion**

The Council has entered into contract with construction firm Willmott Dixon to begin works on building an additional 32 bed expansion at the Marleyfield House residential care home in Buckley. This update will provide the detail of the cost of the contract and the project and next steps.

## **Housing and Assets**

- **Transfer of 12 No. Properties (Plot No's 513 – 524) Lllys Cadfan, Croes Atti, Oakenholt**

The above affordable housing units are to be transferred direct to North East Wales (NEW) Homes since this best meets housing need. NEW Homes will enter into a covenant with Anwyl that the properties will be used for the purpose of affordable housing.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 14 and 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **190. TEST, TRACE AND PROTECT (TTP)**

Councillor Roberts introduced the report which recommended that the region moved to an employment model, to be fully funded by Welsh Government (WG), with Flintshire acting as the single employer for the six local authorities. The Health Board would act as the employer for the regional specialist team.

He thanked the Chief Executive for all of the work he and his team had undertaken to progress the Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) Programme. This was concurred by all Cabinet Members, particularly for the success in gaining the funding for the Programme.

As Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor Carver made the following observations:

“I am satisfied with the report and concur with the Recommendations”.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That full participation in a regional Test, Trace and Protect Programme be supported, and that the hybrid operating model of employment to a medium-

scale of capacity, supplemented by a reserve or 'bank' of local authority employees, be adopted;

- (b) That the proposal that Flintshire County Council acts as the employer for the regional programme on behalf of the six local authorities be approved;
- (c) That it be noted that the five partner local authorities have given Flintshire as the employer a letter of commitment in advance of a full Inter Authority Agreement and prior to the commitment of resources;
- (d) That the Chief Executive be authorised to enter the Council into a formal and binding Inter Authority Agreement with Ynys Mon, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham councils;
- (e) That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to enter into a contractual commitments for the employment of programme workers, and the commitment of support services, now that confirmation of the allocation of a sufficient budget has been received from Welsh Government; and
- (f) That quarterly reports be submitted to Cabinet on the progress and performance of the programme.

#### **191. BENEFITS SERVICES RESOURCES**

Councillor Mullin introduced the report which outlined the change in demands in the Benefits Service, the short term solution that had been in operation, and the resources required to deal with the future predicted increases in demand.

As Chair of Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Dunbar made the following observations:

“Before the start of Covid19 the Benefit Service had delivered successfully on all aspects such as Housing, CTRS (Council Tax Reduction Scheme) Welfare Reform, and also the Grant Administration covering Free School Meals, School Uniform Grants, Disabled Facilities Grant and Blue Badge for the residents of Flintshire.

Up to this time workloads have been fairly constant and managed successfully with around 500 enquiries per week regarding Universal Credit, since the pandemic Covid19 started the number of enquiries has gone up to 900 per week, CTRS claims have increased and because of Lockdown and the Furlough Scheme being introduced this extra work has been covered by our existing staff doing overtime, this puts additional pressure on the team which is not sustainable as resources can't be extended.

When the Furlough Scheme ends financial pressure on employers will increase as National Government reduces Financial Support we will surely see job loss and reduced working hours, which again falls on this team so the recruitment proposal explained in item Nos 20.1 20.2 & 20.3 of a mixture of

agency and fixed term contracts is the way forward to protect the interests of Flintshire Residents and the welfare of the Staff”.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposal for a flexible resource allocation to continue to provide a demand-responsive benefits service be supported and approved.

**192. SALE OF CRESCENT FARM, GREENFIELD**

Councillor Mullin introduced the report which sought approval for the sale of Crescent Farm, Greenfield.

The sale would be subject to a claw-back clause which was detailed in the report.

As Chair of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor Carver made the following observation:

“I am satisfied with the report and concur with the recommendation”.

**RESOLVED:**

That the sale of Crescent Farm, Greenfield comprising 77.84 acres of agricultural land with house and associated out buildings be supported.

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

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

(The meeting commenced at 1.00 p.m. and ended at 2.10 p.m.)

.....  
**Chair**

**CABINET**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held virtually via Webex on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

**PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)**

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Derek Butler, Dave Hughes, Christine Jones, Billy Mullin and Carolyn Thomas.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Corporate Finance Manager, Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Education and Youth) Managing Director - NEWydd, Strategic Finance Manager – Commercial and Housing, Project Manager, and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

**OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor David Mackie.

**194. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**195. NEWYDD CATERING AND CLEANING LIMITED: COVID 19 RECOVERY AND FUTURE PROOFING THE BUSINESS**

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) introduced the report and explained since transitioning to a Local Authority Trading Company in 2017, NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Limited (NEWydd) had strived to create a more modern and competitive model of operations which was a key feature of its pre-Covid-19 Business Plan for 2020/21.

The Managing Director of NEWydd provided a comprehensive presentation which detailed the proposals in full for organisational change and the development of a new operating model to secure the longevity of NEWydd Catering and Cleaning Limited (NEWydd).

A number of questions on opportunities were asked by Members and responded to, with the emphasis being on the business being progressive. Questions were also asked on the workforce and work being undertaken with Trade Unions.

As Chair of the Organisational Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Mackie made the following observation:

“I feel the report should have started with details from paragraph 2.08 which explains that the business had successfully built up reserves in their first 3 years. I have also heard that they have risen to significant challenges during the crisis and together these points would have shown them to be a successful and flexible business needing to change in the current climate”.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the current position of NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Limited in light of the impact of the Covid-19 emergency and the resulting drivers for organisational change within the company be noted;
- (b) That the commencement of a period of consultation with the Trade Unions, staff and clients on the proposed new operating model which will preserve the long-term future of the company be approved; and
- (c) That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets and exercised with the Managing Director’s advice, to authorise and implement the new operating model.

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

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

(The meeting commenced at 1.00 p.m. and ended at 2.05 p.m.)

.....  
**Chair**



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Flintshire Local Development Plan – Consideration of Deposit Consultation Representations and Responses and Submission for Public Examination
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) was approved for public consultation by the Council on the 23 July 2019. Consultation took place between 30 September and 11 November 2019 and attracted 1281 representations from 657 separate respondents. Details of these representations and a summary of the proposed Council's response to them can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

Following consultation, the Council, as Local Planning Authority (LPA), had a statutory duty under the LDP regulations (Regulation 19) to make available all the representations received. This has been done by placing them on the LDP consultation portal and in a summary table on the Council's website.

Table 2 (after paragraph 1.07 below) shows the number of representations made against each of the policies in the LDP and other sections of the Plan. The largest numbers of representations to one site or policy (129 and 198 respectively) are objections to two housing allocations in Ewloe and Hawarden/Mancott (Policy HN1) although clearly it is the materiality of the points raised that is of most direct relevance.

The representations received, along with a number of other documents, as prescribed in the Welsh Government (WG) LDP regulations (Regulation 22) (including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report, Community Involvement Scheme (CIS), Consultation Report, Site Register and other supporting documents that the Council, as Local Planning Authority, considers relevant to the preparation of the Plan (e.g. the evidence-base and technical background papers), must be submitted to WG and Planning Inspectorate Wales (PINS) for independent Examination in Public (EiP) once the Council has considered any representations

received in line with the regulations (see Section D below for the consideration of objections and Section F below for the documents required to be submitted). The Representations received to the Deposit LDP consultation and proposed responses have been reported to the Planning Strategy Group whose recommendations to the Cabinet are set out in Section D of the report, below.

No wholesale changes to the LDP, such as the deletion of sites and/or the inclusion of new sites ('Focussed Changes'), are proposed as no substantive evidence has been submitted during the deposit consultation that would warrant the need for such changes, and because this could constitute a fundamental change to the LDP and threaten its 'soundness' (see Section G below for an explanation of soundness). This report does not recommend significant or fundamental changes to the Plan ('Focussed Changes') as none have arisen from the consideration of representations that would warrant the need for such changes, following the guidance in the Development Plans Manual 3 (DPM3) (see Section E, below). However, there are minor changes to policies and proposals (additional or amended wording for clarity) and typographical corrections (Minor Editing Changes) arising from the representations made and/or changes in evidence since the Plan was placed on Deposit. These will be dealt with during the Examination where following the Inspector's consideration, can be dealt with as 'Matters Arising Changes'.

Having considered the objections received to the Plan overall, it is considered that the LDP remains sound and provides a robust basis for Submission to the WG and PINS for independent Examination in Public. Whilst objections have been made in particular to housing allocations, the Council has a responsibility to provide such sites where a need has been identified and the objections made are not considered to override that responsibility or question the soundness of the sites allocated. The purpose of the LDP is to seek to meet the needs of Flintshire in the most sustainable way possible, to the extent that this can be done through the land use Planning system.

An independent Inspector will consider the soundness of the LDP alongside all of the representations made by the public and other parties, during the Examination in Public hearings, which will take place over a number of weeks in early 2021. Members of the public and other interested parties, including elected Members, will be able to appear at the hearings if they have made duly made representations, and at the Inspector's discretion. The LDP, once 'Adopted' (this may take 12 months from the date of Submission), will provide economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for the County as a whole, including new jobs, new homes, and affordable housing. Its adoption will also help the Council resist speculative development, or 'Planning by Appeal', which Flintshire has suffered from since the Adopted Flintshire Unitary Development Plan expired.

The Delivery Agreement (DA) formally sets out the timescales for the preparation of the LDP and states that it should be Submitted in October 2020. The most recent version of the DA was approved by the First Minister in July 2020. Given the overriding need to have an up to date adopted development plan in place, it is therefore considered imperative that the LDP be Submitted in accordance with the DA or the Council risks having WG direct that it is Submitted.



The Cabinet is asked to resolve to recommend to the Council that it submit the LDP to the Welsh Government and Planning Inspectorate Wales for Examination in Public.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Cabinet note the representations made during the Deposit Local Development Plan consultation (appendix 1) and endorse the proposed responses, and agree that they will be forwarded to the Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for consideration as part of the examination in Public.
2	That the Cabinet resolve that the Flintshire Local Development Plan (2015-2030) be Submitted to the Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public, and recommend that the Council agree to this.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>EXPLANING THE FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CONSIDERATION OF DEPOSIT CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIONS AND RESPONSES AND SUBMISSION FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION</b>
1.01	<p><b>A). The Deposit Flintshire Local Development Plan (2015 – 2030)</b></p> <p>The Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) was approved for public consultation by the Council on 23 July 2019. The Deposit LDP contained the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Foreword</b> by the Lead Member for Planning and Public Protection,</li> <li>b) <b>How to comment</b> on the Deposit LDP;</li> <li>c) <b>Introduction</b> - how we have arrived at the Deposit Plan, an overview of the County and the key national, regional and local polices, plans and guidance that has shaped the Deposit LDP;</li> <li>d) <b>Key Issues, Vision and Objectives</b> - the key issues and opportunities facing the County and the LDP’s vision, strategic objectives and a growth and spatial strategy which seeks to address the key issues and opportunities;</li> <li>e) <b>Plan Strategy and Strategic Policies</b> - the LDP’s strategy, key diagram and strategic policies and proposals as well as polices on the location of development, the Strategic Sites, Green Barriers, Employment and Housing Growth, the Natural Environment, Built Heritage and Climate Change</li> <li>f) <b>Topic, Criteria and Area-Based Policies</b> - the topic, criteria and area-based policies that will most commonly be used to guide decisions on Planning Applications split into more detailed polices in relation to</li> </ul>

	<p>general development management considerations, housing (including general housing and provision for Gypsy and Travellers, economy, built and natural environment, retail, transport, community facilities, the Welsh language, minerals, waste and renewable energy;</p> <p>g) <b>Monitoring Framework</b> - the annual monitoring framework which contains a number of annual monitoring indicators. This will be used to produce the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) once the plan is adopted.</p>
1.02	<p>There is no requirement for the Deposit LDP to repeat national planning policy, including national development management policy contained in Planning Policy Wales (edition 10, 2019). The Deposit LDP therefore makes cross references at the end of each strategic policy to the relevant national planning policy without being overly repetitive. There is also reference to the relevant plan objectives, evidence base any supporting supplementary planning guidance, relevant monitoring indicators and how the policy/proposal meets the wellbeing goals identified in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (WBFGA).</p>
1.03	<p>Where relevant, policies and proposals contained in the strategic policy section and the topic, criteria and area-based policies section, including allocations, are annotated on the Proposals Maps which were made available in paper, pdf and interactive formats, to be read alongside the policies during the consultation. The Proposals Maps identify the land use policies, proposals and allocations of the Plan (see bullet points e) and f) in para 1.02 above).</p>
1.04	<p>Once adopted, the LDP will become the statutory land use plan for the County and replace the current (expired) Unitary Development Plan (2000 - 2015) as a basis for making decisions on individual Planning Applications.</p>
1.05	<p><b>B). Deposit Plan Consultation and Representations</b></p> <p>The LDP and its accompanying documentation were formally placed on Deposit for public consultation from the 30 September 2019 to 11 November 2019. Appendix 2 details the documentation that formed part of the consultation. Copies of the Deposit plan were made available on the Council's website via its consultation portal as well as in hard copy at County Hall Mold, Ty Dewi Sant Ewloe, and all Flintshire Connects officers. Copies were also available at the following libraries/other venues to view: Broughton, Buckley, Deeside, Flint Jade Jones Pavillion, Holywell, Mancot, Mold. The consultation also involved permanent exhibitions at the Council offices in Ewloe and Mold, and at seven libraries.</p>
1.06	<p>Over the course of the consultation, officers undertook a number of drop-in sessions throughout the County. Details of the sessions are provided in Table 1 below.</p>

<b>Table 1: Deposit Plan Consultation drop-in sessions</b>		
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Number of attendees*</b>
Broughton & Bretton Community Centre, Brookes Ave, Broughton	4-8pm Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2019	50
Buckley (Bistre) Youth & Community Centre, Nant Mawr Rd	4-8pm Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019	25
Mold Parkfields Community Centre, Ash Grove	4-8pm Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	30
Mancot and Moor Village Hall, Mancot Lane	4-8pm Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	200
Connah's Quay, The Quay Building, Fron Rd	4-8pm Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	1
Hope, Caergwrle, Abermorddu, Cefn y Bedd – Heulwen Close Community Centre, Hope	4-8pm Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	65
Ewloe Woodside Close Community Centre	4-8pm Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	200
Flint Town Hall, Market Square	4-8pm Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	35
Caerwys Memorial Institute, South St	4-8pm Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	25
New Brighton Community Centre, Moel Fammau Rd	5-8pm Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>661</b>

\*Numbers are approximate as not all attendees filled in the attendance registers

1.07

In response, 1281 representations were received from members of the public and a wide range of statutory consultees, developers, landowners and agents. All of the representations received have been processed by the Council and made available to view on the Council's LDP consultation portal and as a summary table on the website, in accordance with statutory requirements (LDP Regulation 19). Table 2, below provides an overview of the number of representations received against each of the policies in the LDP. All of the representations and the Council's responses will be forwarded to PINS with the submission documentation (see Section F below).

<b>Table 2: Representations received to the Deposit Plan</b>				
<b>Section of Plan/Policy</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Not stated</b>
Flintshire Local Development Plan Deposit Draft September 2019	7	1	1	5
Foreword	5	5		
Introduction	5	4	1	
How to view and comment on the Local Development Plan	5	4	1	
How have we arrived at the Deposit Plan?	3	3		

How to use/navigate and interpret the Plan	1	1		
Strategic context	1	1		
County profile/overview	2	2		
Key issues and drivers for change	1	1		
Forming the Plan's strategy from this context	5	2	2	1
The growth strategy of the plan	1		1	
Employment growth	1		1	
The preferred strategy	3		3	
Strategic policies	7	7		
Strategic policies – Creating sustainable places and communities	3	3		
Strategic Policies - Supporting a Prosperous Economy	1	1		
Strategic Policies - Meeting Housing Needs	1			1
Strategic Policies - Valuing the Environment	2			2
Development Management Policies - Valuing the Environment	6	2		4
Development Management Policies - Meeting Housing Needs	1			1
STR1: Strategic Growth	42	41	1	
STR2: The Location of Development	53	35	17	1
STR3: Strategic Sites	63	57	6	
STR4: Principles of Sustainable Development, Design and Placemaking	12	11	1	
STR5: Transport and Accessibility	8	6	2	
STR6: Services, Facilities and Infrastructure	16	14	1	1
STR7: Economic Development, Enterprise, and Employment	8	5	3	
STR8: Employment Land Provision	5	4	1	
STR9: Retail Centres and Development	3	2	1	
STR10: Tourism, Culture, and Leisure	5	2	3	
STR11: Provision of Sustainable Housing Sites	30	24	5	1
STR12: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers	1	1		
STR13: Natural and Built Environment, Green Networks and Infrastructure	16	11	5	
STR14: Climate Change and Environmental Protection	6	3	3	
STR15: Waste Management	1	1		
STR16: Strategic Planning for Minerals	4	2	1	1
PC1: The Relationship of Development to Settlement Boundaries	28	22	5	1
PC2: General Requirements for Development	11	8	3	
PC3: Design	8	3	5	
PC4: Sustainability and Resilience of New Development	6	3	3	
PC5: Transport and Accessibility	7	4	3	
PC6: Active Travel	8	8		
PC7: Passenger Transport	2	1	1	
PC8: Airport Safeguarding Zone	1	1		
PC9: Protection of Disused Railway Lines	3	3		
PC10: New Transport Schemes	7	6	1	
PC11: Mostyn Docks	1		1	
PC12: Community Facilities	2	1	1	

PE1: General Employment Land Allocations	9	6	2	1
Policy PE2: Principal Employment Areas	9	8	1	
PE3: Employment Development Outside Allocated Sites and Principal Employment Areas	2	2		
PE4: Farm Diversification	2	1	1	
PE6: Protection of Employment Land	1	1		
PE7: Retail Hierarchy	1	1		
PE10: District and Local Centres	1	1		
PE11: Edge and Out of Town Retail Development	2	2		
PE12: Tourist Accommodation, Facilities and Attractions	3	3		
PE13: Caravan Development in the Open Countryside	3	3		
PE14: Greenfield Valley	3	1	2	
HN1: New Housing Development Proposals	581	520	57	4
HN2: Density and Mix of Development	13	5	8	
HN3: Affordable Housing	28	21	7	
HN4: Housing in the Countryside	4	2	2	
HN4-B: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings	2	1	1	
HN4-C: Infill Development in Groups of Houses	1	1		
HN4-D: Affordable Housing Exceptions Schemes	4	3	1	
HN6: Annex Accommodation	2	2		
HN7: Houses in Multiple Occupation	1	1		
HN8: Gypsy and Traveller Sites	41	32	9	
HN9: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	3	2	1	
EN1: Sports, Recreation and Cultural Facilities	4	3	1	
EN2: Green Infrastructure	12	9	3	
EN3: Undeveloped Coast and Dee Estuary Corridor	1		1	
EN4: Landscape Character	8	5	3	
EN5: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	2	1	1	
EN6: Sites of Biodiversity Importance	3	3		
EN7: Development Affecting Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	8	6	2	
EN8: Built Historic Environment and Listed Buildings	3	1	2	
EN9: Development In or Adjacent to Conservation Areas	1	1		
EN10: Buildings of Local Interest	1	1		
EN11: Green Barriers	35	25	7	3
EN12: New Development and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technology	2	2		
EN13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development	22	8	14	
EN14: Flood Risk	4	2	1	1
EN15: Water Resources	2		2	
EN17: Development of Unstable Land	1		1	
EN18: Pollution and Nuisance	2	2		
EN21: Locations for Waste Management Facilities	4	3	1	
EN23: Minerals Safeguarding	3	3		
EN24: Minerals Buffer Zones	1	1		
EN25: Sustainable Minerals Development	6	2	3	1

	EN26: Criteria for Minerals Development	2	2		
	EN27: Secondary and Recycled Aggregate	2	2		
	Monitoring	10	9	1	
	Appx1-Housing Commitments	7	6	1	
	Appx2-Supplementary Planning Guidance	1	1		
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1281</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>29</b>
1.08	Of the 1281 representations received, 1033 were objections to the Plan and 219 were in support (29 were unspecified). A significant number of objections were made to the Plan's housing allocations (policy HN1) in particular the sites HN1.7 and HN1.8. A broad summary of the representations received is set out in the report to Planning Strategy Group on 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (See background documents), and appendix 1 summarises each representation received and the recommended response to it.				
1.09	The representations received will be used to update the Final Consultation Report, one of the key Submission documents. This will explain the nature of the consultation undertaken at Deposit LDP stage and provide an overview of the key issues raised and how the representations have been considered. The full representations are available to view on the LDP consultation portal and as a summary table on the Council's website. Copies of the originals will be available to view at the Council venues, once it is safe for the public to have access to these locations.				
1.10	Appendix 3 details the representation received from Welsh Government (WG) to the Deposit LDP. This has been included in full for Member's information, and in particular attention is drawn to the overriding view expressed by WG that " <i>The Welsh Government is broadly supportive of the strategy, level of homes and jobs proposed, considers it aligns with national policy and is in general conformity with the emerging NDF</i> ". The representation is relatively short, comprising a covering letter and an annex which provides further detail on the representations made. WG group their responses into 3 categories (see Appendix 3 annex), but raise no fundamental (Category A) objections to the Deposit LDP or its soundness. This should provide the Council with a degree of comfort that the Deposit LDP is, without prejudice to the EiP process, in conformity with national policy and guidance.				
1.11	Work to address the comments from Welsh Government has been undertaken, is referred to in the recommended responses to representations (see 1.12 below and appendix 1), and will be presented as part of the submission of the Plan to PINS.				
1.12	<p><b>C). Responding to Representations, Covid 19 and its Implications for the LDP Timetable</b></p> <p>As part of Submitting the Plan and the representations received for EiP, the Council must also provide its responses to those representations to the Inspector. Following the end of the Deposit consultation period in November 2019, officers have been summarising, assessing and</p>				

	preparing recommended responses to the representations all of which is documented in appendix 1.												
1.13	The consideration of those representations by the Council and agreement to Submit the Plan for EiP are governed by the Delivery Agreement whose content and timetable is agreed by the Welsh Ministers. Prior to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Council was on track to achieve the agreed milestone dates within the LDP Delivery Agreement agreed by the Minister in May 2019, which involved the Council's consideration of representations and responses in spring/early summer 2020, Submission in July 2020, and an EiP of the LDP in the Autumn of 2020.												
1.14	Because of the lockdown restrictions and change to working practices imposed due to Covid 19, it was not possible to keep to those milestone dates as the Council was unable to physically meet as a body to consider the Plan, it was not possible to make representations available at deposit venues as these were all closed, and it was impractical for PINS to safely convene an EiP this autumn.												
1.15	As a result of discussions with WG and PINS, a proposed revision to the LDP Delivery Agreement timetable that moved these dates on four months was first discussed with the Planning Strategy Group, and then formally considered and agreed by the Cabinet on 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2020. A formal request to revise the LDP delivery agreement was then made to WG and this was agreed by letter on 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2020. The revised Delivery Agreement (revision 4) is available on the Council's website <a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/Flintshire-LDP-Delivery-Agreement-4th-Revision.pdf">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/Flintshire-LDP-Delivery-Agreement-4th-Revision.pdf</a>												
1.16	The main outcome of the change to the timetable is that Submission will follow Cabinet and Council consideration of the Plan (October 2020) and the EiP will be scheduled to start by PINS in early 2021.												
1.17	<p><b>D). Scrutiny of the LDP Representations and responses</b></p> <p>The <b>Planning Strategy Group</b> (PSG) is a sub group of the Cabinet, part of whose remit is to provide scrutiny of the LDP and to make recommendations to Cabinet on the progress of the Plan. A significant number of meetings have taken place since the commencement of the LDP in 2014, including a number of meetings since the end of the Deposit consultation to consider the representations made and recommended responses, as shown in table 3 below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3"><b>Table 3: Planning Strategy Group Meetings that considered responses to representations</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th><b>Meeting</b></th> <th><b>Report/Topic</b></th> <th><b>Matters considered/outcome</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15<sup>th</sup> May 2020</td> <td>Report 1: Recommend responses to representations relating to all non-site-specific policies</td> <td>Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29<sup>th</sup> May 2020</td> <td>Report 2: Recommended responses to representations</td> <td>Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Table 3: Planning Strategy Group Meetings that considered responses to representations</b>			<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Report/Topic</b>	<b>Matters considered/outcome</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Report 1: Recommend responses to representations relating to all non-site-specific policies	Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Report 2: Recommended responses to representations	Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification
<b>Table 3: Planning Strategy Group Meetings that considered responses to representations</b>													
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Report/Topic</b>	<b>Matters considered/outcome</b>											
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Report 1: Recommend responses to representations relating to all non-site-specific policies	Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification											
29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Report 2: Recommended responses to representations	Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification											

		relating to housing allocations including strategic sites	
	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Report 3: Recommended responses to representations relating to new/resubmitted sites	Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification
	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Report 4: Recommended responses to representations relating to specific policy areas	Briefing only and debate/feedback/questions for clarification
	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 am	Report 5: Recommended responses to representations resulting from final LDP system check	Members endorsed the recommended responses in the report considered at this meeting
	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended approach to provision of Mineral by regional collaboration</li> <li>Endorsement of all Recommended responses considered in the above meetings/reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members agreed to take a collaborative approach to meeting the need for crushed rock and sand and gravel through the Flintshire LDP in conjunction with Denbighshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council</li> <li>Members endorsed the draft North East Wales Minerals Statement of Sub-Regional Collaboration</li> <li>Members endorsed all of the collective recommended responses to representations made to the Deposit Flintshire LDP</li> <li>Members recommended that these responses are considered for approval by the Cabinet in order to allow the Full Council to consider and approve them, as part of agreeing to Submit the Plan to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public.</li> </ul>
1.18	<p>At their last meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the PSG endorsed all of the recommend responses made to representations received to the Deposit LDP and recommended that these be considered by the Cabinet and Full Council as part of agreeing to Submit the Plan to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public. In doing so some Members understood that responses to the plan had to be considered as a whole in order to move forward, but that there will be some Members of the Council who will have issues with parts of the Plan for policy-specific or ward-specific reasons. It is important that all Members have this understanding that the Plan needs to move forward as a whole, and that</p>		



	the Examination in Public is the place where the final independent scrutiny of the soundness of the plan will be carried out.
1.19	The responses prepared and provided to Members as set out above have followed a logical sequence in line with structure of the Plan and the consideration of the soundness of it. The focus on non-site-specific 'policies' in Report 1 enabled PSG to consider whether the representations raised issues of soundness in respect of the Plan's Strategy, its spatial strategy and the level of employment and housing provision for growth. The responses to these representations then set the scene for Report 2, which looked at whether the Plan's allocations are considered to be 'sound', before moving on to the Report 3 which considered representations for the inclusion in the plan of additional or alternative sites being promoted by landowners and/or developers.
1.20	Remaining representations on specific policy areas that included Gypsies and Travellers, minerals and waste, settlement boundaries and green barriers, employment sites and renewable energy were presented in Report 4. The responses dealt with in Report 5 were in effect a final 'sweeping up' exercise to ensure that all representations received and recorded in the LDP consultation database had been considered and responded to.
1.21	There is therefore a clear logic to the order with which representations and responses have been presented for PSG consideration. The starting point is that the Plan which the Council placed on Deposit is considered to be a 'sound' Plan i.e. the Plan that the Council wishes to form the basis for subsequent examination and adoption.
1.22	It follows that if, having consider the proposed responses to representations, Members agree that the Plan Strategy and policy framework remains sound, particularly in terms of the level of growth and its spatial distribution, and equally if Members agree that the Plan's allocations remain sustainable, viable and deliverable, and therefore sound, then there is no need for the Plan to include additional sites in the Plan.
1.23	This is the central thread of the recommended responses as officers consider that no issues have been raised that carry sufficient weight or evidence to challenge the soundness of the Council's plan. This will therefore be the position adopted by the Council at Examination to defend the Plan, subject to Cabinet and full Council approval.
1.24	As set out earlier each representation and its response is set out in the summary table in appendix 1. The report from the meeting of the PSG held on the afternoon of 30 July 2020 is also included as appendix 4 to this report, as this provides Members with an overview of the matters raised by representations in relation to each of the Reports 1-5 considered by PSG as above. As per paragraph 1.18 above, the PSG endorsed these responses and recommended that these be considered by the Cabinet and Full Council as part of agreeing to Submit the Plan to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public

1.25	<p><b>E. The Need For and Scope to Change the Plan</b></p> <p>With the publication of the Deposit LDP in September 2019, the Council essentially published its ‘sound’ development plan i.e. the plan it considers is capable of being examined, found sound and subsequently adopted. The main purpose of the public consultation that took place between September 30 and November 11 2019 was to allow the public and other interested parties the opportunity to scrutinise the soundness of the plan, and if there were felt to be questions or doubts about any aspect of the Plan’s soundness, then these should have been explained and evidenced in representations. Clearly, the Scrutiny of the Plan does not end there as the Council’s is required to Submit the Plan for Examination in Public, along with the representations received and the Council’s response.</p>
1.26	<p>The Town and County Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations (2005) as amended (2015) set out the legislative framework for preparing a LDP. Supplementary guidance is provided in the LDP Manual (Edition 3, March 2020)) and by PINS. The regulations do not set out any stages between dealing with the Deposit LDP representations and submitting the LDP to WG and PINS for EiP, but the Manual indicates that changes to the LDP should only be made in exceptional circumstances where it is necessary to ensure that the LDP is ‘sound’ (see later Section G below for further information about soundness).</p>
1.27	<p>Such changes are known as ‘Focussed Changes’ (FC) and, in accordance with the Manual, <b>‘should be avoided wherever possible’</b> as the <b>‘.....Authority should only place a plan on deposit if it considers it is sound. It will need to justify this assertion at the examination and because of this must consider carefully the extent to which recommending changes after deposit throw into doubt the overall soundness of the deposit plan and erode its position at examination’</b>.</p>
1.28	<p>The Manual further states that <i>‘exceptionally it may prove necessary to consider proposing changes to ensure the plan is sound, for example, where there has been a sudden, major change in local circumstances, new national planning policy has been introduced or deposit plan representations identify an unforeseen soundness issue’</i>. If such changes are proposed they should be ‘one set of an extremely limited number of focussed changes that reflect key pieces of evidence but do not go to the heart of the plan, affecting only limited parts of it’ and should be consulted on ‘at the earliest opportunity to avoid delaying the examination process’.</p>
1.29	<p>Having considered all representations made to the Deposit LDP, including those made in volume to some of the housing allocations, and given there has been no change in national policy or legislation that affects the LDP process, it is the recommended advice of officers that nothing has been raised as above that would necessitate or warrant making any FCs to the Deposit LDP, as on the basis of the assessment of all representations and via the recommended responses, the objections to housing allocations do not warrant the removal of sites from the LDP as the issues</p>

	<p>raised are matters that can be dealt with at the detailed Planning Application stage. The Plan therefore remains sound and should be submitted in its published form for EiP, and is capable of being adopted.</p>
1.30	<p>Clearly the Covid -19 Global Pandemic has occurred since the Deposit plan was consulted on, and whilst this has had short term effects on growth, development, and the economy, there is as yet no definitive assessment of the medium to longer terms effects on the economy of Flintshire that would warrant a review of the Strategy of the LDP, remembering also there is still almost 10 years of the plan period remaining. It is simply too early to tell and there is no reliable evidence from economic projections or forecasts on which to base such a reassessment. What is clear anecdotally is that housing development and sales remain at high levels with some developers reporting a buoyant market in terms of sales of new properties, and a similar trend appears evident in the existing housing market, reflected in stable or rising house prices and transactions.</p>
1.31	<p>What is also clear is that in agreeing in July to a revised Delivery Agreement timetable to maintain progress to EiP, the Welsh Government have not raised any concerns or need to 'pause and reflect' in relation to the strategy of the Plan and any perceived Covid-19 impact. Given where the Council is in the process, the overriding priority must be to have an adopted development plan in place in Flintshire to guide and protect communities from further speculative development. The LDP strategy is fit for purpose and it is relevant that Welsh Government in agreeing to an amended delivery agreement so quickly stated that the Council has <b>"taken a pragmatic view to trying to keep the plan moving forward"</b> – they could easily have required the Council, as other authorities who are pre-deposit have been told, to review their evidence base in light of Covid 'effect', but they haven't said this to Flintshire.</p>
1.32	<p>In terms of factual evidence, 2018 based population projections have recently been published nationally during lockdown and these show an uplift in projected population growth for Wales overall which filters down to most local authorities. Whilst household projections have not yet been produced, the Council's advising statistician at Conwy Council has run some household projection scenarios based on the national uplift, and whilst Flintshire's household growth projection will be higher than present for the Plan period, it will still be below the LDP housing requirement, but closer to it.</p>
1.33	<p>Finally economic recovery post Covid could go two ways – accelerated recovery led by housing development and market confidence which may use up the sites the Plan has at a quicker rate. In this scenario the Council would be required to review the plan and in terms of LDP Regulations, it is necessary to review 4 years after adoption in any event. The other scenario is slow recovery of the economy and developer confidence to build, in which case the sites are sustainable but may take longer to come forward and as such supply would be maintained and would not necessarily trigger a plan review. On this basis the strategy is sufficiently balanced and flexible to happily sit between these two</p>

	scenarios and is therefore fit for purpose.			
1.34	Some changes to the LDP are proposed for minor editing reasons only and/or to clarify the wording of an existing policy or reasoned justification, but that does not change the purpose of that policy or the Plan overall, from the published Deposit LDP. These changes are identified in responses made to representations and will be listed as an attached schedule to accompany the LDP when submitted for examination.			
1.35	<p><b>F. Submission Requirements</b></p> <p>Section 6.25 of the LDP manual sets out the documentation that the Council (as Local Planning Authority) must submit to WG and PINS and their format (paper and electronic copies). These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Deposit LDP;</li> <li>• Schedule of FCs (where applicable), including Minor Editing Changes;</li> <li>• The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report;</li> <li>• The Candidate Sites register;</li> <li>• All other supporting evidence-base material and technical documents (such as the Habitat Regulations Assessment, Housing Needs Assessment and the suite of background papers);</li> <li>• The Delivery Agreement (DA), incorporating the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS);</li> <li>• The final Consultation Report;</li> <li>• A copy of all representations made on the Deposit Plan (PINS only);</li> <li>• Any Statements of Common Ground (SoCG).</li> </ul>			
1.36	<p><b>G. Soundness</b></p> <p>At the Examination in Public (EiP) the Council will have to demonstrate that the LDP is 'sound'. This will be tested by the independent Inspector through a series of hearings over several weeks/months (see Section I below and Appendix 5 Typical Schedule). The three soundness tests identified in national guidance are shown in table 4 below together with the sub-questions that supplement each test.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Table 4 Tests of Soundness</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>Preparation Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has preparation of the plan complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc.?)</li> <li>• Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF and/or SDP? (when published or adopted respectively)</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>Test 1: Does the plan fit?</b> (Is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)</p> <p><i>Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it have regard to national policy (PPW) and the WSP (NDF when published)?</li> <li>• Does it have regard to the Well-being Goals?</li> <li>• Does it have regard the Welsh National Marine Plan?</li> <li>• Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement?</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Table 4 Tests of Soundness</b>	<p><b>Preparation Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has preparation of the plan complied with legal and regulatory procedural requirements? (LDP Regulations, CIS, SEA Regulations, SA, HRA etc.?)</li> <li>• Is the plan in general conformity with the NDF and/or SDP? (when published or adopted respectively)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Test 1: Does the plan fit?</b> (Is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)</p> <p><i>Questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it have regard to national policy (PPW) and the WSP (NDF when published)?</li> <li>• Does it have regard to the Well-being Goals?</li> <li>• Does it have regard the Welsh National Marine Plan?</li> <li>• Does it have regard to the relevant Area Statement?</li> </ul>
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1.37	<p>Before the LDP was placed on Deposit, the Council undertook a soundness self-assessment in accordance with WG LDP guidance (a copy of which can be found on the LDP consultation portal). This document sets out why, in the view of the Council, the LDP was sound to be placed on Deposit.</p>
1.38	<p>Paragraph 6.27 of the LDP manual states that '<i>The Welsh Government will monitor consistency with national policy throughout the LDP preparation process, and is likely to discourage submission if there is a fundamental conflict. If a plan is considered to be fundamentally unsound this will be drawn to the attention of the LPA so that any necessary action (i.e. withdrawal) is taken before submission. If the Welsh Government makes an objection based on soundness in the normal way, it will be</i></p>

	<i>considered at the examination. But fundamentally unsound plans should not be submitted for examination’.</i>
1.39	For the reasons summarised in Appendix 1 it is considered that the LDP remains sound. At the same time, as can be seen in paragraph 1.10 above and in Appendix 3, WG have not raised any fundamental objections to the Deposit LDP on grounds of soundness. This should provide the Council with the comfort that the Deposit LDP provides a sound basis for moving forward to Submission in accordance with the DA. Notwithstanding the fact that numerous representations have been received questioning the soundness of the LDP, these relate in the main to individual site allocations, or to proposals which are seeking the inclusion of new sites which can and will be debated at the EiP.
1.40	Paragraph 1.6 of the Planning Inspectorate, LDP Procedure Guidance (August 2015), states that <i>‘The role of the appointed Inspector is to carry out an independent assessment of the overall soundness of the plan and that it satisfies the statutory requirements for its preparation. The Inspector’s role is not to improve the LDP but to make recommendations to ensure it is sound. This means dealing with the main issues which go to the heart of the LDP and not getting involved with the details of the plan unless this is necessary to conclude on the Plan’s soundness’.</i> This makes clear that if there are site-specific details which raise soundness issues it will be down to the Inspector to hear these as part of the EiP and decide if and what binding changes should be made to the LDP to make the Plan sound.
1.41	<b>H. Delegated Authority at Examination in Public</b>  There is a need to clarify with PINS what, if any, delegated authority those officers who represent the Council at Examination will be required to have, to agree any changes that the Inspector may propose. That said at this stage, given the conclusion is that the Plan remains sound following the consultation on the Deposit Plan, the role of officers at Examination is to defend that position. A further report will be brought to Members on the examination process and any need for such delegation.
1.42	<b>I. Next Steps</b>  Subject to agreement at the Council on the 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 for the Plan to be Submitted to WG and PINS, the relevant Submission documentation (Section F, above) will be sent to both organisations to commence the formal process of EiP.
1.43	The purpose of the EiP will be to assess whether the LDP preparation requirements have been followed and whether the submitted LDP meets the tests of soundness (as set out in Section G above).
1.44	Once PINS have received the LDP they will send a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to the Council setting out the actions and commitments to which both parties will adhere during the EiP, including the costs which will be charged monthly to the Council. PINS will also require details of the appointed Programme Officer (PO) who will liaise directly between the

	Council (as LPA), PINS and the representors to ensure the proper running of the EiP and to keep the examination library and examination website up to date as the EiP progresses. A Programme Officer has already been appointed to fulfil this role.
1.45	PINS are committed to delivering the Inspector's Report to the Council within 12 months of the LDP being Submitted. Depending on the complexity of the LDP, a lead inspector may be supported by other inspectors, specialist advisors or planning officers, and, clearly, the length of the EiP will depend on the complexity and scope of issues considered. PINS's Local Development Plan Examination Procedure Guidance (August 2015) sets out a typical schedule from Submission to the issuing of the Final Inspector's report. This is replicated in Appendix 5.
1.46	When the EiP has been concluded and the Inspector has considered the evidence and finalised his/her report, the report will be dispatched to the Council for fact checking. The Council will have 2 weeks to do this before the Final Report is issued.
1.47	Once the Council has received the Inspector's Final Report, the onus will be on it to publish it and to seek approval from the Council formally to adopt the LDP in line with the binding nature of the Inspector's Report. The Cabinet and the Council would need to consider a resolution to Adopt the Plan and could not choose to adopt only it in part - the choice would be Adopt it whole, in line with the Inspector's Report (including any changes he/she deems appropriate) or not at all. If the LDP is not adopted there will be no plan in place for the County and it would face further long term speculative development or 'planning by appeal' without a coordinated approach to site or infrastructure delivery. Equally the Welsh Ministers could use their powers to intervene and/or direct the Council to adopt the Plan.
1.48	Based on the typical schedule identified in Appendix 5, it is estimated that the Plan would be adopted later in 2021. The Adopted LDP would then be used to inform investment decisions by public and private individuals and organisations and for determining individual Planning Applications and Appeals.
1.49	After the LDP is Adopted, the Council must submit an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) on progress against the adopted monitoring indicators and the Adopted LDP will be subject to a statutory review 4 years after Adoption. It must also prepare a separate Plan for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to finance required infrastructure through developer contributions, if it is felt that it is viable to do so. If required, this will need to be the subject of a separate Examination in Public in due course.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<b>Budget:</b> The Council has committed funding via in-year budget provision as well as a specific balances to undertake the preparation of the LDP

	<p>including provision for the EiP stage in the process. This provision is considered adequate to cover the remaining stages of the plan process to adoption, but this is subject to the length of the EiP which is not known at this stage and the resulting costs of the Inspector(s) and Programme Officer. The Council has estimated that the PO costs will not amount to more than £35k-£40k while the cost of the inspector currently stands at £508 per day (excluding travel and subsistence). PINS can now also charge for Planning Officer and administrative support as part of the EiP process, the details of which are set out in the The Local Inquiries and Qualifying Procedures (Standard Daily Amount) (Wales) Regulations 2017. An allowance in the budget/balances of £250k to cover all EiP costs has been made which should be sufficient.</p> <p><b>Human Resources:</b> Submission of the LDP is based on the existing staffing levels within the planning policy team (1FTE team Leader, 1.6 FTE Senior Planners, 2 FTE Planners, 1 FTE Technician) supported by the Service Manager Strategy, and also utilising wider portfolio administrative and technical support as required One of the FTE Planner posts is currently vacant but a business case will be made to fill this post to support Submission and the EiP to follow.</p> <p><b>Technology:</b> It is unclear at this stage whether investment in technology will be required to facilitate the ability of interested parties to ‘attend’ Examination sessions virtually rather than in person, if Covid-19 restrictions dictate once the start date of the Examination is known, and the process of identifying suitable Council venues is carried out.</p>
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	The LDP has already been the subject of a comprehensive Integrated Impact Assessment as a requirement of Planning Wales and the Development Plans Manual (Edn 3). This is part of the documentation that the Council was required to provide alongside the deposit LDP when it went out for public consultation in September 2019 and relates to the sustainability of the Plan and how this links to the Welsh Government Well Being Goals. The Plan’s IIA can be accessed from the Council’s website (see background documents).
3.02	A Health Impact Assessment of the LDP has now been published by Public Health Wales (see background documents).
3.03	The key risk mitigation is to ensure that delays in the progress of the Plan are minimised. The need to have an adopted plan in place is a primary requirement of the Welsh Government and for the Council, and an adopted LDP ensures that decisions on planning applications are fully in the control of the Council as Local Planning Authority and made with referenced to the policies of the adopted Plan.
3.04	The Council has a legal duty to prepare a Local Development Plan and keep it up to date. The current development plan for the County (the Flintshire Unitary Development Plan, 2000 – 2015) expired in 2015 and the



	<p>longer the Council remains without an adopted LDP the greater the risk of it being unable to coordinate and deliver funding, infrastructure and investment within the County. Failure to submit and adopt a sound LDP in line with the agreed Delivery Agreement (DA) puts the Authority at risk of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That the Plan-making function of the Authority is removed with Welsh Government stepping in to ensure that a LDP is put in place at a financial and democratic cost to the Authority;</li> <li>b) If the LDP is not submitted to WG and PINS in line with the DA, WG could direct that the Council submit it, again taking away the democratic process from the Council;</li> <li>c) Costs being awarded against the Council at appeals against individual Planning Applications increasing as the UDP becomes even more obsolete;</li> <li>d) Un-coordinated delivery (or non-delivery) of essential infrastructure and services;</li> <li>e) In the absence of an Adopted LDP, speculative developments being delivered through 'planning by appeal' rather than in accordance with a strategy.</li> </ul>
3.05	<p>There is also a risk that if the Council does not Submit the Plan in accordance with the DA, that WG could use its powers to direct Submission. If this takes place, WG could impose a wide range of actions on the Council, including appointing consultants to pick up the work and to take it through Examination in Public at cost to the Council. They could also instruct that the Council to provide officers for the EiP, but without political support for the LDP it would place those officers in a very difficult position. This could lead to delays in the adoption of the LDP with implications for the Plan base date and the supporting evidence, and increasing vulnerability of all of Flintshire's communities to speculative development.</p>
3.06	<p>Submission of the LDP in line with the DA will reduce the risks identified above. Once the Plan is submitted, adoption will be dependent on the appointed independent Inspector issuing a Final Report, with or without changes, confirming that it is sound. Whilst there are, of course, risks to the LDP as part of the EiP process, this will be dependent on the hearing sessions and the matters that arise. For example, the inspector could, if warranted, suspend the EiP to allow further work to be undertaken on an issue in question.</p>
3.07	<p>Officers are not aware at this stage of any proposed fundamental changes to Welsh Government policy that would have implications for the LDP and progressing to Submission, Examination and adoption. That said, and given the continuing uncertainty of the times we are in relating to Covid-19, the risk of such a change for example with the issuing of a new version of Planning Policy Wales, would have a significant effect on the ability of the Council to progress the plan to adoption, thereby mitigating the risks highlighted above.</p>

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Section B, above, details the public consultation on the Deposit LDP. A summary of the representations received is contained in Appendix 1 and the original representations are available to be viewed on the LDP consultation portal and website.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<a href="#">Appendix 1 - Summary of Deposit LDP Representations and Responses</a> Appendix 2 - List of Deposit documents that were made available for consultation Appendix 3 - Welsh Government response to the Deposit LDP Appendix 4 – Report to Planning Strategy Group 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 Appendix 5 - Typical Schedule of LDP process from Submission to issuing of Inspector’s Final Report

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Flintshire Local Development Plan (2015-2030) Revised Delivery Agreement <a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/Flintshire-LDP-Delivery-Agreement-4th-Revision.pdf">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/Flintshire-LDP-Delivery-Agreement-4th-Revision.pdf</a></p> <p>Flintshire Local Development Plan (2015-2030) Preferred Strategy (November 2017) <a href="https://consult.flintshire.gov.uk/portal/planning/ldp/ps/ps">https://consult.flintshire.gov.uk/portal/planning/ldp/ps/ps</a></p> <p>Flintshire Local Development Plan (2015-2030) Deposit Plan and Supporting Documents  <a href="https://consult.flintshire.gov.uk/portal/planning/ldp/ldp/ldp">https://consult.flintshire.gov.uk/portal/planning/ldp/ldp/ldp</a></p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations, 2005 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2005/2839/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2005/2839/made</a></p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/1598/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/1598/contents/made</a></p> <p>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10)  <a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf</a></p> <p>Local Development Plans Manual (Edition 3)  <a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/development-plans-manual-edition-3-march-2020.pdf</a></p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate: LDPs – Preparing for Submission, A Guide for Local Planning Authorities  <a href="https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170503ldp-preparing-for-submission-en.pdf">https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170503ldp-preparing-for-submission-en.pdf</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	Contact Officer: Andy Roberts, Service Manager Strategy Telephone: 01352 703211 E-mail: <a href="mailto:andy.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk">andy.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>Delivery Agreement:</b> A formal document produced by the Council and approved by the Welsh Minister that defines how the Council will carry out the production of the LDP, how it will consult and engage on the Plan, and what the timetable is for the Plan's production.</p> <p><b>Deposit LDP:</b> The formal version of the LDP that the Council is required to 'deposit' for public consultation. This consultation took place between September 30<sup>th</sup> 2019 and November 11<sup>th</sup> 2019.</p> <p><b>LDP Regulations:</b> Regulations that support the relevant Planning Acts and define the key legislative requirements for how the Council produces the LDP, defining key stages and requirements that the Council must legally comply with.</p> <p><b>Examination:</b> This is the formal examination in public of the LDP to test the soundness of the plan which will be presided over by an independently appointed Planning Inspector.</p> <p><b>Planning Strategy Group:</b> A sub group of the Council's Planning Committee that acts as a steering group guiding the progress of the production of the LDP. This is not a public committee and has no power to make direct decisions over the content of the LDP, but it makes recommendations to the Cabinet on the plan.</p> <p><b>Submission:</b> Once the Council has agreed the responses to the representations made to the deposit LDP consultation, it also needs to agree to submit the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for formal examination.</p> <p><b>Soundness:</b> A series of tests that the LDP is required to satisfy to demonstrate that it is based on sound evidence, is in line with other plans and strategies, is national policy compliant, and is capable of being delivered.</p>

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## **Appendix 2: List of Deposit Documents that were made available**

Notice of Deposit Final

Initial Consultation Report Final

### **Background Papers**

LDP01 Green Barrier

LDP02 Green Infrastructure

LDP03 Infrastructure Plan

LDP04 Minerals

LDP05 Waste

LDP06 Gypsy Traveller Site

LDP07 Affordable Housing

LDP08 Candidate Alternative Sites

LDP09 Agricultural Land

LDP10 Housing Land Supply

LDP11 Soundness Assessment

LDP12 Welsh Language

LDP13 Renewable Energy

### **Proposals Map**

01 Back: Holywell & Flint - Flintshire Proposal Maps

01 Front - Flintshire Proposal Map 1

02 Back: Connaahs Quay, Aston, Shotton & Queensferry - Flintshire Proposal Maps

02 Front - Flintshire Proposal Map 2

03 Back: Buckley, Mold & Saltney - Flintshire Proposal Maps

03 Front - Flintshire Proposal Map 3

### **Delivery Agreement**

Delivery Agreement May 2019

### **Employment Land Review**

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 01 - List of Consultees

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 03 - Flintshire Vacant Property Schedule

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 05 - Flintshire Site Proformas

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 06 - Sites Scoring System

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 08 - Flintshire Sites Scoring Assessment

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 09 - Employment Area Proformas

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 12 - Flintshire Business Survey

## **Appendix 2: List of Deposit Documents that were made available**

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 13 - Developer Marketing Standards

Employment Land Review 2015 - Appendix 14 - Employment Sites Summary and Recommendations

Employment Land Review 2015 Final Report

Employment and Housing Advice - April 2019

### **Representation Form and guidance**

FLDP Representation Form Eng Final

Guide - How to comment on the Deposit Local Development Plan

Guide - How to register on the portal

Leaflet FLDP A4

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Flintshire Deposit LDP Integrated Impact Assessment Appendices A-D

Flintshire Deposit LDP Integrated Impact Assessment Appendix E - Sites Assessments September 2019

### **Background Studies**

Flintshire Deposit LDP Integrated Impact Assessment Main Report September 2019

Flintshire Habitats Regulations Assessment Final 2019

Flintshire Habitats Regulations Assessment Map 1

Flintshire Renewable Energy Assessment Final Report 2019

Flintshire Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment 2019

Flintshire Retail Study - Final Report inc apps

Flintshire Viability Study Final September 2019

Growth options for Flintshire LDP - Indicative Impacts of 2017 Projections 2019 - Deposit Version

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Report 2018

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Report 2016

Housing Land Monitoring Report 2018

LHMA (Arc4) Update Final Report August 2019

LHMA Flintshire Final Report 2015

LHMA Wrexham/Flintshire Overarching Final Report 2015

Northern Gateway Pochin Masterplan and Delivery Statement Pochin Goodman

Northern Gateway Praxis Masterplan and Delivery Statement Praxis

SFCA Flintshire - Appendix B FCC Development Site Assessment v2.0

## **Appendix 2: List of Deposit Documents that were made available**

SFCA Flintshire - Appendix C Development Site Assessment Breach Locations v2.0

SFCA Flintshire - Appendix D Flintshire Breaches Method Statement

SFCA Flintshire - Final Report 2018

SFCA Flintshire -Appendix A Interactive Mapping

Urban Capacity Study 2019 - Appendix E - Field Work Sites Maps

Urban Capacity Study 2019 - Appendix B - Map of Higher Order Settlements

Urban Capacity Study 2019 - Appendix D - Discounted and Commitments

Urban Capacity Study 2019 - Appendix E - Field Work Sites Schedule

Urban Capacity Study 2019 - Final Report

Warren Hall Masterplan Delivery Statement Report FINAL

Planning Strategy Group

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**Appendix 3 Representations received to the Deposit LDP from Welsh Government**

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Andrew Farrow  
Chief Officer (Planning & Environment and Economy)  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire  
CH7 6NF

04 November 2019

Dear Andrew,

**Flintshire County Council: Local Development Plan – Deposit Consultation: Welsh Government Response**

Thank you for consulting the Welsh Government on the Flintshire County Council Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP). We acknowledge that the preparation of a LDP and the supporting evidence is a significant undertaking and recognise the amount of work your authority has undertaken to date in moving the plan forward from Preferred Strategy to Deposit stage. It is essential the Authority is covered by an up-to-date LDP to give certainty to local communities and investors.

Without prejudice to the Ministers' powers, the Welsh Government is committed to helping Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) minimise the risk of submitting unsound plans by making appropriate comments at the earliest stages of plan preparation. The Welsh Government looks for clear evidence that the tests of soundness (as set out in the 'LDP Manual') are addressed, in the context of national policy and guidance.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 10 establishes the key national planning priority to deliver high quality, sustainable places through place-making. PPW also requires a wider, sustainable and problem solving outlook, which focuses on integrating and addressing multiple issues to deliver effective planning outcomes. This means a move away from the traditional approach of considering policy areas in isolation and encourages more placed based policies. The seven well-being goals must also be demonstrated, together with the five ways of working which encourages everyone to think in an integrated and collaborative way about policy making and drawing-out long term trends. The implementation of core policy areas in PPW such as ensuring a sustainable spatial strategy, housing and economic growth levels, infrastructure delivery and place making is further articulated in Edition 3 of the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3) (DPM). The DPM was subject to public consultation over the summer and will be published this year. The WG expects the core elements of the Manual, in particular the guidance set out in Chapter 5: Preparing an LDP – Core Issues and the 'de risking checklist' to be followed when preparing the evidence base and to be taken into account in the content and presentation of the plan itself.

The Welsh Government has published the National Development Framework (NDF) for consultation. The NDF is due to be adopted prior to adoption of the Flintshire LDP. The LDP will need to be in general conformity with the NDF when adopted.

**The Welsh Government is generally supportive of the spatial strategy and level of homes and jobs proposed and has no fundamental concerns in this respect.** It is pleasing to note the Deposit Plan has been prepared having regard to the guidance in DPM 3, particularly Chapter 5 and the de-risking checklist. This puts the Council in a good position moving forward to the examination stage. Further comments are set out in the annex to this letter with additional guidance contained in the draft LDP Manual (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). In moving forward to the LDP examination, demonstrating delivery of the plan will be essential. The development planning system in Wales is evidence-led; demonstrating how a plan is shaped by this evidence is a key requirement of the examination. Demonstrating the delivery and viability of all sites in the plan is critical, particularly development proposed on strategic sites and other large housing/employment allocations which are integral to the strategy/objectives of the plan.

Without prejudice to the Welsh Minister's powers and the independent examination, the Welsh Government is committed to helping LPAs through the plan making process. Collectively, our comments highlight areas of support and issues that in our opinion need to be addressed if the plan is to be considered 'sound'. **The Welsh Government's representations are set out below, with more detail in the attached annex:**

#### **Category B**

- **LHMA: Clarity and consistency with the evidence base** – Tenure mix and viability
- **Gypsy and Travellers** – Level of Need and Provision / Site(s) Suitability & Provision

#### **Category C**

- **Components of Housing Supply** – Presentation/expression within the plan
- **Homes in Multiple Occupation** – Definition of 'over concentration'
- **Affordable Housing** – Clarity of plan target, components of supply, and approach to exception sites
- **Delivery and Implementation** – General
- **Deeside Enterprise Zone** – Spatial designation
- **Renewable Energy** – Clarity of allocations, search areas and renewable energy targets
- **Green Barrier** – Consistency with PPW
- **Minerals** – Response to RTS 2

We suggest you seek your own legal advice to ensure that you have met all the procedural requirements, including Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) as responsibility for these matters rests with your authority. A requirement to undertake a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) arising from the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, if appropriate, should be carried out to assess the likely effect of the proposed development plan on health, mental well-being and inequality.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring a plan-led approach to development in Wales. I trust this representation assists you and enables your LDP to be found 'sound' and adopted following independent examination. My colleagues look forward to meeting with you and your team to discuss this response.

Yours sincerely,



**Mark Newey**  
**Head of Plans Branch**  
**Planning Directorate**

**Support in Principle : Economic Growth Strategy - The scale and location of homes and jobs**

National policy is clear that LDPs must include a spatial strategy covering the lifetime of the plan which establishes a pattern of development improving social, economic environmental and cultural well-being to deliver sustainable development and the place making approach. The planning system must focus on the delivery of the identified housing requirement and the related land supply. The LPA has tested a range of demographic and employment-led scenarios to inform the plan. The level of housing growth proposed (requirement) is 6,950 homes over plan period (465 p/a) with an additional 14% flexibility allowance (provision 7,950 homes). The level of homes is based on an employment led growth option (driven by the strategic sites at Northern Gateway and Warren Hall) to support an economic growth target of 8-10,000 jobs.

The housing requirement is 2,597 units above the WG 2014 based 10-year migration variant and 3,000 units above the principal projection. The annual build rate of 465 p/a for this plan is slightly above the past 10 year build rate of 427 units p/a, but significantly below the past five year build rate of 568 d/pa since 2015. The Council has concluded that the WG 2014 based projections are not appropriate as they are predicated on recessionary and negative trends which would not deliver on the Council's, regional, or Welsh Government economic growth aspirations for Flintshire and the wider area. The Council considers the job and homes target to be aspirational but deliverable (see comments on delivery). While evidence shows that based on recent delivery rates the housing requirement could be higher, the Council consider recent green belt releases across the border in Cheshire and significant housing allocations in the neighbouring plans of Wrexham and Denbighshire, have a bearing on the scale of homes the plan should provide for.

The LDP aims to promote economic development, capitalising on the County's role as a regional economic hub and assist the delivery of regional strategies through projects in the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Growth Deal. In particular the Growth Deal identifies key projects around Warren Hall, Broughton, Northern Gateway and Deeside. The emerging NDF (Policy 18: North Wales Coastal Settlements) also recognises the importance of Deeside as an important growth driver in the sub-region, which should be the focus for housing, employment and key services. The focus for the Council's strategy is the allocation of two strategic sites at Warren Hall and Northern Gateway (incorporating the Deeside Enterprise Zone) providing a catalyst for growth in Flintshire. Collectively these sites aim to deliver 8-10,000 jobs and 1625 homes (1300 within the plan period).

In terms of spatial distribution, 47% of the housing growth is directed to the main service centres (Tier 1) 36% to local service centres (Tier 2) and 17% to Tiers 3-5 (sustainable settlements, defined villages and undefined villages). The majority of new allocations outside of the strategic allocations are located in Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements. **The WG does not object to the principle of this approach.**

The Welsh Government considers the projections have been taken into account by the Council, along with other relevant policy considerations set out in paragraphs 4.2.6 – 4.2.8 (PPW, Edition 10). **The Welsh Government is broadly supportive of the strategy, level of homes and jobs proposed, considers it aligns with national policy and is in general conformity with the emerging NDF (see comments on delivery).** A critical element for the plan will be the phasing, timing and delivery of sites, ensuring that the plan delivers the scale of growth alongside associated infrastructure, in locations to meet the needs across the plan period (see specific comments).

**Support in Principle : Best and Most Versatile Land**

Flintshire have engaged with the Welsh Government regularly throughout the development of the LDP on land quality information, validation of surveys and Predictive ALC Map information. The plan notes a loss of 52.8ha of BMV land (34.6ha – Housing allocations; 18.2ha Employment allocations). The Council has taken a pragmatic and sensible approach to protecting BMV land and minimising its loss in the plan. Allocations that would represent a loss of BMV have been well evidenced for an overriding need (sequential test) and a balanced judgement has been made. In conclusion, the Welsh Government is of the view that the Council has demonstrated a sensible and pragmatic approach to considering BMV loss in the context of national planning policy and on that basis **no objection** is offered.

<b>Welsh Government Representation: Categories of Objection</b>	
<b>Category A</b>	Objections under soundness tests; <u>fundamental issues</u> that are considered to present a significant degree of risk for the authority if not addressed prior to submission, and may have implications for the plan's strategy.
<b>Category B</b>	Objections under soundness tests; matters where it appears that the Deposit Plan has not satisfactorily translated national policy down to the local level and there may be tensions within the plan.
<b>Category C</b>	Objections under soundness tests; whilst not considered to be fundamental to the soundness of the LDP, there is considered to be a lack of certainty or clarity on the following matters which can usefully be drawn to your attention to enable you to consider how they might be addressed.

There are no objections under Category A.

**Category B Local Housing Market Assessment: clarity and consistency with evidence base – implications for affordable housing targets and the viability of sites**

The LHMA concludes an annual need of 238 affordable homes p/a over the plan period. The tenure split shows a predominate need for social rented homes (60%) to intermediate (40%). The Council's Affordable Housing Viably Report (DVS) section 2.21 states the affordable housing targets in the plan are based on a 70% intermediate and 30% social housing split. **This is a significant deviation from the LHMA tenure split and requires robust justification and explanation.** The Council's explanation is that the majority of social housing is delivered outside of planning gain; the Affordable Housing Background Paper referencing the Council's own initiatives in this respect. While this is not disputed, PPW (paragraph 4.26) states the importance of the LHMA being a fundamental part of the evidence base for plans. The LPA should be seeking to deliver affordable housing, both in scale, type and tenure split in line with the LHMA.

DPM (Edition 3) highlights the importance of ensuring the plans evidence base is internally consistent. In particular the tenure split from the LHMA forming a core input to the viability work underpinning the plan. It is imperative the assumptions underpinning the viability assessment are consistent with the LHMA to ensure affordable housing targets and percentages are robust. The more intermediate housing on a scheme, the more viability improves. While it is appropriate to undertake sensitivity testing on key aspects of the viability model, the baseline scenario should be the LHMA as the starting point.

The DPM (Table 24) states the LHMA is a core piece of evidence in this respect with policies/targets matching as far as possible/reasonable the latest LHMA findings with regards to tenure split. **Deviation from the LHMA tenure split to this degree is potentially high risk unless this can be robustly justified and explained by the LPA.** The tenure mix from the LHMA should be referenced in the LDP reasoned justification in order to form the starting point for effective negotiations on planning applications.

**Category B - Gypsy & Travellers - Level of Need and Provision (Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) / Site Deliverability / Policy HN8 - Allocations, and Policy HN9**

**Level of Need & Provision** – The LDP evidence base comprises two GTAAs, both covering the plan period to 2030. The 2016 study has been agreed formally signed off by the relevant Minister. However, the 2018 study, which is considered by the Council to be a more robust and accurate picture of need in the County, has been used as the basis for the plan and the proposed allocations. The 2018 study has not yet been formally signed off/agreed by Welsh Government. **To ensure compliance with the relevant legislation a GTAA must be prepared and agreed by Welsh Ministers in advance of the examination, with provision made for appropriate and deliverable site allocations to meet the need within identified timescales.** The Council should work with Welsh Government - Equalities Division, to ensure the evidence is in place at the examination. **Failure to gain Welsh Ministerial agreement for a GTAA and meet the required need (if appropriate) is likely to result in the plan being unable to be found 'sound'.**

The 2018 GTAA states the level of residential need over the plan period is for 8 permanent pitches by 2023/24 and a further 18 pitches by 2030, a total need of 26 pitches. The GTAA also recommends a need for a transit site of 5/6 pitches. Policy HN8: Gypsy and Traveller Sites allocates four separate sites to meet the need over the plan period. This is a positive response to the evidence base and is supported. **The key issue is for the Authority to demonstrate all allocations are suitable and can be delivered in the required timescales.** The Welsh Government has the following detailed comments:

## Site Suitability & Deliverability

- Which sites will accommodate the immediate need? Clarity is required on the delivery timescales of allocations.
- The allocations at Magazine Lane and Gwern Lane can accommodate 6-8 pitches. If the sites can only accommodate 6 pitches there would be a shortfall of 4 pitches over the plan period. The Council need to clarify the position in this respect.
- The proposed allocation at Magazine Lane is within a green wedge on the proposals map. Is this a mapping error? Housing allocations are not permissible in a green wedge (PPW para 3.65 and 3.71). The appropriateness of new allocations within a green wedge needs to be explained in light of PPW.
- Background Paper 6: Gypsy and Traveller Site Search sets out the planning history, issues and constraints on the proposed allocations. The Riverside allocation is located within a C1 flood zone. The Council will be commissioning a Flood Consequence Assessment to demonstrate that flooding can be managed in line with TAN 15. This assessment, including advice from the statutory body, must be in place for the examination to demonstrate the site is suitable and can be delivered. Sites with outstanding objections from the relevant statutory body, NRW, is a high risk strategy. This also applies to HN8-1 Magazine Lane which overlaps with the land fill buffer zone (Policy EN20).
- Allocation HN8.4 - Castle Park, Industrial Estate, Flint, partly overlaps with solar allocation EN13: Castle Park Flint. Background Paper 6, Appendix 3, states the site has planning permission for a 2MW ground mounted solar farm and associated infrastructure which is under construction. This requires clarification. Can both allocations be developed for their intended use, or would one preclude the other? See previous comments regarding the deliverability of G&T sites (Category B).

**Policy HN9 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation - Criteria Based Policy** - Criterion a) and b) and the reasoned justification para 11.37 are contrary to national policy. Annex B in the Circular notes that policy requirements to demonstrate 'unmet need in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment' would act against freedom of movement for Gypsies and Travellers who may wish to develop their own sites. Such restrictions should not be placed on Gypsies and Travellers. The circular is clear that criteria-based policies must be fair, reasonable, realistic and effective in delivering sites and must not rule out or place undue constraints on the development of Gypsy and Traveller sites (paragraph 49). The reasoned justification (paragraph 11.38) states "Sites should be located on or close to main travelling routes for ease of access". This would be more applicable to transit sites rather than those of a permanent nature.

### **Category C Components of Housing Supply – clarification of spatial distribution & housing components by settlement tier & the housing trajectory**

Background Paper 10: Housing Land Supply and Delivery contains all the tables required by DMP (Ed.3) namely, Table 4 and Appendix 2-5 which collectively set out the spatial distribution of housing provision in the plan, the housing trajectory and the timing and phasing of all the components of supply by settlement tier. **They should all be included in the plan** as required by the Manual and current consultation on PPW.

### **Category C Homes in Multiple Occupation (Policy HN7)**

The Council will need to ensure that the proposed policy provides an effective basis for determining applications for HMOs in line with the evidence and relevant legislation. In order for a policy of this nature to be effective and implementable in practice 'over concentration' should be defined in the policy. The policy would be strengthened if criterion (b) and (e) clearly detailed what the LPA considers to be an "over concentration" and "cumulative impact". It will be for the LPA to justify its approach based on evidence, and ensure it will deliver on the aims of the policy and can be implemented in practice.

### **Category C Affordable Housing - general**

- **Exception Sites** – Affordable housing exception sites are permissible under policy STR2: Location of Development and HN4 (criteria f). It is unclear why small scale exception sites are only allowed in Tiers 2-5 and not Tier 1 which are the most sustainable settlements? The approach requires justification and clarification given affordable housing need across Flintshire is significant.
- **Affordable Housing Authority Wide Target** - The Affordable Housing Background Paper states the affordable housing target for the plan is 1,981 homes. This should be included within a policy in

the plan. Policy STR1: Strategic Growth could be amended to state “7,950 homes are provided of which xxx are affordable”. The target does not include the contribution from windfall sites (Table 6). It should do. The affordable housing target in the plan should be derived from all components of supply to ensure it is realistic in its aspiration and for monitoring purposes.

- **Spatial Distribution of Affordable Housing Supply** – the Affordable Housing Background Paper includes an analysis of affordable housing contributions by housing component. A table setting out anticipated affordable housing contributions by settlement tier and component of supply in line with guidance in the DPM (Ed. 3) would be helpful aiding clarity of the plan and effective monitoring.

### **Category C – Deliverability & Implementation – General**

The Council has undertaken a significant amount of work in respect of place making, delivery and infrastructure to inform the Deposit Plan in line with the DPM (Edition 3). This is supported (subject to the comments in this annex) and puts the LPA in a good position moving to examination, namely:

- Clear articulation and justification of the spatial distribution of housing supply and components of the housing provision (BP10)
- Housing trajectory & associated tables – containing timing & phasing of all sites in the plan (BP10)
- Detailed urban capacity study to support windfall rates (Arcadis Report)
- Strategic sites and delivery infrastructure assessment/statements – including constraints, site requirements and masterplan concept frameworks and phasing information (Warren Hall and Northern Gateway Master planning & Delivery Statements and the Infrastructure Plan)
- Affordable Viability Study (DVS)

A key matter for the examination will be whether the plan contains sufficient information in relation to the implementation, delivery and monitoring of the plan. Specifically, whether key elements of the master planning principles, delivery statements, and the infrastructure plan, should be in the plan to ensure good design and comprehensive development for housing and employment sites.

- Masterplan & Delivery Statements have been prepared for both strategic sites. Additional information, where necessary and relevant, along with statements of common ground to support the plan would be advantageous. This also applies to employment sites and key non-strategic housing sites, where relevant.
- Strategic Sites need significant infrastructure which should be articulated in the plan, including specific constraints such as those regarding the nearby airfield i.e. height restrictions which could impact on the developable area.
- The level and rationale for the housing flexibility allowance is for the LPA to justify. The DPM (Edition 3) states 10% is a starting point, with any variation being robustly evidenced. It is not the role of Welsh Government to comment on the merits or the timing of individual sites in the plan. The key point is that the LPA demonstrates that there is sufficient flexibility at key points in the plan period through the trajectory. Statements of Common Ground will assist in clarifying the timing and phasing of all sites. The trajectory should illustrate the degree of flexibility throughout the plan period.

### **Category C - Deeside Enterprise Zone – spatial identification**

The Council has not spatially allocated the Deeside Enterprise Zone (EZ) on the proposals map. The EZ should be shown spatially in the plan. Part of the EZ boundary is within a green barrier designation EN11.15 Sealand-Cheshire Border. It is not clear how/why a green wedge designation should be shown in an EZ. Would this preclude maximising economic opportunities within the EZ? This will be for the relevant Department of Welsh Government to comment on.

### **Category C - Renewable Energy**

A proportion of the authority is within a Priority Area 4 for Solar in the draft NDF. On this basis the Authority should ensure that it is in general conformity with the NDF when adopted. The REA supporting Policy EN13 is broadly in line with national policy and the toolkit methodology which concludes there are no suitable wind Local Search Areas (LSAs) but there is significant potential for solar. The Council has allocated 18 Indicative Solar Local Search Areas. The authority has also allocated specific solar PV farms at Crumps Yard, Connah's Key and Castle Park. We have the following comments:



- The proposed LSAs for solar PV allocated by this policy should be specifically listed in the plan together with the contributions from each site.
- The 'actual' solar allocations should be separated from the ILSAs within this policy as they have a different status, i.e. ILSAs are indicative/preferred areas of search, not proposed allocations.
- Policy EN13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development – include the target contribution from renewable and low carbon energy from the REA over the plan period within the reasoned justification and reflect as indicators within the monitoring framework.
- Land at Castle Park Flint (Policy EN13.2) is allocated for Solar but overlaps (in part) with a proposed Gypsy and Traveller Allocation HN8.4 - Castle Park, Industrial Estate, Flint. This requires clarification. Can both allocations be developed for their intended use, or would one preclude the other? See comments regarding the deliverability of Gypsy and Traveller sites (Category B).

### **Category C - Flood Risk**

The Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment alludes to some allocations having flooding issues. In most cases the Council is content that any issues can be overcome through site layout, i.e. avoiding areas of flood risk. The Council should ensure no highly vulnerable development is allocated in C2 Flood Plain. Where development is located in C1, while the principle of development may be appropriate in national policy terms, the key consideration for the LPA will be to demonstrate that allocations are suitable and deliverable in line with any mitigation measures that may be required to meet the requirements of national policy. The LPA will need to undertake a sufficiently detailed Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) where appropriate and relevant, and seek advice from the statutory body, NRW prior to the examination. The authority should keep abreast of the emerging Welsh Government Technical Advice Note 15 (currently subject to consultation) with regards to allocations and the policy framework within the plan.

### **Category C - Green Barriers (Policy EN11) - consistency with PPW**

Policy EN11 should be renamed 'green wedges' and not 'green barrier' to ensure compliance with national policy. The reasoned justification (paras 12.40 - 12.43) are also unclear in this respect as they refer to national policy on both green wedge and green belt designations, conflating the two. As there is no Green Belt designated in Flintshire, the Welsh Government considers the policy and its reasoned justification should be amended to align with the correct terminology in PPW, and ensure clarity for plan users in terms of the purpose and status of policy EN11, i.e. green wedges.

### **Category C Strategic Policy 7: Economic Development, Enterprise, and Employment – clarity on the strategy for telecommunications**

Whilst the importance of telecommunications and associated infrastructure is recognised in the plan, the Plan does not set out a strategy for engaging with mobile operators to identify areas of poor or no coverage, or develop criteria based policies to guide mobile infrastructure development or location. A strategy for the development of mobile telecommunications (including mobile broadband) is important to support changing working and personal patterns of movement; technology provides opportunities to travel less both in and out of work with subsequent benefits for sustainability and climate change.

### **Category C - Minerals (Policy EN25)**

Policy EN25 seeks to meet the shortfall of sand and gravel and crushed rock to satisfy the apportionments set out in the RTS 1<sup>st</sup> Review. We note the RTS 2<sup>nd</sup> Review is currently out for public consultation and there is a significant increase in the requirement for Flintshire, as set out below:

- The apportionment of sand and gravel has increased the allocation required from 1.4mt to 3.543mt.
- The requirement for crushed rock has increased from an allocation of 3.84mt to 35.928mt.

Policy EN25 identifies extensions to four quarries to meet the requirement of the RTS 1<sup>st</sup> Review. The authority should demonstrate their ability to meet the increased need apportioned in the RTS 2<sup>nd</sup> Review, should it be endorsed prior to the plan being subject to examination.

### **Monitoring Framework**

The Councils monitoring framework provides a good starting point and it is clear the authority has looked at other monitoring frameworks which will need to be refined through the examination sessions. The Council should have regard to the monitoring and review Chapter of DPM (Ed. 3), in particular the key indicators set out in Table 29.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **PLANNING STRATEGY GROUP**

**DATE:** **THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2020**

**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF OFFICER (PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECONOMY)**

**SUBJECT:** **FINAL ENDORSEMENT OF ALL RESPONSES RELATING TO REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE DEPOSIT FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.**

**1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To endorse all of the proposed responses relating to representations made to the Deposit Flintshire Local Development Plan during the public consultation on the plan, carried out between 30 September and 11 November 2019, and to recommend these on to the Cabinet for consideration and approval, and ultimately also by the Full Council. Following from this will be agreement to submit the plan to the Welsh Government and Planning Inspectorate for formal examination.

**2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 Notwithstanding the highly unusual circumstances and working conditions created by the response to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Council has continued to make progress in preparing responses to the representations received during the public consultation held in relation to the Deposit Flintshire Local Development Plan (LDP), held between 30 September and 11 November 2019. Whilst the health emergency has had a knock on effect on the ability of the Council to keep to the relevant aspects of the existing LDP timetable and delivery agreement, resulting in a request to Welsh Government to revise the LDP Delivery Agreement, Members have continued to receive reports containing proposed responses to the various representations made. These have been sent to Members as a series of reports prepared in a logical sequence relating to the structure of the Deposit LDP, and the following chronology is a reminder for Members of that sequence including when each report was sent out, and when a virtual meeting was held by video conference.

2.02 Members will recall considering a sequence of reports as follows:

- Report 1 - A report was sent by e-mail and post on 09/04/20 relating to **responses to all representations on non-site**

**specific ‘policy’ matters.** This covered the majority of strategic and detailed policies in the LDP which were not site-specific. A briefing was held with Members of this group by Video conference on 15/05/20;

- Report 2 - A second report was sent by e-mail and post on 26/05/20 relating to **responses on representations made to the Plan’s site specific policies, relating to strategic and housing allocation sites.** A briefing was held with Members of this group by Video conference on 29/05/20;
- Report 3 - A third report was similarly sent on 19/06/20 which contained **response to representations which proposed either ‘new’ or ‘resubmitted’ sites** for inclusion in the Plan. A briefing was held with Members of this group by Video conference on 25/06/20;
- Report 4 - A fourth report was sent on 10/06/20 which contained **responses to representations on remaining policy and site specific matters.** A briefing was held with Members of this group by Video conference on 16/07/20;
- Report 5 – (Agenda item 1 to this meeting) This report contained **responses to representation on all remaining outstanding matters** relating to the Deposit LDP, including a final LDP database system check to ensure all representations made have been responded to.

2.03 This report now provides Members with a final broad overview of the contents of each of these reports and the main issues that have been raised and responded to, along with the overall conclusion reached in the responses to the areas of the plan dealt with in each report. This report also provides a review of all written feedback queries and comments received from Members to the reports referenced above, and the response from officers to those queries and comments.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The responses prepared and provided to Members as set out in para 2.02 above have followed a logical sequence in line with structure of the plan and the consideration of the soundness of the Plan.

3.02 The focus on non-site specific ‘policies’ in Report 1 will have enabled Members to have considered whether the representations raised issues of soundness in respect of the Plan’s Strategy, its spatial strategy and the level of employment and housing provision for growth. The responses to these representations then set the scene for Report 2, which looked at whether the Plan’s allocations are considered to be ‘sound’, before moving on to the Report 3 which considered representations for the inclusion in the plan of

additional or alternative sites being promoted by landowners and/or developers.

- 3.03 Remaining representations on specific policy areas that included Gypsies and Travellers, minerals and waste, settlement boundaries and green barriers, employment sites and renewable energy were presented in Report 4. The responses dealt with in agenda item 1 of this meeting (Report 5) are in effect a final 'sweeping up' exercise to ensure that all representations received and recorded in the LDP consultation database have been considered and responded to.
- 3.04 There is therefore a clear logic to the order with which representations have been presented for Members considerations. The starting point is that the Plan which Members placed on Deposit is considered to be a 'sound' Plan i.e. the Plan that the Council wishes to form the basis for subsequent examination and adoption.
- 3.05 It follows that if, having consider the proposed responses to representations, Members agree that the Plan Strategy and policy framework remains sound, particularly in terms of the level of growth and its spatial distribution, and equally if Members agree that the Plan's allocations remain sustainable, viable and deliverable, then there is no need for the Plan to include additional sites in the Plan. This is the central thread of the proposed responses as officers consider that no issues have been raised that carry sufficient weight or evidence to challenge the soundness of the Council's plan. This will therefore be the position adopted by the Council at Examination to defend the Plan, subject to Cabinet and full Council approval.
- 3.06 Throughout the reporting of proposed responses to Members, representations have been anonymised partly because of GDPR but also to ensure that the subject matter of the objection is considered on its merits, thereby also protecting Member's probity.
- 3.07 As a final recap of the matters covered in each of the reports itemised in para 2.02 above, and the overall conclusions emanating from the proposed responses in each case, the following broad summary of each report is provided.

**Report 1 - responses to all representations on non-site specific 'policy' matters**

- 3.08 Notwithstanding the broad range of both strategic and development management policies in the plan that are not site specific, and that received representations which were responded to in Report 1, the main theme of objections to the plan focused on the strategy of the plan, and particularly its proposed level and distribution of growth. Most objections were received to strategic policies STR1 Strategic Growth and STR2 The Location of Growth, as well as STR11

- 3.09 Provision of Sustainable Housing Sites, which are closely related and where the key themes of objection related to the plan include:
- The housing requirement figure was not ambitious or high enough and should be increased;
  - There was insufficient flexibility in the number and distribution of sites provided for housing and this should be increased;
  - The Plan had failed to 'add-in' a backlog of under-provision of housing from the UDP;
  - Housing delivery rates show that more sites should be allocated;
  - Not enough settlements in the hierarchy had growth allocated to them;
  - There is an over-reliance on commitments coming forward as well as windfall and small site allowances being too high;
  - The plan is not in line with Welsh Government guidance and policy e.g. the draft NDF.
- 3.10 Not unsurprisingly, the majority of these representations came from housing developers and/or those wanting more land to be included in the plan. Whilst most developer objections were detailed submissions, they tended to be repeated by the same agent acting for different clients. This partly explains the length of this response report but in the main this is because officers have very deliberately provided detailed rebuttals to all of the relevant points made in each submission. This is partly to focus in on arguably one of the most important policies in the plan from a soundness perspective, to ensure a strong and robust defence of the Council's strategy. It will then also follow through to the submission of the plan for Examination where the preparation of the Council's position statements will draw heavily on these responses.
- 3.11 In contrast Members will recall from previous discussions that Welsh Government in their formal comments on the deposit Plan, stated that "The Welsh Government is generally supportive of the spatial strategy and level of homes and jobs proposed and has no fundamental concerns in this respect". Welsh Government did not raise any matters that challenge the fundamental soundness of the plan.
- 3.12 Report 1 concluded that "Having assessed all of the non-site specific representations received, and with particular focus on the Plan's growth strategy, officers are very clear in recommending to Members that there have been no issues raised that fundamentally question the plan's strategy, the supporting evidence, and therefore the soundness of the plan. This common theme characterises the specific responses prepared to each objection by officers as set out in this report".

**Report 2 - responses on representations made to the Plan's site specific policies, relating to strategic and housing allocation sites**

- 3.13 This report dealt with representations made specifically to the Plan's two Strategic Mixed use development sites allocated under policy STR3, and the 11 housing allocations within policy HN1. This is the second part of assessing challenges to the soundness of the Deposit plan as published by the Council, having previously considered this for the Plan strategy and all other non site-specific policies in Report 1.
- 3.14 Whilst the strategic sites did not attract significant volumes of objections, particularly from the public, the main challenge to these sites were from developers and/or landowners promoting other or additional sites for inclusion in the Plan. The main premise behind their objections related to the scale of the strategic sites, their viability, and an over reliance on these sites delivering development, and more specifically the housing elements of each site. Objectors felt that the lead in times would significantly challenge the ability of these sites to deliver housing during the plan period. Whilst this may have some bearing on the deliverability of the housing element of the Northern gateway site, the housing that forms part of the Warren hall site is no greater than some of the individual housing allocations in the plan. Given the planning status of the housing phases at Northern Gateway and the visible progress on-site in delivering this housing, and the support for bringing forward the strategic sites via the North Wales Growth Deal and Welsh Government Housing Accelerator project, there is clear evidence of both current delivery and the deliverability of these sites, and specifically in housing terms.
- 3.15 Of the 11 housing allocations, two sites received the majority of representations to HN1 sites, with these objections mainly from local communities not wanting development in their area. The sites at Ewloe (HN1.7) received 129 objections and the site at Mancot/Hawarden (HN1.8) 196, with the next highest the site in Mold (HN1.6) with 48. Relatively low numbers were received for each of the other allocations. Notwithstanding the level of objection, clearly it is the issues raised which is of most importance in setting out a challenge to the sustainability and soundness of each allocated site. Whilst for the two sites referenced above the level of response was clearly co-ordinated by the respective communities, a number of consistent themes and issues were raised and repeated in objections to all of the HN1 sites that included the scale of development and impact on character of the area, amenity of existing residents, highways issues, community infrastructure capacity, a lack of need, and the need to protect the land from development. Having considered these representations, no substantive evidence was submitted to demonstrate fundamental

issues or site constraints that would challenge the soundness of any of the allocations in the Plan.

- 3.16 Report 2 concluded that “A lot of work has been undertaken by officers to summarise and further filter the objections received to each allocated site under policy HN1, down to a series of key issues which have then been responded to in detail by officers. The approach to responding to objections to strategic sites is different and has reverted to responding individually to each objection. Across all sites allocated for housing/mixed use development, the overriding conclusion of officers from the process of considering and responding to representations is that there are no fundamental issues raised that challenge the soundness of each individual site allocation, or the Plan as a whole”.

**Report 3 - response to representations which proposed either ‘new’ or ‘resubmitted’ sites**

- 3.17 This report dealt with responses to representations which are seeking additional housing allocations in the deposit Plan, on a small number of wholly new sites not submitted previously for consideration, and then on previously assessed candidate and alternative sites that have been resubmitted at the deposit stage. Having considered the issues raised with the Plan in reports 1 and 2, it follows that if Members consider the Plan Strategy and policy framework to still be sound, particularly in terms of the level of growth and its distribution, and if Members still consider the Plan’s allocations to be sustainable, viable and deliverable (as per the proposed responses in reports 1 and 2), then there is no need for the Plan to make additional allocations. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to re-assess the sites put forward in order to provide all parties at Examination with the Council’s response to each site representation.
- 3.18 Members will recall that at the beginning of the Plan’s preparation process a Call for Candidate Sites was undertaken. When the Plan reached Preferred Strategy consultation stage, there was a further opportunity for sites to be put forward for inclusion in the Plan and these were called Alternative Sites. When the Deposit Plan was consulted upon there was an opportunity for these sites to be put forward as part of representations to the Plan. These sites have been referred to as ‘resubmitted’ sites.
- 3.19 The representations promoting additional allocations in the Plan are primarily developer based, but a small number are from landowners or members of the public. Objectors are essentially seeking to argue that the Plan’s Housing Balance Sheet is not seeking to achieve a high enough housing requirement and that each element of the Plan’s supply of housing land is flawed and will not deliver, and that this needs to be rectified by making new allocations.



3.20 The submission of a small number of 'new' sites at this late stage is disappointing, particularly as some of these are substantial sites and are submitted by experienced developers and agents. The Plan preparation process has provided adequate opportunity for sites to be put forward at earlier stages, so that they can be considered 'in the mix' in terms of determining which sites should be allocated in the Plan. The submission of these site so late in the process also makes it difficult for Officers to assess sites in the same level of detail as the candidate sites and alternative sites. Nevertheless, the 'new' sites have been the subject of internal and external stakeholder consultation and relevant stakeholder comments have been incorporated into the responses.

3.21 Report 3 concluded that "given the earlier conclusions reached about the soundness and appropriateness of the Plan's strategy, levels of growth and spatial strategy, and the soundness of the allocations covered in reports 1 and 2, it is not considered that it is either necessary or appropriate to consider the need for further site allocations to be made, either in addition to, or instead of those allocations already in the Plan.

**Report 4 - responses to representations on remaining policy and site specific matters**

3.22 This report considered responses to the representations received during the Deposit consultation stage which relate to remaining policies and site specific matters. These policy areas and the main issues raised by representation comprised:

- provision for Gypsies and Travellers – identification of the correct level of evidenced need to be met and ensuring the plan has made adequate provision which is appropriate and deliverable;
- Waste Management – further policy clarification only ;
- Minerals – the need to ensure that the Regional Technical Statement 2 requirement for minerals can be met by provision in the plan;
- requests to amend settlement boundaries and green barriers – the need to adjust settlement boundaries and/or green barriers in relation to requests to include land in the plan for housing development ;
- Employment Development – ensuring that where potential employment development may be subject to flood risk, policies are specifically clear on the assessment that is required to ensure that the risks have been assessed and appropriate mitigation is provided;
  - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy – clarification of the purpose of the policies in the plan and alignment with Welsh Government policy intentions relating to carbon reduction and development of renewable energy.

3.23 Report 4 concluded that "given the earlier conclusions reached about the soundness and appropriateness of the Plan's strategy,

levels of growth and spatial strategy, the soundness of the allocations covered in reports 1 and 2 and therefore the lack of need for more sites (report 3), none of the representations responded to in this report are considered to challenge the soundness of the plan or the specific areas objected to, and have in the main not been accepted. There are a few instances where in responding it has been accepted that a policy or its reasoned justification could be enhanced and made even clearer with the addition of wording, and Members will see that the Inspector at examination is invited to consider these changes, which the Council would agree to”.

### **Report 5 - responses to representation on all remaining outstanding matters**

- 3.24 This response considered proposed responses to the representations received during the Deposit consultation stage on all outstanding matters as set out in the first report on the agenda to this meeting. This report included remaining representations from Report 4 not considered at a previous briefing meeting (employment and Renewable Energy), as well as representations identified as a result of a final system check of the LDP representations database, which had not been ‘technically’ been responded to.
- 3.25 With the exception of a small number of both site specific and policy based representations, the majority of representations ‘found’ by this system check have been considered previously by Members as they are points repeated several times to different parts of the plan. It is not considered that any of these matters raise fundamental issues which would affect Members previous consideration of representations and responses.

### **Members Written Feedback**

- 3.26 Notwithstanding the provision of Reports 1-5 for Members consideration in electronic and paper format and then a series of briefings held by video conference to clarify matters in relation to the reports, Members were also invited to submit queries and comments to officers on any aspect of the reports. All of this has in effect provided Members with all relevant information relating to representations and proposed responses and a long led in time to the consideration and endorsement of these responses at this meeting of the Planning Strategy Group.
- 3.27 Appendix 1 of this report identifies the matters raised by Members in writing during the consideration of Reports 1-5, and also provided an officer comment or response to the points raised.

### **Conclusions**

- 3.28 Given the way that responses have been dealt with in the logical order set out in para 2.02, it follows that if, having consider the proposed responses to representations, Members agree that the Plan Strategy and policy framework remains sound, particularly in

terms of the level of growth and its spatial distribution, and equally if Members agree that the Plan's allocations remain sustainable, viable and deliverable (as per the collective response proposed), then there is no need for the Plan to include additional sites in the Plan or change it in any significant way. This is the central thread of the proposed responses as officers consider that no issues have been raised that carry sufficient weight or evidence to challenge the soundness of the Council's plan. This will therefore be the position adopted by the Council at Examination to defend the Plan, subject this Group's endorsement of that position and recommendation to Cabinet and full Council approval.

- 3.29 It is also relevant to note that approval of responses has to happen as a pre-cursor to the final scrutiny stage of the Plan, where along with approving responses, the Cabinet and Full Council will need to agree to the submission of the Plan to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for formal Examination. This is where objectors can be heard by an independent Inspector.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That Members endorse the collective responses to all representations made to the Deposit Flintshire Local Development Plan referred to and provided in this report, and in previous reports provided to this group, comprising Response Report 1-5.
- 4.02 That this Group recommend these responses are considered for approval by the Cabinet in order to allow Full Council consideration and approval, and for the plan to be submitted to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for formal Examination.
- 4.03 That delegated authority is given the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) in consultation with the Chair of this group, to make any final minor typographical, factual, or clarification amendments to the responses in preparation for reporting these to the Cabinet.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 None

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

- 6.01 None

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 The Plan has been the subject of an Integrated Impact Assessment to inform its policies and proposals and in the assessment of representation.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 This reports has sought endorsement for responses to all representations received to the Deposit LDP public consultation exercise held between 30 September and 11 November 2019.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 **Appendix 1 Written Member comments and queries and officer responses**

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

Contact Officer: Andy Roberts  
Telephone: 01352 703211  
Email: andy.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk

PSG – Member Comments and queries / Officer Responses

Cllr	Policy / para	Comments	Response
Ian Dunbar	STR1 / Rebuttal Paper	Regarding the Rebuttal Statement is this directed and the 2 main developers who monopolise the developments in Flintshire and for long enough sat on land to gain best price to the detriment of smaller developers. Also the Plan Strategy for the setting of Housing requirement figure in their objections was it not set by WAG for Flintshire.	The Council has set its own Housing requirement figure. This uses the population and household projections produced by Welsh Government but also a range of other considerations. Welsh Government issued a health warning with earlier projections in that they were based on a period of economic recession which should not be replicated going forward. The Council adopted a growth led strategy in view of on-going regional growth initiatives and this is aspirational but realistic.
Chris Bithell	STR1	WG comment re inconsistency of not permitting exceptions in Tier 1 , only in tiers 2-5. Does this present any difficulties for us?	The wording of policy STR2 'Location of Development' in respect of small scale affordable housing exception schemes had exclude Tier 1 settlements in error. Previously the policy had been applicable to 'rural' areas and settlements both in national policy and in UDP policy HSG11. In the revised PPW10 the 'rural' element has been omitted with the result being that any settlement can be acceptable for an affordable housing exception schemes. Given that Tier 1 settlements are the most sustainable settlement settlements

			<p>this should not be problematic and it should be noted that any development proposal would still need to satisfy the criteria in policy HN4-D ‘Affordable Housing Exception Schemes’.</p>
Chris Bithell	590 1230730	<p>Council acknowledge that 13/41 sites allocated in the UDP did not come forward. Council blame that on market conditions. They claim that these sites were not viable or sustainable in the first place and that we are repeating the same mistake in the LDP, Although a robust response is made to most of the arguments put forward by the objectors I don’t think we are robust enough on the latter point i.e. the viability and sustainability of the sites.</p>	<p>The UDP allocations were assessed by the time by the UDP Inspector against a large number of ‘omission’ sites and were considered to be appropriate allocations with which to meet the Plans housing requirement. It is a matter of fact that the adoption of the Plan coincided with the economic downturn.</p> <p>An important point, which is picked up in responses to objections on other policies is that the LDP has sought a different approach to housing allocations. The UDP had a more prescribed distribution of sites with the result being that there were a large number of smaller allocations across all settlement tiers, which may not have been of interest to certain housebuilders. Instead, the LDP has opted for a more focussed approach whereby allocations are only made in the top three tiers of the settlement hierarchy and where the evidence base for the Plan shows that they are sustainable, viable and deliverable.</p> <p>This particular objector made a series of objections put to policies throughout the</p>

			<p>Plan and both this objector and other objectors have questioned the viability and sustainability of certain sites but without providing clear evidence to back up their points. It is necessary to consider the 'totality' of the Council's responses and these are quite clear that the Plans allocations are sustainable, viable and deliverable.</p>
Chris Bithell	Rebuttal Paper	<p>Points made to counter their arguments (i.e. the LDP will provide 2/3 times the level projected household change by national projections in Table 1 would again suggest that we are over providing And going overboard. Is that realistic? Is that desirable? Is that what most people in Flintshire would want? Again the point is made that Wrexham and Flintshire are doing more than their bit for future growth; it is the others that need to be doing more! Flintshire has provided the highest rate of growth in the UDP – the only LA where provision is in line with planned growth. Whilst that may well be the case, are we therefore doing too much? Will the other LAs row back and leave it to Flintshire to meet the regions needs?</p>	<p>As explained above Welsh Government confirmed through a Ministerial Statement that the 2011 based household projections should be treated with caution as it is based on a period of economic recession and therefore underestimates future housing need. It would also do little to support the growth ambition within the Plan and would perform poorly in delivering market and affordable housing. The projections were treated as no more than a baseline. Instead, the Council. In the Strategic Options document, consulted upon a further 4 projection led growth options and an employment led growth option.. The Councils Preferred Strategy document explained in para 3.6.3 that the demographic led housing requirement in Option 4 (6,600 units / 440pa) was broadly in line with the employment led projections in Option 6 (6,550-7,350 units). The chosen figure of 6,950 was the midpoint of Option 6 and</p>

			<p>this is considered to represent an ambitious yet realistic and sustainable level of growth.</p> <p>The housing requirement figure identified in the Plan is not considered to be excessive. Clearly there are Members of the public who consider the figure should be lower, but this is usually association with objections to a particular site.</p> <p>It must be noted that in their formal representations on the Deposit Plan, Welsh Government stated that ‘The Welsh Government is generally supportive of the spatial strategy and level of homes and jobs proposed and has no fundamental concerns in this respect’. It is for each LPA too meet its own housing requirement based on the circumstances prevalent in that County and based on the Strategy or ambitions of each Council. There is no requirement for or onus on Flintshire to make good any possible shortfalls elsewhere.</p>
Mike Peers	STR4	<p>We are advised that Wales Government (WG) support in principle to minimise the loss of Best and Most Versatile land (BMVL) . Surely this is already covered in Planning Policy Wales 10 (PPW) (Page 38, section 3-54). Is it not the</p>	<p>The Plan has been prepared in the context of PPW10 which seeks to protect finite resources such as best and most versatile agricultural land. Para 4.10.1 of PPW10 explains that in development plans considerable weight should be given to protecting BMV agricultural land</p>



		<p>case that WE already support through PPW10. Is it also not the case at an appeal in Pen-y-Ffordd the inspector considered a similar situation of BMVL but granted permission in favour of the developer against PPW10 policy ?</p>	<p>from development. The Council worked closely with WG Agricultural Officers to build in to the candidate / alternative site assessment process a predicted loss of agricultural land. In seeking to identify allocations the Council balanced the need to protect BMV with a range of other planning considerations in other to minimize the loss of BMV. This was explained in a Background paper and the approach taken has been supported in principle by WG.</p> <p>Given that BMV agricultural land protection is so clearly stated in PPW10 it was not considered necessary have a specific policy in the LDP. It should be noted that LDP's should not slavishly repeat national guidance as the two can be read and applied together.</p> <p>The appeal decision at Penyffordd involved a different context where a specific speculative development proposal was afforded considerable weight in the light of the advice in the [then] TAN1. The Inspector had to make a planning balance in terms of the relative weight to the attached to protecting BMV (and the specifics of the land involved which was detached from the nearby agricultural land) and the need to increase housing land supply.</p>
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<p>Chris Bithell</p>	<p>STR11</p>	<p>Our housing projection figures are too high in comparison with WG figures and NDF. ( Although not high enough for many of the developers!) Are we making too much allowances for flexibility and thereby shooting ourselves in the foot by showing our readiness to accept even more.</p>	<p>In its formal representations on the Deposit Plan Welsh Government commented ‘The Welsh Government is broadly supportive of the strategy, level of homes and jobs proposed, considers it aligns with national policy and is in general conformity with the emerging NDF’.</p> <p>The National Development Framework is still a draft document and the timescales are different to the LDP’s, with the NDF covering a longer period up to 2040. It is also the case that the housing growth need assessed in the NDF is not directly compatible with the method for deriving housing requirements in LDPs. In this context Welsh Government published a supplementary ‘Explanatory Note – Housing Need’ in Dec 2019 which stated ‘While it is expected that there will be a clear alignment between the estimates of housing need and the Housing Requirements set out in LDPs and SDPs, they are not the same and therefore are not expected to match’. Nevertheless, when the housing need for Wrexham and Flintshire in the draft NDF is annualized and compared to the annualized cumulative housing requirements in the Flintshire and</p>
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			<p>Wrexham LDPs, there is a high degree of conformity with the growth ambitions of the NDF.</p> <p>In terms of flexibility allowance, Welsh Government require in Development Plan Manual 3 that ‘a flexibility allowance must be embedded into the plan’ with a starting point of 10%. The Plans flexibility allowance of 14.4% is considered to be reasonable and proportionate and is not excessive.</p>
Chris Bithell	STR14	<p>Is our policy strong enough re-energy efficiency and renewable energy generation as part of new developments and helping us to reach our own carbon reduction targets for 2030?</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to ensure through policy EN12 that development generally seeks to maximize the potential for renewable or low carbon energy technology. In addition, certain thresholds of residential and commercial development will be required to submit an energy assessment. In addition Welsh Government consulted in Dec 2019 on a review of part L (conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regs.</p> <p>A renewable energy assessment of the County has also been undertaken and this has identified opportunities for solar power and this has been expressed through Solar Indicative Local Search Areas. There are area where solar energy development may be acceptable in principle subject to satisfying the criteria in EN13.</p>

<p>Chris Bithell</p>	<p>PC4 1142 1234608</p>	<p>must be enforced. Point already made above we need to ensure that we can reach 2030 carbon reduction targets. Response is that at present there are no requirement in PPW for every new house to be energy efficient but EN 12 seeks to ensure that new large scale development maximise potential for renewable energy. Whilst acknowledging we are probably limited by what the law lays down in this respect, it is nonetheless lacking. This is not particularly helpful. How large scale must the development must be? Can we do more to enable us to achieve our ambitious targets both locally and nationally?</p>	<p>As explained above policy EN12 requires that all new development maximizes the potential for renewable and low carbon technology. It also requires on larger developments (residential developments of 100 units or more and commercial developments of 1000sq m or more) an energy assessment.</p>
<p>Mike Peers</p>	<p>HN2</p>	<p>It states 30 dwellings per hectare will not be achievable on all housing allocation. Does this mean on sites allocated for housing in the LDP. Explain why it will not be achievable – Criteria? Explain Gross / Net figures. Need to tighten up on housing mix by perhaps a %age of house types.</p>	<p>Gross density is where the number of units is measured against the site as a whole. The net density is where the number of units is measured once roads, open space, structural landscaping etc is excluded from the site area.</p> <p>The policy wording of HN2 specifies a density of ‘at least 30 dwellings per hectare’. In para 11.5 of the explanation to the policy the Plan states ‘On all sites of 10 units or more a general minimum net housing density of 30 dwellings per hectare is required’. However, it is acknowledged each site must be</p>

			<p>considered on its individual merits and therefore the Plan goes on to state ‘but it is acknowledged that individual circumstances will vary according to the site location and the character of the surrounding area’. The policy explains through the two criteria, the circumstances in which a lower density may be acceptable and these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‘a. site constraints prevent the minimum density from being achieved</li> <li>b. the minimum density would harm the character and appearance of the sites surroundings’ .</li> </ul> <p>The policy wording emphasises the need for a ‘mix of dwellings by type and size’ and recognises the need to ‘meet the needs of residents for a range of house types thereby creating mixed and socially inclusive communities’. The explanation to the policy in para 11.6 refers to the findings of the Local Housing Market Assessment which identifies the need for smaller 1 and 23 bedroom dwellings and also the need to meet the needs of an ageing population. It would be inappropriate for the policy to specify exactly the mix of units in terms of bedrooms as it is necessary to have regard to the site, the surroundings and the characteristics of the local housing</p>
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			market area. A rigid ‘one size fits’ all approach would not be appropriate.
Chris Bithell	HN3	Are our proportions for affordable homes 30%, 40% or 51%?	<p>In the UDP policy HSG10 the Council sought a flat 30% affordable housing requirement on all development which exceeded the threshold of 1ha or 25 units.</p> <p>In the Deposit LDP a more thorough evidence based approach has been taken through the findings of the Local Housing Market Assessment and the work undertaken by the District Valuation Service. This approach uses the local market housing areas identified in the LHMA and then applies the viability findings to give a different % affordable housing requirement in each local housing market area. This recognises that viability will be different in different parts of the County having regard to how strong the local housing market is. Affordable housing requirements therefore range from 15% to 40%.</p> <p>The figure of 51% is a figure used in the draft NDF and no evidence has been provided to show how this has been calculated nor whether it is viable and achievable, and certainly not without the provision of substantial public subsidy.</p>
Mike Peers	HN3	Expand on WG objection. Does the affordable housing policy require	<p>The response to rep 1139 explains that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tenure mix (split between social and intermediate rental) is considered</li> </ul>

		<p>amendment in line with WG comments?</p>	<p>to be in line with the LHMA. The response on this point could be further amended to state ‘The tenure mix can be added to the policy explanatory wording if the Inspector considers this would improve the understanding and application of the policy’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It may be necessary to add the Plans affordable housing target (as presently set out in the Affordable Housing Background Paper) to the wording of criteria iii of policy STR1. This would most likely be written as ‘7,950 new homes to meet a requirement of 6,950, of which XXXX are affordable homes’.</li> <li>• The Affordable Housing Background Paper will be updated to show a number of updates including the anticipated affordable housing supply by settlement tier and also the expected affordable housing contribution from windfalls.</li> </ul>
Chris Bithell	HN7	<p>HMOs. Further work needs to be done to settle the issues regarding what is regarded as over concentration of HMOs in a locality (e.g. – 10%, 15% or what within a radius of so many metres?) Point already made we need to strengthen this policy, ensure greater clarity so it can be implemented.</p>	Noted

Chris Bithell	EN1 328 1231153	The plan doesn't provide any prescriptive policies on open space standards/ improvements of existing provision. Refers to SPG Note but this is only in draft form and has not been subject to public consultation, Council resolution and formal adoption. Do they have a point here? Does this weaken or even negate our policy and our stance?	Further work is presently being undertaken on an update of the Open Space Survey into order to feed into a review and possible updating of the existing SPG. This is only raised by one developer and is not a major concern. Further evidence can be fed into the submission / examination stages.
Mike Peers	EN7	Do we need to add to policy reference to Hedgerows Regulations 1997 made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into operation in England and Wales on 1 June 1997. Explain "net gain in biodiversity".	<p>It is not considered necessary for a LDP to mention numerous pieces of legislation as these exist in their own right. The key concern is that the policy is worded clearly and is effective in protecting trees and hedgerows as part of new development proposals. Appendix 2 of the Deposit Plan references a SPG on Trees and Development and this may be able to go into more detail on such Regulations.</p> <p>IN PPW10 Welsh Government emphasis the need to maintain and enhance biodiversity and refers in para 6.4.21 to 'enhancement must be secured wherever possible'.</p> <p>Policy EN7 sets out the overriding objective of trying to avoid the loss of or harm to trees woodlands and hedgerows. However, the second part of the policy recognises that there may be</p>



			<p>circumstances where the loss of a tree is unacceptable and sets out what criteria would need to be satisfied. Criteria b) would seek replacements elsewhere on the site and criteria c) seeks to achieve an overall gain or enhancement in biodiversity perhaps through other planting, green infrastructure which would bring biodiversity benefits that might not have been achieved by the site in its original condition.</p>
Chris Bithell	EN14	<p>14 Flood Frisk NRW a Statutory Authority expressing concerns over the allocation of sites for employment being included without flooding risk assessments. Will that present us with problems at the Examination stage?</p>	<p>NRW have expressed concern about a number of employment allocations in PE1 and a number of Principal Employment Areas in PE2. These sites / areas were not run through the original Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment as they were 'rolled forward' from the adopted UDP and are long standing existing employment sites. As explained in Report 4 the SFCA has been revisited in respect of these sites and ongoing discussions taking place with NRW to add further wording clarification to the relevant policies to set out what will be required in terms of assessment when development is considered in employment locations that are affected by flood risk.</p>
Chris Bithell	637 1224983	<p>A Developer expresses concerns that the plan when adopted will date back to 2015 i.e. it is already 6 years old before adoption with only 9 years left</p>	<p>Welsh Government does not prescribe a particular Plan period for a LDP. Typically the Plan period is for 15 years as this is a balance between looking far</p>

		<p>before expiry. Have they got a point here? Could the plan be for 20 years? It would appear We are always on the backfoot, fighting a rear-guard battle. Is there any reasons why we couldn't make it a 20 year plan particularly as we are going to have to review it ever 4 years anyway?</p> <p>Mention is made here that the Bromfield Timber site has commenced. Has it? If so when and exactly where?</p>	<p>enough into the future for it to have a strategic context but so far ahead as to bring greater uncertainty in terms of forecasts, projections, changes in circumstances and guidance etc. It is also quite normal for a Plan to be adopted well into its Plan period. However, if the LDP is adopted at the end of 2021 it would still have 9 years remaining which is a significant improvement on the UDP.</p> <p>To amend the Plan period now to 20 years would have profound implications for the timetable for adopting the Plan as it would require a fundamental reconsideration of housing and employment growth and require the identification of additional development sites. Quite simply, the objector is seeking to extend the Plan period to 20 years as they know it would bring a higher housing requirement and provide a context for the consideration of their promoted site. Such an approach does not represent sound or sensible planning. The Plan will need to be reviewed every 4 years and the site can be resubmitted as a candidate site as part of a future review.</p> <p>As a result of certain works undertaken at the Bromfield Timber site, it is the</p>
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			<p>Council’s position that a technical commencement of the planning permission has taken place.</p>
Chris Bithell	707 1233454	<p>They argue that the 14.4% flexibility is an admittance that our provision for housing can be accommodated, a source of supply for an additional 1000 homes. Are we actually conceding this point and providing an open goal for those who cry for more and more?</p>	<p>As explained above Welsh Government require each LDP to have a flexibility allowance and that 10% is a starting point, taking into account local circumstances. The Council is not ‘overproviding’ housing, it is merely ensuring that scope for sufficient provision (in terms of the various sources of supply) is made in the Plan to meet the Plans housing requirement figure. This recognises that for instance not all sites may come forward as quickly as anticipated and that it is necessary to allow for such slippage through a flexibility allowance.</p> <p>The objector is merely seeking that the Plan makes greater provision for housing as this provides a context for their promoted sites.</p>
Mike Peers	P17 conclusion	<p>Clarify the Welsh Government objections</p>	<p>Welsh Government comments on a LDP can fall within three categories which are set out below:                      Category A - Objections under soundness tests; fundamental issues that are considered to present a significant degree of risk for the authority if not addressed prior to submission, and may have implications for the plan’s strategy.</p>

			<p>Category B - Objections under soundness tests; matters where it appears that the Deposit Plan has not satisfactorily translated national policy down to the local level and there may be tensions within the plan.</p> <p>Category C - Objections under soundness tests; whilst not considered to be fundamental to the soundness of the LDP, there is considered to be a lack of certainty or clarity on the following matters which can usefully be drawn to your attention to enable you to consider how they might be addressed.</p> <p>In the case of the Flintshire LDP there were no Category A objections, only two Category B objections and eight Category C objections. The Welsh Government representation letter was reported to Planning Strategy Group shortly after the close of the consultation exercise, to the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020.</p>
Mike Peers	General	There must be objectors or supporters which have prompted an amendment or rewording. Is this the case?	Where additional wording has been reported in responses this in the main is in response to comments by representees that the policy is not clear enough.
Mike Peers	General	In the Council responses it does not state whether the policy is to be amended: YES / NO. The Council should advise whether it proposes to	The logical outcome of stating whether or not amendments to the Plan are to be made would be to publish Focussed Changes to the Plan. In order to

		make an amendment in line with representation or not.	maintain momentum on the Plans preparation, it is proposed that Focussed Changes are not published, as this would clearly result in the need for a further consultation exercise and reporting period. Instead, where it is considered in responding to objections, that changes could be made, these are being worded as being a matter for the Inspector to considered at examination
Mike Peers	General	LMHA The local market housing assessment should be up to date (kept up to date) and available for reference by members, and members of the public at all times.	This is something that the Council's Housing function take the lead on, but where we have resourced the latest review as it was required to support the LDP as an evidence base. Welsh Government require the LHMA to be kept up to date as suggested, and it is understood refreshed every three years.
Mike Peers	General	In response to the consultation the Council advises "Bungalows would help provide an alternative (housing) mix". How can this be achieved through policy?	Policy HN2 'Density and Mix of Development' seeks to ensure new developments incorporate a mix of dwellings by type and size. Para 11.6 of the explanation to the policy explains how the LHMA identifies a need for smaller 1 and 2 bedroom units and that part of this need is the a growing older population. The explanation refers to the housing needs of older people being reflected in residential development developments, including the development of bungalows.

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## Appendix 5: Typical Schedule of LDP Process from Submission to issuing of the Inspector's Final Report

Typical schedule of LDP process from Submission to issuing of the Inspectors' Final Report (source PINS Local Development Plan Examination Procedure Guidance (August 2015)).

Week	Key Actions
1+ onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LPA submits LDP and supporting documents to the Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate.</li> <li>• Provided a PO is in place and all documents have been submitted, the Inspectorate will proceed to appointment of the Inspector. The Inspectorate will carry out an initial scoping of the LDP (procedure and content) which will be passed to the appointed Inspector.</li> </ul>
2+ onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspector will commence early appraisal of the LDP and make contact with the PO. Inspector will confirm the Pre-Hearing Meeting (PHM) date through the PO and provisional hearing start date. LPA advertise the PHM, giving at least 4 weeks' notice.</li> <li>• Inspector will look for any fundamental or cumulative flaws in the LDP and write to the authority in the first instance where there are major concerns. If an exploratory meeting is required the Inspector will advise the LPA through the PO (Note: an exploratory meeting is likely to lead to a consequent delay in the examination timetable).</li> <li>• Inspector will start giving consideration to the structure of hearings, allocate participants to hearing sessions and decide what additional material is needed from participants.</li> <li>• LPA may be asked to respond to questions on specific issues highlighted by the Inspector. However, papers should not be put forward if not asked for by Inspector.</li> <li>• PO sends initial letter to representors.</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspector will aim to finalise the programme for the hearing sessions and the draft list of matters and issues for the hearings in advance of the PHM.</li> <li>• PO circulates Inspector's Guidance Notes to representors and confirms attendance at the hearings.</li> <li>• LPA to advertise the start date of the hearing sessions at least 6 weeks in advance.</li> </ul>
8	<p><b>PRE-HEARING MEETING (PHM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to have PHM 8 weeks after submission (6 weeks before hearing sessions start).</li> <li>• The merits of the LDP will not be discussed at the PHM but the Inspector may invite comments from the participants on the draft matters and issues identified for the examination.</li> </ul>
9+ onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PO should circulate the notes of the PHM, along with the programme for the hearing sessions and final list of matters and issues for the hearings as soon as practicable after the PHM. □</li> </ul>

## Appendix 5: Typical Schedule of LDP Process from Submission to issuing of the Inspector's Final Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPA &amp; participants will start work on providing any written statements requested by Inspector. The Inspector takes charge of process of what may be submitted. The date for submission of responses to the Inspector will usually be the same for all parties. The aim will be to inform Inspector not create counter arguments.</li> <li>The Inspector may make provision for the submission of rebuttal statements if he/she considers they would be helpful.</li> <li>The LPA and other participants in the examination have around 4 weeks to produce their statements for the hearing session.</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses and statements from LPA and participants due.</li> <li>PO circulates written statements from the LPA and other participants well before the hearings commence, so that all parties are fully aware of the evidence/points being made.</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PO circulates final detailed agendas for the discussions at each of the hearing sessions to the relevant participants.</li> </ul>
14+ onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hearing sessions form an important part of the examination process; all participants should attend on the relevant day.</li> <li>It is likely that action points will be agreed after each session. The LPA commences work on 'Matters Arising Changes' it proposes to make to the plan, including Sustainability Appraisal.</li> <li>Inspector will announce the report delivery date at the last hearing session (taking into account the time required for the internal quality assurance process).</li> </ul>
19+ onwards	<p><b>REPORTING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the hearings have concluded and the Inspector is reporting, no further representations/papers will be necessary unless specifically requested by the Inspector (the examination remains open throughout the reporting period).</li> <li>Consultation on any 'Matters Arising Changes' are carried out by the LPA and responses forwarded to the Inspector.</li> <li>If the Inspector considers that additional changes are needed to the plan which require consultation/SA, he/she will ask the LPA to undertake the relevant work.</li> </ul>
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report will be subject to an internal Quality Assurance process in the Inspectorate before dispatch. This process takes around 2 weeks.</li> </ul>
40	<p><b>FACT CHECK DISPATCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPA has 2 weeks to carry out the fact check.</li> </ul>
42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspector will respond to the fact check matters and comments raised by the LPA.</li> </ul>
43	<p><b>FINAL REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final report will be dispatched.</li> </ul>





## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Annual Performance Review Letter 2019/20
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Social Services)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is brought to inform Cabinet of the content of the recent Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Annual Performance Letter issued on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

Following the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, CIW have developed a new framework which works to ensure local authorities are inspected using the well-being outcomes of the Act. This places an emphasis on hearing the views and voices of people and their carers who have care and support needs.

An annual letter is sent to each local authority in Wales and published on the CIW website. The information contained within the letter is normally based on a meeting held with the Chief Officer for Social Services and Senior Officers, unfortunately due to the COVID-19 restrictions this year it has not been possible for the annual performance review meeting to take place. However, the letter is also based on evidence and performance data submitted throughout the year together with the outcomes from any inspections, focused activities, self-evaluation returns. These have taken place, prior to the COVID restrictions and the outcome of these inspection activities alongside the information published in the Social Services Annual Report are reflected in the letter.

Each letter summarises CIW's evaluation of performance in relation to adults and children's services during the financial year and reports against the four core principles of the Social Services and Well-being Act, those being:

Well-being, People, Prevention and Partnership.

The letters also sets out CIW's individual work programme to review performance over the coming year.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet notes and is assured by the content of the Annual Performance letter and CIW's assessment of the authority's performance during the year 2019/20.
2	That Cabinet notes the CIW's Performance Review Plan for 2020-21 has been paused, and they will notify us once the programme of inspection re commences.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE CARE INSPECTORATE WALES (CIW) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW LETTER</b>
1.01	Members will be aware that CIW write and publish an annual letter for local authorities which provides feedback on inspections undertaken during the year and CIW performance evaluation activity complete.
1.02	The letter reports on the progress of the local authority and how it has implemented any recommendations from inspections, focused activities, Child Practice Reviews and Adult Practice Reviews.
1.03	The letter is also an opportunity for CIW to outline its forward work programme in Flintshire.
1.04	The content of the letter relates to the authority's performance in carrying out its statutory social services functions and is separate to an inspections of the Council's Provider Services.
1.05	As stated in the Executive Summary above, the letter is informed by performance evaluation and meetings with the Chief Officer Social Services and Senior Managers within the service. Whilst this formal meeting could not take place in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the CIW Lead Inspector for Flintshire, Glenda Lloyd-Evans, has met with Senior Managers in June and December 2019.
1.06	The letter also takes into account CIW activity during the year and in particular the focused activity in Children's Services in October 2019 and the focused activity in Adult Services in February 2020.
1.07	CIW also undertook engagement activity with older adults and held a review meeting in November 2019 around the Prevention and Promotion of Independence for older adults.
1.08	In February 2020, CIW undertook a risk assessment and assurance review of Flintshire.
1.09	In addition to these activities, Flintshire Social Services provides CIW with quarterly performance data which is reviewed and analysed and CIW use feedback and intelligence received on the performance of the service to

	shape the content of the Annual Performance Letter.
1.10	The strengths of the authority and any areas for improvement are categorised into the four principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and these are summarised below.
1.11	<b>Well-being</b>
1.12	CIW commented that the local authority benefits from an experienced senior management team. Effective leadership is evident at all levels with a highly skilled, well qualified and supported workforce working towards a shared vision. CIW also specifically commented on the strong corporate and political support for both adult and children's service and a thorough and well developed understanding of strengths and current challenges.
1.13	As with many local authorities CIW notes that Flintshire experienced challenges in securing appropriate placements able to meet the needs of some young people and it is of concern that children were placed in unregistered arrangements. However, CIW also noted that Flintshire demonstrated a focus on meeting the needs of the children and kept CIW informed of development throughout.
1.14	The innovative work of the Council was also noted under well-being through the development of a range of new projects and the use of grant funding to create new models of care and support to improve outcomes for people. An example sighted by CIW in Children Service is the work with regional partners to secure transformation funds to create a multi-disciplinary assessment and support Hub to facilitate placement reunification and long term placement planning. CIW also noted the work the local authority is doing to actively develop the local care sector and more latterly develop micro-care enterprise.
1.15	<b>People</b>
1.16	CIW specifically review the Welsh Language provision for those who receive support from Social Services, they notes that language is recognised as a key factor in building positive relationships and Welsh language use amongst local authority staff is a corporate commitment.
1.17	CIW made reference to how people in Flintshire are involved in service development, they heard how the Mockingbird and Development Project asked young people what they thought of the idea and what was important to them to feature in the development. CIW noted feedback from a young person in their letter. "I like that there are other foster carers that can support and listen". In respect of service development and embedded learning, CIW commented that the same project, used an analysis of disruption themes to help it shape the way in which support will be provided to children and carers.
1.18	In adults service particular reference was made to the local authority and its partners continue to engage with local business and charities. Through such engagement, opportunities for people with a learning disability to be supported into paid work have been identified as well as new volunteer placements.

1.19	The letter identified that more people are managing their own care through the provision of direct payments allowing the person more control and flexibility with the care they receive. The letter recognises that Flintshire continues to look at creative and innovative ways of using direct payments and during CIW's focused activity they heard of groups being awarded direct payment to enhance people's independence and/or involvement in community activities.
1.20	CIW made specific reference to the committed and dedicated professional staff whom they constantly met in their dealings with the Council throughout the year. Discussions with staff, observations made, and case records evidenced staff's understanding of the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and staff vigilance in ensuring that these principles are implemented in practice. Practitioners and managers told CIW they are happy and content working in Flintshire County Council.
1.21	CIW continues to monitor the implementation of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which has identified the local authority, in common with many others in Wales, is unable to assure itself that people's human rights are not being breached by being deprived of their liberty unlawfully.
1.22	<b>Prevention</b>
1.23	In Children's Service CIW identified a strong focus on early help and support to build resilience and help prevent a families problems escalating. They visited the Early Help Hub and saw an emphasis on helping parents to develop their own abilities, their coping mechanisms and strengths to identify and manage problems. They also saw community based solutions supporting families and a focus on keeping families together in a safe, supportive and stable environment.
1.24	In Adults Services CIW's focus was on building and promoting people's own strengths and resilience in line with the principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. During the focused activity in February 2020, they commented on examples of how the Council has been enabling people to maintain and develop skills, achieving greater independence and responsibility. CIW commented that individuals are given the opportunity to take risks safely and assistive technology is used effectively to support increased freedom and independence.
1.25	CIW saw a focus on enabling individuals to develop and maintain social relationships and be involved in their community. They met with members of the Dungeons and Dragon group, established to help people's recovery from mental health. They also heard how the group helped with recovery and provided an opportunity to develop friendship, interest and a reason to interact.
1.26	CIW also noted that in Flintshire County Council Children's Services there are procedures in place to respond effectively to placement breakdowns and to placements where there are escalating challenges and indications that a disruption is likely. They commented that the voice of the child remains central throughout the process. CIW also recorded that recommendations are formulated within the pre-disruption meetings and

	distributed to the service area with responsibility for the child to ensure this informs future practice.
1.27	<b>Partnerships</b>
1.28	The regulator noted that the local authority continue to be actively engaged in local and regional partnership working. Flintshire currently host the North Wales Learning Disability Strategy and jointly host the North Wales Integrated Autism Service with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB).
1.29	In the letter CIW commented on the Council's awareness of the fragility of the domiciliary care sector and how we are exploring different options to address market capacity. CIW noted that the Council recognises the importance of working in partnership with providers and made reference to the extension of our successful Progress for Providers Programmes for Care Home to the domiciliary care sector. The Council recognises the difficulties in the recruitment and retention of care workers and the significant challenge facing all home care providers (please note, the comments made by CIW were before the COVID-19 pandemic).
1.30	CIW paid particular attention to the efforts the Council have taken to reduce the turnover of care workers and how we have learnt from others and adopted an innovative approach to recruitment, aiming to maximise retention by more careful approaches to recruiting the right people with the right values. Care providers told CIW of their positive working relationship with the practitioners and managers. CIW commented that "The focus on working in partnership and supporting providers by investing in training and development of care staff can only lead to better outcomes for people."
1.31	Finally, Project Search was highlighted as an example of Flintshire's successfully working in partnership with Hft, Pennaf Housing Group, Coleg Cambria and others to establish an employment support programme for young people with a learning disability. During the focused activity CIW met with some of the young people and parents and heard how Hft has further developing partnership with public, private and voluntary sector organisation to create new work, education and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability.
1.32	<b>CIW Performance Review Plan for 2020-21</b>
1.33	CIW's scheduled thematic inspection programme for 2020-2021 focused on prevention and promoting independence for older people and for current children services thematic inspection the focus is on prevention, partnerships and experiences of disabled children. Due to the current emergency situation relating to COVID-19 CIW have paused the publication of their older people's report and paused all activity relating to the disabled children's review. They will advise you in due course when we envisage recommencing our inspections.
1.34	Due to the unforeseen circumstances, CIW are currently reviewing and considering their work plan for the remainder of 2020-2021.
1.35	Following the focused activity in Children's Services during October 2019, CIW identified the following areas for Improvement:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managers need to ensure themselves of the effectiveness of the implementation of the new supervision policy.</li> <li>Whilst the service continues to have ongoing discussions with Adult Mental Health, managers must ensure practitioners communicate on individual cases.</li> <li>Managers need to ensure the evidence of the analysis which informs decision making is recorded at the Early Help Hub multi-disciplinary meeting.</li> </ul>
1.36	<p>CIW identified the following area for improvement in the focused activity in Adult Services in February 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure there is a record of the risk assessments and decisions on local authority's case records.</li> </ul>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no direct resource implications as a result of this letter.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
3.01	The letter is a very positive review of the statutory Social Services provider by the local authority. The work of risk management associated with statutory services continues within the portfolio, there are no additional requirements as a result of the letter.	
3.02	<b>Response from the Service to the Required Actions from the Children's Services focused activities</b>	
3.03	Managers need to ensure themselves of the effectiveness of the implementation of the new supervision policy.	The new supervision policy has been launched across all services and the effectiveness of the policy and recording of information in the appropriate locations has been monitored and evaluated through case file audits. This action has been replicated in other service areas to ensure consistency in recording linked to supervision.
	Whilst the service continues to have ongoing discussions with Adult Mental Health, managers must ensure practitioners communicate on individual cases.	Professional Supervision between case holders and their managers ensures a focus on discussing the detail of adult mental health cases
	Managers need to ensure the evidence of the analysis which informs decision making is recorded at the Early Help Hub multi-disciplinary meeting.	A revised recording mechanism has been put in place to address this. Case file audits have paid particular attention to this area and recoded evidence of improved analysis recording as part of the decision making process.

3.04	<b>Response from the Service to the Required Actions from the Adult Services focused activities</b>	
3.05	Ensure there is a record of the risk assessments and decisions on local authority's case records.	An amendment has been made to the records management process and case file audits have paid particular attention to risk assessment and the recording of associated decisions.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>	
4.01	There are no consultation requirements as a result of this letter.	

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	
5.01	Local Authority Annual Performance Letter 2019/20 – Flintshire County Council.	
5.02	CIW Letter to Flintshire Following Children's Focused Activity.	
5.03	CIW Letter to Flintshire Following Adult's Focused Activity.	

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>	
6.01	None.	

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>	
7.01	<b>Contact Officers: Jane Davies</b> <b>Telephone: 01352 702503</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk">jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b>	

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>	
8.01	<b>Social Services and (Well-being) Wales Act 2014:</b> The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6 April 2016. The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.	

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Neil Ayling  
Director of Social Services  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire  
CH7 6NB

Date: 02 July 2020

Dear Neil Ayling

## Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Local Authority Performance Review April 2019 - March 2020

The code of practice for review of local authority social services in April 2019 outlines our intention to write and publish an annual letter for local authorities which will:

- provide feedback on inspection and performance evaluation activity completed by us during the year
- report on progress the local authority has made in implementing recommendations from inspections and/or child and adult practice reviews
- outline our forward work programme

This letter summarises our review of Flintshire County Council's performance in carrying out its statutory social services functions from April 2019 – March 2020.

We acknowledge, that due to the unprecedented circumstances relating to COVID-19, that we were unable to complete the annual performance review meeting.

We believe that there remains significant benefits in identifying and drawing the attention of the local authority and its partners, to the areas of both strength and improvements required. The letter is intended to assist the local authority and its partners to continually improve.

It follows the four principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and our increasingly collaborative and strengths based approach to supporting improvement.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The content of this letter is informed by the performance evaluation activity undertaken by the inspectorate during the course of the year. This activity included:

- meetings with senior managers June and December 2019
- focused activity in children's services in October 2019
- focused activity in adults services February 2020
- engagement activity with older adults
- review meeting - prevention and promotion of independence for older adults – November 2019
- assurance and risk assessment review – February 2020
- feedback /intelligence received
- review of performance information

During the course of the year we have been in discussions with you during all of the activity listed above and as such our annual performance letter content is an accurate reflection of our ongoing findings which we have consistently shared with you.

#### Summary of strengths and areas for improvement in line with principles of the Act 2014

##### **Well-being**

The local authority benefits from an experienced senior management team. Effective leadership is evident at all levels with a highly skilled, well qualified and supported workforce working towards a shared vision. There is a strong corporate and political support for both adult and children's service and a thorough and well developed understanding of strengths and current challenges.

During the year the local authority experienced challenges in securing appropriate placements able to meet the needs of some young people and it is of concern that children were placed in unregistered arrangements. However, the local authority demonstrated a focus on meeting the needs of the children and kept CIW informed of development throughout.

Senior managers are confident in developing a range of new projects and are using grant funding to create new models of care and support to improve outcomes for people. An example in children service is the work with regional partners to secure transformation funds to create a multi-disciplinary assessment and support Hub to facilitate placement reunification and long term placement planning. Whilst in adults service the local authority is actively looking at how to develop the local care sector and more latterly developed their micro-care enterprise.

##### **People**

Language is recognised as a key factor in building positive relationships and Welsh language use amongst local authority staff is a corporate commitment.

People in Flintshire are involved in service development, we heard how the Mockingbird and Development Project asked young people what they thought of the idea and what was

important to them to feature in the development. “I like that there are other foster carers that can support and listen” was a response from one young person. In respect of service development and embedded learning, the same project, used an analysis of disruption themes to help them shape the way in which support will be provided to children and carers.

In adults service the local authority and its partners continue to engage with local business and charities. Through such engagement, opportunities for people with a learning disability to be supported into paid work have been identified as well as new volunteer placements.

More people are managing their own care through the provision of direct payments allowing the person more control and flexibility with the care they receive. The local authority continues to look at creative and innovative ways of using direct payments and during our focused activity we heard of groups being awarded direct payment to enhance people’s independence and/ or involvement in community activities.

We consistently met with committed and dedicated professional staff. Discussions with staff, observations made, and case records evidenced staff’s understanding of the principles of the Act 2014, and their vigilance in ensuring that these are implemented in practice. Practitioners and managers told us they are happy and content working in Flintshire County Council.

We continue to monitor the implementation of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which has identified the local authority, in common with many others in Wales, is unable to assure itself that people’s human rights are not being breached by being deprived of their liberty unlawfully. Our joint national report on DoLS will be issued in due course.

## **Prevention**

Senior Managers are aware that access to early intervention is key to mitigating the need for statutory services.

In children’s service there is a strong focus on early help and support to build resilience and help prevent a families problems escalating. We visited the multi-agency early help hub and saw an emphasis on helping parents to develop their own abilities, their coping mechanisms and strengths to identify and manage problems. We saw community based solutions supporting families and a focus on keeping families together in a safe, supportive and stable environment.

In adults services there is a focus on building and promoting people’s own strengths and resilience in line with the principles of the Act 2014. During the focused activity we saw examples enabling people to maintain and develop skills, achieving greater independence and responsibility. Individuals are given the opportunity to take risks safely and assistive technology is used effectively to support increased freedom and independence.

We saw a focus on enabling individuals to develop and maintain social relationships and be involved in their community. We met with members of the Dungeons and Dragon group, established to help people’s recovery from mental health. We heard how the group helped with their recovery and provided an opportunity to develop friendship, interest and a reason to interact.

In June 2019 we published our national report on our work about care experienced children and young people. The [report](#) is published on our website. Key findings highlight areas for improvement in respect of profile, sufficiency, practice, partnerships, stability, governance and corporate parenting. Many of the areas we identified for improvement continue to be considered by Welsh Government's Ministerial Advisory Group on improving outcomes for care experienced children and young people and we expect local authorities to be considering their own contribution to addressing these findings. We will monitor with interest the development of much needed commissioning and market position strategy to map future demand for services and help shape the market.

In December 2019 we wrote to all local authorities asking for information about the Public Accounts Committee report following their enquiry into care experienced children, specifically recommendation 5 concerning the effectiveness and frequency of end of placement reviews.

In Flintshire County Council there are procedures in place to respond effectively to placement breakdowns and to placements where there are escalating challenges and indications that a disruption is likely. The voice of the child remains central throughout the process. Recommendations are formulated within the pre-disruption meetings and distributed to the service area with responsibility for the child to ensure this informs future practice.

## **Partnerships**

The local authority continue to be actively engaged in local and regional partnership working. They currently host the North Wales Learning Disability Strategy and jointly host the North Wales Integrated Autism Service with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB).

Flintshire County Council is aware of the fragility of the domiciliary care sector and are exploring different options to address market capacity. They recognise the importance of working in partnership with providers and have extended their successful Progress for Providers Programmes for Care Home to the domiciliary care sector. There is recognition that recruiting and retaining of care workers is a significant challenge facing all home care providers. In an effort to reduce the turnover of care workers Flintshire County Council have learnt from others and adopted an innovative approach to recruitment, aiming to maximise retention by more careful approaches to recruiting the right people with the right values. Care providers told us of their positive working relationship with the practitioners and managers. The focus on working in partnership and supporting providers by investing in training and development of care staff can only lead to better outcomes for people.

Project Search is an example of the local authority successfully working in partnership with HFT, Pennaf Housing Group, Coleg Cambria and others to establish an employment support programme for young people with a learning disability. During the focused activity we met with some of the young people and parents and heard how HFT is further developing partnership with public, private and voluntary sector organisation to create new work, education and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability.

## CIW Performance Review Plan for 2020-2021

Our scheduled thematic inspection programme for 2020-2021 focused on prevention and promoting independence for older people and for current children services thematic inspection the focus is on prevention, partnerships and experiences of disabled children. Due to the current emergency situation relating to COVID-19 we have paused the publication of our older people's report and paused all activity relating to the disabled children's review. We will advise you in due course when we envisage recommencing our inspections.

We hope to publish the older person national report in due course and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your local authority's contribution to this.

Due to the unforeseen circumstances we find ourselves in, we are currently reviewing and considering our work plan for the remainder of 2020-2021.

CIW worked together with HMI Constabulary (HMICFRS), HMI Probation, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) and Estyn to develop a model of joint inspection of child protection arrangements in Wales (JICPA). This approach was piloted during the autumn of 2019. This was a fantastic example of new ways of working across Wales and a real drive towards collaboration and integration in public services.

We continue to work closely with Social Care Wales to support improvement in social care services.

You will note that this letter has been copied to colleagues in Audit Wales, Estyn and HIW. CIW works closely with partner inspectorates to consider the wider corporate perspective in which social services operate, as well as local context for social services performance.

We will publish the final version of this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely



Lou Bushell-Bauers  
Head of Local Authority Inspection Team

Cc.  
Audit Wales  
HIW  
Estyn

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Ein cyf / Our ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 13/11/2019

Dear Craig,

## **Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Focussed Activity**

This letter summarises the findings of our focussed activity in Flintshire on the 9 & 10 of October 2019. The inspectors were Glenda Lloyd Evans, Senior Manager and Sian Roberts, Inspection Manager.

### **Overview**

The focussed activity provided an opportunity to focus on information, advice and assistance and the experience of care experienced children focussing on the reviewing process in children's service.

### **Findings**

#### **Wellbeing.**

- Children and parents can be confident the local authority is promoting the upbringing of the child by the child's family, in so far as doing so is consistent with the well-being of the child. "What matters" to children and their parents were captured in most of the cases we audited. We saw a focus on the outcomes children /parent want to achieve. In one case we noticed how the police officer had taken the "what matters" approach. This was clearly recorded in CID 16 and shared with the local authority.
- We saw evidence of compliance with statutory requirements in relation to how often children at risk and care experienced children are seen by social workers. The same was true in relation to the required frequency of statutory reviews.
- Concerns with regards to insufficient legal advice was shared with us. Whilst we did not see any evidence of this impacting on practice senior managers

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must consider the potential risk and ensure arrangements are in place to ensure practitioners /managers have access to legal advice in a timely manner.

## **People – voice and choice**

- The voice of the child was central and we saw evidence in most cases of review records being written in appropriate language for children and young people. We did see some examples where the language was complex. The local authority will want to ensure records are consistently and appropriately written for children and young people.
- We saw evidence of good recording of the communication between independent reviewing officers and children. We heard of the efforts to make better use of technology as a means of communicating and engaging with children. However in one case the views of care home staff were recorded rather than the child. The service needs to ensure practitioners routinely record the efforts they've made to communicate with children and young people.
- We saw and heard of examples of children being actively encouraged to attend reviews. However in one of the cases we audited a child wasn't encouraged to attend the first or second review. The local authority must ensure itself that all reviews are arranged at a place and time when children/young people are able to attend.
- In most cases, children were being offered advocacy appropriately. However in one case where the child was expressing dissatisfaction at remaining in placement, it would have been better practice for advocacy to have been offered sooner.
- We saw good and consistent managerial oversight in cases. We heard of appropriate strategies for independent reviewing officers to escalate cases should this be required. There are processes in place to address areas of poor practice should this be recognised.
- We met with committed and dedicated staff who place children and families central to their work
- We were told that senior managers were very approachable. Flintshire was described as a "good place to work".
- Some practitioners told us supervision was inconsistent and how the practice of recording supervision had changed following the implementation of the new supervision policy. Practitioners said the electronic system didn't encourage discussions between supervisor and practitioner. Managers will need to ensure all practitioners are able and confident to access supervision notes.

## **Partnership**



- We saw and heard how Flintshire Children's Service has worked with a range of key partners to develop and deliver preventative services. This has involved working with other department within local authority such as education and housing as well as other relevant partners.
- We saw evidence of staff who are co-located communicating well and working together to improve outcomes for children and families.
- Flintshire Children Service recognise the need and has been working towards strengthening their working relationship with Adult Mental Health Service. In the cases we audited we did not see evidence of the Early Help Hub engaging with colleagues in Adult Mental Health Service. This was true in a case where the Police specifically asked for the information in CID 16 to be shared with mental health service. This was with a view to an earlier intervention and avoid a further escalation which could impact further on the lives of the children in the family.
- We saw detailed recording of the information gathered, and the decisions made at the Early Help Hub multi-disciplinary meetings .The analysis was not routinely recorded and in some cases we were unable to gain an understanding of the rationale for the decision. The lack of recording could impact on future decision making and a practice issue managers should review.

### **Prevention**

- In the Early Help Hub we saw an emphasis on helping parents to develop their own abilities, their coping mechanisms and strengths to identify and manage problems.
- We saw community based solutions supporting families and a focus on keeping families together in a safe, supportive and stable environment.

### **Areas for improvements**

- Managers need to ensure themselves of the effectiveness of the implementation of the new supervision policy.
- Whilst the service continues to have ongoing discussions with Adult Mental Health, managers must ensure practitioners communicate on individual cases.
- Managers need to ensure the evidence of the analysis which informs decision making is recorded at the Early Help Hub multi-disciplinary meeting.

### **Methodology**

- We reviewed a sample of case files to the Early Help Hub and a sample of referrals focussing on looked after children reviews.
- We spoke with staff from Early Help Hub and attended a multi-disciplinary team meeting.

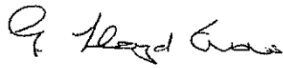
- Interviewed a group of practitioners, senior and team managers from children social work teams and a group of independent reviewing officers
- We gained feedback from LAC Health Nurse.

CIW will reflect the findings of this focused activity in our annual Local Authority Performance Review letter.

I would like to extend our thanks to all those who helped with the arrangements for this work and to staff who spoke with us.

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Yours sincerely,



Glenda Lloyd Evans  
Senior Manager – CIW Local Authority Inspection Team

Ms Susie Lunt  
Senior Manager  
Flintshire County Council  
County Hall  
Mold  
Flintshire  
CH7 6NB

Ein cyf / Our ref: GLE / SL / FAct

Dyddiad / Date: 07/08/2020

Dear Susie,

### **Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Focused Activity**

This letter summarises the findings of our focused activity in Flintshire on the 25 & 26 of February 2020. The inspectors were Glenda Lloyd Evans, Senior Manager and Sian Roberts, Inspection Manager.

### **Overview**

The activity provided an opportunity to focus on Flintshire's progression journey. This included the work of the progression team, and an employment support programme for adults with learning disability. We also met with members of the Dungeon and Dragons Gaming Group, a support group supporting people recovery from mental health.

### **Findings**

#### **Wellbeing.**

- Individual's well-being is central to the work within the progression model. We saw evidence that assessments and subsequent care and support planning focuses on people's strengths and capabilities, as well as barriers they face to achieve their

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personal outcomes. This in line with the requirements of the Social and Services Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

- Staff working within the progression model actively identify and support individuals to be able to attend activities and social events of their choice and where possible, to do this independently. We heard of good practices of assisting individuals to be able to do this with support initially, but then of support being appropriately reduced in line with individual's wishes, as their confidence and independence skills increased.
- We saw evidence of people's independence promoted through different initiatives and communication strategies. For example, through transport training and the provision of individualised flash cards.
- We saw a practice of regular reviews and forward planning with individuals and their families provided with information and advice to assist them to reach a decision.

### **People – voice and control**

- We saw evidence in case recordings, both within assessments and statutory reviews, of individuals' wishes and feelings being actively sought by practitioners, and subsequent interventions remaining focused on individual's voice and choice.
- People benefit from both formal and informal advocacy. We saw in case files and heard from family members, how they are actively encouraged by practitioners to support and advocate on behalf of individuals. One individual benefitted from his mother being an informal advocate and assisting him to weigh up different options in relation to continued education or an opportunity through Project Search.
- We saw creative use of direct payment to enhance people's independence and/ or involvement in community activities. We heard of direct payment awarded to groups and how the payment offers the security the group requires to enable it to establish, grow and continue to support the recovery of people from a mental illness.
- We met committed and professional staff. Discussions with staff, observations made, and case records evidenced staff's understanding of the principles of the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014, and their vigilance in ensuring that these are implemented in practice. Staff told us that they are very happy and content working in Flintshire.

## **Partnership**

- Care Providers told us of their positive working relationship with practitioners and managers in Flintshire. We heard how they worked together to develop “A Shared Approach to Positive Risk Taking”. There was recognition of individual’s right to make informed decisions and of families being supported by practitioners to understand positive risk taking and its potential benefits before a decision is made.
- We heard how changes to care and support plans to further develop individual’s independence is informed by risk assessments and were told that changes to such documents are kept within an individual’s home. We would recommend that there is reference to such documentation in case records kept directly by the local authority.
- Flintshire is working in partnership with Clwyd Alyn, Coleg Cambria and HFT to help young people with learning disability to secure employment. We heard how a business event was arranged on Deeside Park to raise awareness among local businesses of the opportunities they have to offer mentoring opportunities, work placements or even work to the young people.

## **Prevention**

- We saw a focus on developing and maintaining skills that enabled people to achieve greater independence and responsibility. Individuals are given the opportunity to take risks safely and assistive technology is used effectively to support greater freedom and independence.
- We met with members of the Dungeons and Dragon Group; a group started by a mental health support worker. Members told us how the group helped with their recovery, provided an opportunity to develop friendship, interest and a reason to interact. Evidence of the local authority’s focus on enabling the individuals to develop and maintain social relationships and be involved in their community.

## **Areas for improvements**

- Ensure there is a record of the risk assessments and decisions on local authority’s case records.

## **Methodology**

- We reviewed a sample of 6 case files open to the progression team specifically.
- We spoke with staff from the progression team, individuals currently supported by the progression team, external providers, parents, and a commissioning manager.
- We observed and spoke with young people upon their return from work placements for a debrief session with members of the Project Search Team.

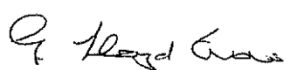
- We spoke with 5 members of the Dungeons & Dragons Gaming Group.

CIW will reflect the findings of this focused activity in our annual Local Authority Performance Review letter.

I would like to extend our thanks to all those who helped with the arrangements for this work and to staff who spoke with us.

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Yours sincerely,



Glenda Lloyd Evans  
Senior Manager – CIW Local Authority Inspection



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21 (Month 4)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

An interim budget monitoring report was presented to Cabinet in July which detailed potential risks and cost pressures ranging between £2.8m and £5.4m (excluding the impact of the pay award). This is the first detailed update and takes into account the latest position on Welsh Government Emergency Grant Funding announcements.

The projected year end position, without new actions to reduce cost pressures and/or improve the financial return on efficiency planning and cost control is:

#### **Council Fund**

- An operating deficit of £0.983m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will be met by reserves)
- A projected contingency reserve balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 of £1.418m

#### **Housing Revenue Account**

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £0.295m lower than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 of £2.468m

To assist in mitigating the overall projected overspend, a review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process has been introduced and the impacts will be included in future reports.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the overall report and the projected Council Fund contingency sum as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021.
2	To note the projected final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
3	To approve a budget virement of £0.300m between Older People's Purchasing budget (Localities) and the Older People's Provider budget (Resources and Regulated Services) (paragraph 1.09 refers)
4	To approve an allocation of £0.134m from the Contingency Reserve for the resourcing of the Children's Services 'Front Door Pressures' within Social Services (paragraph 1.38 refers).

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE MONTH 4 POSITION</b>
1.01	<p><b>Council Fund Projected Position</b></p> <p>An interim budget monitoring report was presented to Cabinet in July which detailed potential risks and cost pressures ranging between £2.8m and £5.4m (excluding the impact of the pay award). This is the first detailed update and takes into account the latest position on Welsh Government Emergency Grant Funding announcements.</p> <p>The projected year end position, without mitigation to reduce cost pressures and improve the yield on efficiency planning, is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An operating deficit of £0.983m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will be met by reserves)</li><li>• A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2021 of £1.418m.</li></ul> <p>To assist in mitigating the overall projected overspend a review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process has been introduced and the impacts will be included in future reports.</p>



1.02	<p><b>Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio</b></p> <p>The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Portfolio/Service Area</th> <th>Approved Budget</th> <th>Projected Outturn</th> <th>In-Year Over / (Under) spend</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social Services</td> <td>68.228</td> <td>68.463</td> <td>0.235</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of County Placements</td> <td>11.940</td> <td>11.789</td> <td>(0.151)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education &amp; Youth</td> <td>8.752</td> <td>8.299</td> <td>(0.453)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>98.508</td> <td>98.508</td> <td>0.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</td> <td>30.380</td> <td>31.841</td> <td>1.461</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning &amp; Environment</td> <td>5.723</td> <td>6.187</td> <td>0.464</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People &amp; Resources</td> <td>4.456</td> <td>4.456</td> <td>0.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governance</td> <td>9.188</td> <td>9.807</td> <td>0.619</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strategic Programmes</td> <td>5.018</td> <td>4.816</td> <td>(0.202)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing &amp; Assets</td> <td>16.044</td> <td>15.700</td> <td>(0.344)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td> <td>2.800</td> <td>2.543</td> <td>(0.257)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</td> <td>24.950</td> <td>24.561</td> <td>(0.389)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>285.987</b></td> <td><b>286.970</b></td> <td><b>0.983</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Portfolio/Service Area	Approved Budget	Projected Outturn	In-Year Over / (Under) spend		£m	£m	£m	Social Services	68.228	68.463	0.235	Out of County Placements	11.940	11.789	(0.151)	Education & Youth	8.752	8.299	(0.453)	Schools	98.508	98.508	0.000	Streetscene & Transportation	30.380	31.841	1.461	Planning & Environment	5.723	6.187	0.464	People & Resources	4.456	4.456	0.000	Governance	9.188	9.807	0.619	Strategic Programmes	5.018	4.816	(0.202)	Housing & Assets	16.044	15.700	(0.344)	Chief Executive	2.800	2.543	(0.257)	Central & Corporate Finance	24.950	24.561	(0.389)	<b>Total</b>	<b>285.987</b>	<b>286.970</b>	<b>0.983</b>
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Chief Executive	2.800	2.543	(0.257)																																																										
Central & Corporate Finance	24.950	24.561	(0.389)																																																										
<b>Total</b>	<b>285.987</b>	<b>286.970</b>	<b>0.983</b>																																																										
1.03	<p>The reasons for the projected variances are summarised within Appendix 1 and shows the detail of all variances over £0.050m and a summary of minor variances for each portfolio.</p>																																																												
	<p><b>Significant Variances to highlight this month</b></p>																																																												
1.04	<p><b>Social Services</b></p> <p><u>Older People Purchasing</u></p> <p>The net cost of Residential Care is projected to be £0.654m less than the budget. This includes the cost of residential care placements net of the income received for this service, such as property charges and contributions from health. There is currently a decline in the demand for residential care placements due to the pandemic.</p>																																																												
1.05	<p><u>Older People Provider Services</u></p> <p>Residential care is projected to be £0.292m above budget, the majority of which is due to staffing as mandatory levels must remain in place for residential homes to operate safely. There are also projected overspends on repairs and maintenance, catering, general supplies and a shortfall in client contribution income.</p>																																																												

1.06	<p>Extra care is projected to be £0.149m less than budget. The facility in Holywell is yet to open and a full complement of staff has not yet been recruited. Care staff already recruited are currently redeployed to alternative in-house care services which has had cost avoidance benefits. It is anticipated that the facility will open in the Autumn and the projected costs reflect this.</p>
1.07	<p><u>Mental Health services</u></p> <p>The Mental Health Residential Placement budget is projected to be £0.597m above budget which is based on the current social care needs of clients supported within the service. Care needs vary over time, sometimes suddenly, and costs are subject to the same changes.</p> <p>There are compensatory savings elsewhere in other service budgets on staffing, travel and supplies and services which partially offset the above overspend.</p>
1.08	<p><u>Children's Services</u></p> <p>Legal &amp; Third Party costs are projected to be £0.325m above budget due to legal costs and direct payments. Legal costs are due to the number of current court cases and some use of external solicitors, although this has reduced from the previous year. The Council is legally obliged to offer direct payments and this service has seen an increase in demand.</p> <p>Professional Support is projected to be £0.320m above budget. To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are therefore minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to be able to meet the challenges and demands of Children's Services.</p>
1.09	<p><u>Budget Virement</u></p> <p>Within the Social Services there are some significant variances both adverse and favourable that underpin the Portfolio's outturn position. To address changes in service delivery it is recommended that an amount of £0.300m is transferred within Adults Services from the Localities budget (within the Older People Service) to Resources and Regulated Services (also within the Older People Service).</p> <p>Both budget headings encompass care delivery services for older people such as residential care and home care. However one budget is for care commissioned from independent care providers whereas the other budget is for care provision delivered directly by the Council.</p> <p>Over time the in-house provision of care has increased in complexity whereas the commissioned care has decreased. The virement is to reflect the change in costs as a result of this.</p>

1.10	<p><b>Education and Youth</b></p> <p><u>Integrated Youth Provision</u>  The main variance of £0.148m relates to Youth Centres which have remained closed throughout the pandemic with resultant savings on building cleaning charges, energy costs and some relief staffing costs. There are also projected savings of £0.074m within the Youth Justice Service which are mainly due to the delay in recruitment to a new manager post and savings on equipment purchase and training costs.</p>
1.11	<p><u>School Improvement Systems</u></p> <p>The projected underspend of £0.136m is due to lower payments in the summer term due to the school closures as a result of the pandemic. Payments were made based on averages for January and February resulting in considerably lower payments than included in the current budget.</p>
1.12	<p><b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b></p> <p><u>Additional Security at Household Recycling Centres;</u></p> <p>The service has incurred additional revenue pressures of £0.070m from responding to and resolving previously reported security measures and remedial actions following vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. The monthly costs are now running at up to £0.006m per month, mainly due to the introduction of a night time presence on the sites.</p>
1.13	<p><u>Waste Strategy</u></p> <p>This service has experienced a downturn in income generated by sales of electricity and it is currently projected to reach a level of some £0.120m during the year. All efforts are being made to identify potential mitigations which may be available. In addition, a shift in the market appetite for recycling of paper and cardboard are giving concern over income generation levels and this will be closely monitored during the year.</p>
1.14	<p><u>Impact of Pandemic</u></p> <p>The pandemic has also impacted across a number of service budgets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a need for increased agency and overtime (£0.150m)</li> <li>- net car parking income loss of £0.550m (reduced following receipt of the first tranche of Welsh Government Income Loss funding)</li> <li>- additional vehicles and fuel (£0.080m)</li> <li>- additional private contractors and plant hire (£0.075m)</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities for support from the Welsh Government Hardship and Income Loss Funds will continue to be explored throughout the year to meet some of these costs.</p>

1.15	<p><b>Planning &amp; Environment</b></p> <p>Delays in sourcing core materials means that the construction industry is operating at minimal pace resulting in lower Building Control fee income estimated at £0.200m over a full year. The Council aim to recoup the first quarter loss of £0.050m from the WG Income Loss fund.</p>
1.16	<p>There has been a marked negative impact on the Property Market and a reduced need for Land Charge searches. The estimated reduction of 60% on fees and charges results in a shortfall of £0.095m over a full year. The Council aim to recoup the first quarter loss of £0.020m from the WG Income Loss Fund.</p>
1.17	<p>Planning Fee income is forecast to reduce by £0.210m for a full year in comparison to the previous year. We aim to recoup the first quarter losses of £0.105m from the WG Income Loss Fund. However, the loss is further mitigated by Town and Country Planning (Fees for Application, Deemed Applications and Site Visits – Wales) Regulations 2020 which have confirmed planning and related applications will be subject to a general fee increase of approximately 20% with effect from 24 August which could generate up to £0.100m, subject to market volatility.</p>
1.18	<p>Income reductions in Markets and Minerals &amp; Waste are estimated to be £0.240m for the full year. We aim to recoup £0.060m from the WG Income Loss Fund.</p>
1.19	<p><b>Housing &amp; Assets</b></p> <p><u>Benefits Service</u></p> <p>Additional staffing resources have been required to meet extra demand including an increased inflow of changes in respect of Universal Credit. The increased cost of £0.119m can in part be met from the Hardship Fund for the first quarter.</p>
1.20	<p><u>Centralised Costs - Utilities and NDR</u></p> <p>This projected underspend of £0.743m is mainly due to savings in respect of energy costs and NDR at County Hall following the demolition of Phases 3 and 4 together with a reduction in gas and electricity prices. There is a risk that this projected underspend could reduce if we start to see more buildings become void by businesses occupying council buildings.</p>
1.21	<p><u>Council Fund Housing - Carelink Service</u></p> <p>This projected overspend of £0.165m is due to a reduction in the allocation of Housing Support Grant due to inability to meet eligibility criteria. A further key influence is the anticipated commencement of a new service contract for the Carelink service with a new provider.</p>

1.22	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>Current Welsh Government lockdown restrictions have resulted in the cessation of all recovery activities for the in-house bailiff team including enforcement duties. Income generated totalled £0.557m in 2019/20 and we will be claiming lost income of £0.165m from the WG Income Loss fund for the first quarter. Income levels will start to increase again once enforcement restrictions are lifted, but additional resource will be required to clear the backlog of cases at a cost of £0.050m.</p> <p>The level of financial risk will be dependent on how long enforcement restrictions are in place.</p>
1.23	<p>Within the Registrar service there is an estimated loss of income for the year of around £0.140m. The Council aim to recoup £0.070m from the WG Income Loss fund for the first quarter.</p>
1.24	<p>Legal Services have incurred additional costs of employing locums to cover absence to ensure continuing client service delivery in the area of child protection £0.132m. This is offset by savings on telecommunications within ICT totalling £0.065m.</p>
1.25	<p><b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b></p> <p>In the previous financial year there was a significant underspend in employer pension fund contributions of £1.010m and the budget for 2020/21 was adjusted by £0.800m. Based on the contributions to date and the previous year trend a positive variance of around £0.380m is projected at this stage of the current year.</p>
1.26	<p><b>Strategic Programmes</b></p> <p>The Climate Change Levy (CCL) was in prior years paid as a separate one-off charge. However, from 2019/20 these charges have been included in service specific utility bills within the centralised budgets in Housing &amp; Assets. Based on current consumption levels there is a projected £0.202m underspend within this centrally held budget.</p>
1.27	<p><b>Key Financial Risks – Council Tax Income and Council Tax Reduction Scheme</b></p> <p>In addition to the variances identified in paragraphs 1.04 – 1.26 there are significant impacts on Council Tax income and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.</p> <p>The potential financial impact of these two areas is being reported separately and are not included in the overall projections. This is due to 1) the difficulties in predicting the impacts of these risks at this early stage and 2) the potential for these areas to be further supported by additional Welsh Government funding.</p>

	<p>However, if these cost pressures are not met by additional funding they will add to the projected overspend of £0.963m. An update on the latest position on each area is detailed below.</p>
1.28	<p><b>Council Tax Income</b></p> <p>As with all Councils the pandemic has significantly impacted on council tax collection. At this stage council tax income is 1.4% below target which equates to £1.4m. Income is expected to recover now that recovery processes have resumed in full and when agreed payment deferrals are settled.</p>
1.29	<p>However, it is unlikely that the full budgeted income will be achieved by the end of the financial year and it is estimated that there may be a shortfall of up to 0.6% which equates to £0.600m. Welsh Government are monitoring the situation but taking a longer term view as to any potential support when the recovery impacts are more certain.</p>
1.30	<p><b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)</b></p> <p>During the pandemic there has been a significant increase in demand with additional costs of £0.233m identified as at the first quarter. Welsh Government have confirmed funding for the first quarter estimated at £0.058m. However, the risk remains for the remaining three quarters of the year for existing clients together with the costs of any further increases in demand which is likely in the current economic climate and as the furlough scheme ceases. The impact of this increase in demand could potentially increase the cost pressure by up to a further £0.500m - £0.750m if there were to be no further Welsh Government funding.</p>
1.31	<p><b>OPEN RISKS</b></p> <p>Members were made aware when setting the budget that there were a number of open risks that would need to be kept under close review. An update on these is provided below.</p>
1.32	<p><b>Pay Award</b></p> <p>The 2020/21 budget provides for a 2% pay award for NJC staff across the Council. National negotiations for the 2020/21 pay award have now been concluded with an agreement of a 2.75% pay award which will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The additional cost of this will need to be met from the Contingency Reserve in the current financial year and built into the budget from 2021/22 on a recurring basis. An initial estimate is that this will be in the region of £0.818m.</p> <p>The Teachers Pay Award which is effective from September 2020 has been recommended at 3.1% and is currently out for consultation. The financial impact of this for 2020/21 is estimated to be £0.535m and it is not yet known whether additional funding will be provided by Welsh Government to meet the difference in full or in part.</p>

1.33	<p><b>Charging for Post 16 Transport</b></p> <p>The budget for 2020/21 provides for expected additional income of £0.449m based on the assumption that charging would be introduced from September 2020. This policy decision was reversed by Cabinet in May.</p> <p>The developing financial solution through effective partnership working with Coleg Cambria will assist with mitigating the financial risk for 2020/21 and the outcome will be included in future reports. An agreement has been reached with the college that a level of the anticipated value of the journeys would be reimbursed to the Portfolio. However, the level of this reimbursement is currently £0.047m less than that included in the budget. Therefore this remains a risk to the containment of any costs associated with the journey provision.</p>
1.34	<p><b>Out of County Placements</b></p> <p>Additional funding of £2.7m was included in the budget for 2020/21 to address the historic significant increase in demand. It is currently projected that this increased provision will be sufficient to meet current and forecast demand for the financial year. At this stage, based on current activity there is an overall net projected underspend of £0.151m (underspend of £0.266m within Education offset by an overspend of £0.115m within Children's Service).</p>
1.35	<p><b>Emergency Funding</b></p> <p>In addition to the Hardship Fund Welsh Government has confirmed further funding of £264 million across Wales to continue to support local government for additional costs and income losses. There are no details as yet on eligibility criteria for this funding, although it has been confirmed that income loss claims can continue to be made on a quarterly basis for the remainder of the financial year.</p> <p>Welsh Government have previously confirmed that additional costs for Social Care and Schools will continue to be a priority when considering the use of this funding which is encouraging to ensure that the Council can continue to meet the impact of these additional costs.</p> <p>The recent announcement on funding for the first quarter of increased demand for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is also a positive outcome and is currently under consideration for the remainder of the financial year as well as any further increases in demand.</p>
1.36	<p><b>Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies</b></p> <p>The 2020/21 budget contains £5.206m of specific efficiencies which are being tracked and monitored. The Council aims to achieve a 95% rate in 2020/21 as reflected in the MTFS KPI's.</p>

	<p>The current assessment of the efficiencies to be achieved in 2020/21 shows that £4.982m or 96% of the efficiencies will be achieved.</p> <p>The risk remains that any ongoing under-achievement of efficiencies will have a recurring and negative impact on the 2020/21 budget. Further details on the current status on efficiencies can be seen in Appendix 2 with the overall impact in relation to any impact for 2021/22 being reviewed as part of the ongoing work on the MTFS.</p>
1.37	<p><b>Reserves and Balances</b></p> <p><b>Un-earmarked Reserves</b></p> <p>The level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2020/21 was £2.370m as detailed in the 2019/20 outturn report. This is the amount available for general purposes following the set-aside of £3.0m for Emergency Funding. There is an estimated additional requirement of £0.818m arising from the outcome of the national pay award negotiations as set out in paragraph 1.32.</p>
1.38	<p>It is recommended that an amount of £0.134m is allocated from the Contingency Reserve for Social Services for known pressures in 2020/21. This funding will bring additional capacity to business support arrangements and compliance with safeguarding requirements within Children's Services.</p> <p>It will enable the work with victims identified through Operation Lenten to be finalised and develop our approach to contextual safeguarding (£0.100m). The funding will also be used to support the review of the joint adoption service with Wrexham Council (£0.022m) and to support the move of the Single Point of Access Team to Ty Dewi Sant (£0.012m).</p>
1.39	<p>Taking into account the above and, the current projected overspend at this stage, and previously agreed allocations, the balance on the Contingency Reserve at 31 March 2021 is projected to be £1.418m as detailed in Appendix 3.</p> <p>This assumes that the projected overspend of £0.983m is met from the amount available in the £3m emergency ring-fenced fund which would leave an amount of £1.903m remaining.</p>
1.40	<p><b>Earmarked Reserves</b></p> <p>A summary of earmarked reserves as at 1 April 2020 and an estimate of projected balances as at the end of the financial year will be included in the month 5 report.</p>



1.41	<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>  The 2019/20 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 16 June 2020 showed an un-earmarked closing balance at the end of 2019/20 of £2.009m and a closing balance of earmarked reserves of £0.437m.
1.42	The 2020/21 budget for the HRA is £36.683m which includes a movement of £0.164m to reserves.
1.43	The monitoring for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £0.295m lower than budget and a closing un-earmarked balance as at 31 March 2021 of £2.304m, which at 6.37% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%. Appendix 4 attached refers.
1.44	The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £12.928m.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	As set out within the report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	The financial impacts of the emergency as set out in the report are a combination of actual costs and losses to date and estimates of costs and losses for the future. There is the possibility that the estimates will change over time. The budget will be monitored closely and mitigation actions taken wherever possible.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	None specific.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Fund – Budget Variances Appendix 2: Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies Appendix 3: Council Fund – Movement on Un-earmarked Reserves Appendix 4: Housing Revenue Account Variances

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Various budget records.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Dave Ledsham Strategic Finance Manager</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704503</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk">dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p><b>Council Fund:</b> the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.</p> <p><b>Financial Year:</b> the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.</p> <p><b>Housing Revenue Account:</b> the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy.</p> <p><b>Intermediate Care Fund:</b> Funding provided by Welsh Government to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing.</p> <p><b>Projected Outturn:</b> projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.</p> <p><b>Reserves:</b> these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.</p> <p><b>Revenue:</b> a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.</p>

**Variance:** difference between latest budget and actual income or expenditure. Can be to date if reflecting the current or most up to date position or projected, for example projected to the end of the month or financial year.

**Virement:** the transfer of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virement decisions apply to both revenue and capital expenditure heads, and between expenditure and income, and may include transfers from contingency provisions. Virements may not however be approved between capital and revenue budget heads.

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MONTH 4 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	In-year Variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Social Services</b>							
<b>Older People</b>							
Localities	19.495	18.557	-0.938	-0.058	-0.880	The net cost of Residential Care is £0.654m underspent. This includes the costs of residential care placements net of the income received for this service, such as property charges and contributions from health. There is currently a decline in the demand for residential care placements due to Covid 19. Day Care is £0.058m under budget, with a projection being made that day care provision will not resume until September. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting a combined underspend of £0.051m and are projected based on recent levels of care provision. The Localities Teams staff budget is underspending by £0.109m due to a number of staff not on top of scale, some temporary reduced hours and in-year saving on travel costs. The Minor Adaptations budget is £0.048m underspent based on expected activity.	It is requested for a budget virement of £0.300m is approved to transfer budget for Older People Localities to the Older People Resources and Regulated Services budget.
Resources & Regulated Services	7.680	7.939	0.258	0.292	-0.034	The Councils in-house care provision is reporting an overspend of £0.258m. Day Care is reporting an an overspend of £0.014m, day centres are currently closed and will be for the foreseeable future, day centre staff have been redeployed to residential care. However, the costs are still recorded against the day-care budget. Homecare is overspent by £0.101m. Staff costs are incurred as a result of the amount of care delivered. Costs are projected based on last years levels of activity as costs have been slightly lower than expected for the first few months of 20/21 but these are likely to return to expected levels as the year progresses. Residential care is overspent by £0.292m, the majority of which is due to staffing as mandatory levels must remain in place for residential homes to operate safely, additional costs are incurred when covering staff absences. Overspends also arise from repairs and maintenance costs, catering costs, shortfall in client contribution income and supplies and services. Extra care is underspending by £0.419m as Plas yr Ywen in Holywell has not yet opened and a full compliment of staff is not yet recruited. Care staff already recruited are currently redeployed to alternative in-house care services, which has avoided significant costs caused by COVID-19.	It is being assumed that Plas Yr Wern extra care facility in Holywell will open after October and the projectd costs reflect this.
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000			
Minor Variances	1.217	1.190	-0.027		-0.027		
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>							
Administrative Support	0.321	0.236	-0.084		-0.084	The underspend is due to not all staff being paid at top of scale and some staff being seconded. There is also a reduction on staff transport costs.	

MONTH 4 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	In-year Variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Residential Placements	1.297	1.894	0.597		0.597	The outturn is the cost of social care for people supported within the Mental Health Service. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary care and Direct Payments.	Individual care needs vary over time, sometimes suddenly, costs within the budget are therefore subject to the same volatility.
Minor Variances	29.602	29.421	-0.181		-0.181	Accumulation of minor variances of less than £0.050m.	
<b>Children's Services</b>							
Family Placement	2.621	2.830	0.209		0.209	The overspend is due to current demands on the service from the number of fostering placements, which in some instances avoid making an Out of County placement which would be more expensive. The main pressure areas are payments for foster carers, foster agencies and special guardianship payments.	
Legal & Third Party	0.204	0.529	0.325		0.325	Legal costs are overspent due to the number of cases going through the courts and the use of external legal professionals. Direct Payments have also increased in demand.	
Professional Support	5.270	5.590	0.320		0.320	To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are therefore minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to be able to meet the challenges and demands of Childrens Services.	
Minor Variances	1.491	1.524	0.034		0.034		
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>							
Charging Policy income	-3.060	-3.148	-0.088		-0.088	Charging policy income is expected to exceed the budgeted income and is based on the weekly charge cap and the number of service users who financial contribute to their care.	
Business Support Service	1.214	1.160	-0.054		-0.054	Most of the variance is due to staff costs, whereby staff are not being paid at top of scale and some staff opting out from the pension scheme.	
Management & Support	-2.057	-2.180	-0.123		-0.123	The underspend is due to not having to pay a financial contribution to the Regional Collaboration Unit for 2020/21	
Minor Variances	2.935	2.921	-0.014		-0.014		
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>68.228</b>	<b>68.463</b>	<b>0.234</b>	<b>0.234</b>	<b>-0.000</b>		
<b>Out of County</b>							
Children's Services	7.437	7.552	0.115		0.115	The projected overspend is based on the current cohort of placements and reflects the continuing high demand for Out of County care provision. The service remains highly volatile and the effects of lockdown may lead to further increases in the number of placements as we approach the second half of the year.	Continue to keep under close review and explore future opportunities for cost mitigation.

MONTH 4 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	In-year Variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Education & Youth	4.504	4.238	-0.266		-0.266	The projected underspend reflects the current cohort of Education placements. It should again be noted that the service is highly volatile and there is a potential for increased demand for Out of County provision post lockdown following return to the changed school environment with the possibility that some of the challenges this will present may not be able to met from local provision.	Continue to keep under close review and explore opportunities for cost mitigation.
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>11.940</b>	<b>11.789</b>	<b>-0.151</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.151</b>		
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>							
Integrated Youth Provision	1.351	1.127	-0.224	-0.148	-0.076	Includes a projected underspend of -£0.148m on Youth Centres due to closures arising from COVID-19 safety measures producing savings on building cleaning and some relief staffing costs. Also includes a total saving of -£0.074m on the Youth Justice Service mainly due to a delay in recruitment to a new post and savings on equipment purchase and training.	Continue to review as part of the ongoing challenge of non essential spend.
School Improvement Systems	1.709	1.573	-0.136	-0.136		Variance relates to significantly lower Summer Term 20 payments due to COVID-19. Hours paid are based on an average for Jan/Feb resulting in considerably lower expenditure in comparison to previous years.	
School Planning & Provision	0.676	0.608	-0.068		-0.068	Projected underspend of -£0.043m on insurance liability claims plus other minor underspends	
Minor Variances	5.016	4.990	-0.026		-0.026		
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>8.752</b>	<b>8.299</b>	<b>-0.453</b>	<b>-0.284</b>	<b>-0.169</b>		
<b>Schools</b>							
	<b>98.508</b>	<b>98.508</b>	<b>-0.000</b>				
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							
Service Delivery	8.685	8.940	0.256		0.256	The service has incurred additional revenue pressures from responding to and resolving previously reported security measures and remedial actions following vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. This matter has been widely reported during 2019-20 and has not abated. The monthly costs are now running at up to £0.006m per month, mainly due to the introduction of a night time presence on the sites. In addition a pressure has arisen around Hire of Plant in operations which is a direct result of the delayed delivery of equipment from JCB due to staff being currently on furlough, every effort is being made to secure recovery of this pressure via Welsh Government Grant Claims as a direct result of COVID-19.	

**MONTH 4 - SUMMARY**

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	In-year Variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Highways Network	7.659	7.820	0.161		0.161	A pressure has previously been reported due to the Insurance Premium Tax Levy which was introduced over the last few years. The pressure has been reported over a period of time commencing in the latter part of 2018-19 and formed a part of the overall financial position of the Streetscene Portfolio. Inflation in relation to Street Lighting energy is projected to be increased by £0.075m, but it is anticipated that this can be met from a central inflation allocation from Month 5. Any costs incurred as a direct result of the impact of COVID-19 and any associated risk thereon have been redirected to the COVID code and are now reported separately in order to stringently monitor progression toward successful application for Welsh Government Grant funding.	
Transportation	9.297	9.247	-0.050		-0.050	Increased transport provision to Children placed Out of County of £0.044m. Discussions are ongoing with Social Services colleagues around this. Following Welsh Government Guidance a number of operators have been supported by receiving 75% of their contracted values and the consequential mitigation of these payments has to date covered the pressures identified above.	
Regulatory Services	4.740	4.980	0.240		0.240	This service has experienced a downturn in the levels of income generated by sales of Electricity and this is currently anticipated to reach a level of some £0.120m during the year. All best efforts are being used to identify any potential mitigations which may be available. It should be noted that disposals of kerbside waste to Parc Ader, Thornclyffe and LWT have increased over the past few months and are currently around 12% higher when comparing to last year. This has resulted in increased costs of disposal. At month 4 the impact of this is approximately £0.105m and this is included in the associated forecast position for Streetscene. A business Case for upgrades to the Standard Transfer Station includes a value for the replacement of ageing plant and equipment. This is currently assessed in the sum of approximately £0.030-£0.040m. There has also been a downturn in the rebate for Co-mingled waste due to a considerable drop in the value per ton of approximately £70 - £80 per ton. Car Parking Income continues to cause a pressure as income is not reaching budgeted levels; any income loss as a result of the suspension of charges and falling recycling income levels have been reported to Welsh Government in line with the recently submitted Income loss survey. All costs and associated risk in relation to the impact of COVID have been redirected to the COVID code in order that progression on successful Grant funding applications can be undertaken.	



MONTH 4 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	In-year Variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.855	0.855	0.855		Following a full reconciliation and review of Streetscene expenditure and income loss relating to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all relevant pressures have now been consolidated to one code. This has been done in order to facilitate enhanced reporting and monitoring of the impact. All risks identified are now recorded in this forecast and at month 4 they include; £0.150m Agency and overtime, £0.550m net car parking income loss (reduced following receipt of the first tranche of Welsh Government Income Loss funding), £0.080m in relation to additional vehicles and fuel and £0.075m in relation to additional private contractors and plant hire.	It should also be noted that following the disallowing of expenditure from claims to Welsh Government of the Grass Cutting contract, let due to all operatives being diverted to waste routes, an application for £0.042m has been made for the release of part of the £3m COVID-19 Contingency Reserve allocation.
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>30.380</b>	<b>31.841</b>	<b>1.461</b>	<b>0.855</b>	<b>0.606</b>		
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Business	1.684	1.736	0.053		0.053	Historic income target £0.025m remains unrealised, minor variances across the service	
Development	0.015	0.203	0.188	0.295	-0.107	Pressure within the Building Control service is due in the main, to delays in sourcing core materials means that the construction industry is operating at a low level of capacity. This is resulting in a projected Building Control fee income loss of £0.200m for the financial year, with £0.050m able to offset this from the WG Income Loss fund. There has been a lull in the property market affecting a reduced need for Land Charge searches adding to the overspend. An estimated reduction of 60% on fees and charges would result in a shortfall of £0.095m for the financial year, with £0.020m recoverable from the WG Income Loss fund. Planning fee income is forecast to be £0.210m short in a full year, but this is offset by £0.105m funding from the WG Income Loss Fund for April to June. The overall variance is further mitigated by a confirmed Fee increase for planning and related applications of approx 20% with effect from 24 August, 2020.	
Access	1.307	1.361	0.053	0.050	0.003	Minor variances across the service each below £0.025m	
Regeneration	0.508	0.659	0.151	0.110	0.041	There has been a significant impact on income levels following the closure of Markets in the first quarter of the financial year.	
Minor Variances	2.208	2.228	0.020		0.020		
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>5.723</b>	<b>6.187</b>	<b>0.465</b>	<b>0.455</b>	<b>0.010</b>		
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>							
HR & OD	2.383	2.376	-0.007				
Corporate Finance	2.073	2.080	0.007				
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.456</b>	<b>4.456</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>			
<b>Governance</b>							

**MONTH 4 - SUMMARY**

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	In-year Variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Legal Services	0.730	0.903	0.173		0.173	Overspend as a result of employing locums covering absence to ensure continuing client service delivery in the area of child protection £0.132m; together with previous years efficiency target that was dependant on demand reduction in another service that has not occurred, thereby preventing the consequent achievement of the efficiency £0.091m. Total overspend is mitigated by vacant posts, expected fee income and commitment challenge across the service.	
ICT	4.427	4.362	-0.065		-0.065	In year efficiency on Telecommunications due to contract 'free minutes' £0.033m. Minor variances across the service each less than £0.025m	
Customer Services	0.724	0.795	0.071	0.071		Within the Registration Service there is an estimated loss of income for the remainder of the year due to fee income from the cancellation and suspension of wedding ceremonies due to the pandemic, after taking account of WG Income Loss funding for April to June.	
Revenues	0.034	0.571	0.537	0.537		The national lockdown restrictions have resulted in the cessation of all recovery activities for the in-house bailiff team including enforcement duties. The level of financial risk will be dependent on how long enforcement restrictions are in place. Only when lockdown restrictions ease sufficiently to allow enforcement duties to resume will income levels increase however this will be mitigated by the potential for an additional resource to assist in clearing the backlog of cases.	
Minor Variances	3.274	3.177	-0.097		-0.097	Accumulation of minor variances of less than £0.050m.	
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>9.188</b>	<b>9.807</b>	<b>0.619</b>	<b>0.608</b>	<b>0.012</b>		
<b>Strategic Programmes</b>							
Strategic Programmes	5.018	4.815	-0.203		-0.203	The Climate Change Levy (formerly the Carbon Reduction Levy) was in prior years paid as a separate one-off charge. However, from 2019/20, the energy provider changed the way they issued costs for CCL and these charges are now included in service specific utility bills within the centralised budgets in Housing & Assets, thus providing a projected £0.202m underspend from the centrally held budget in Strategic Programmes.	
<b>Total Strategic Programmes</b>	<b>5.018</b>	<b>4.816</b>	<b>-0.202</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.203</b>		
<b>Housing &amp; Assets</b>							
Enterprise Centres	-0.217	-0.128	0.090		0.090	Pressure due to loss of income in respect of void units	
Property Asset And Development	0.442	0.353	-0.088		-0.088	Mainly staffing cost savings pending completion of restructure	
Caretaking & Security	0.262	0.198	-0.064		-0.064	Staffing savings not needing to be covered whilst Council buildings are only partly occupied	
Centralised Costs	3.353	2.610	-0.743		-0.743	Overall savings predominantly as a result of the demolition of Phase 3 & 4 of County Hall. A reduction in gas and electric prices also contributing to the underspend.	

MONTH 4 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	In-year Variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Benefits	11.616	11.839	0.223	0.119	0.104	Potential net pressure of up to £0.750m on the Council Tax reduction scheme due to additional take up arising from the COVID-19 pandemic impact on employment. This figure takes account of £0.058m of WG emergency funding support in respect of the April to June element of the overall pressure but the £0.750m is not included in the variance figures. Variance includes pressure of £0.119m on staffing costs due the additional demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and overpayments.	Additional staffing costs due to COVID-19 were funded by the WG emergency assistance fund between April and June. We will continue to pursue this by seeking further WG emergency funding support for the ongoing pressure of £0.119m.
Council Fund Housing	-0.328	-0.163	0.165		0.165	Reduction of internal Housing Support grant allocation due to eligibility issues and pressure arising from new service contract for Carelink	
Minor Variances	0.916	0.990	0.074		0.074	Accumulation of minor variances of less than £0.050m.	
<b>Total Housing &amp; Assets</b>	<b>16.044</b>	<b>15.700</b>	<b>-0.344</b>	<b>0.119</b>	<b>-0.463</b>		
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>2.800</b>	<b>2.543</b>	<b>-0.257</b>		<b>-0.257</b>	Vacant posts across the Service	
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>24.950</b>	<b>24.561</b>	<b>-0.389</b>		<b>-0.389</b>	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recoupment against actuarial projections based on the level contributions received to date and forecast to the end of the financial year.	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>285.987</b>	<b>286.970</b>	<b>0.983</b>	<b>1.987</b>	<b>-1.004</b>		

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2020/21 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - M4

Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Efficiency - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed	
		2020/21 £m	2020/21 £m	2020/21 £m			
<b>Portfolio</b>							
<b>Corporate</b>							
Employer Pension Contributions	Reduced requirement due to recovery	Rachel Parry Jones	0.800	0.800	0.000	C	G
Actuarial Review	Reduced contribution rate	All	2.646	2.646	0.000	C	G
Single Person Discount Review	One Off Efficiency	David Barnes	0.300	0.300	0.000	O	G
<b>Total Corporate Services</b>			<b>3.746</b>	<b>3.746</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Social Services</b>							
Reviewing Function	Reduction of Post	Neil Ayling	0.025	0.264	0.239	O	G
Supported Living	Reduction of Voids	Neil Ayling	0.025	0.005	(0.020)	O	G
Communications	Reduction in Mobile Hardware	Neil Ayling	0.030	0.020	(0.010)	O	G
Vacancy Management Saving	Appropriate Vacancy Management	Neil Ayling	0.030	0.025	(0.005)	O	G
Strategic Use of Grant Funding	Core Funding Replacement Solution	Neil Ayling	0.100	0.170	0.070	O	G
Regional Collaboration Wrexham CBC	Reduction in Posts	Neil Ayling	0.030	0.010	(0.020)	O	G
Additional Social Services Grant	Social Services Grant	Neil Ayling	0.426	0.000	(0.426)	O	G
<b>Total Social Services</b>			<b>0.666</b>	<b>0.494</b>	<b>(0.172)</b>		
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>							
Integrated Youth Provision	Youth Centres - Premises	Claire Homard	0.014	0.014	0.000	O	G
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>			<b>0.014</b>	<b>0.014</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							
Discretionary Transport Review - Post 16 Transport	Joint with Education	Steve O Jones	0.449	0.402	(0.047)	O	R
Income from External Works		Steve O Jones	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G
Garden Waste Charges	Additional take up of service	Steve O Jones	0.030	0.030	0.000	O	G
NWRP Gate Fee Benefit	Utilisation of WG Grant funding	Steve O Jones	0.200	0.200	0.000	O	A
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>			<b>0.689</b>	<b>0.642</b>	<b>(0.047)</b>		
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Countryside	Additional Tree Income	Tom Woodall	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G
Countryside	Review of Spending	Tom Woodall	0.017	0.017	0.000	O	G
Review of Pest Control	Trading Standards Investigations and Community Safety	Sian Jones	0.035	0.035	0.000	O	G
Development Management	Increased Planning Fee Income	Mandy Lewis	0.015	0.015	0.000	O	G
Minerals & Waste	Adoption of new SLA with Partners	Gary Nancarrow	0.005	0.000	(0.005)	O	G
Portfolio Admin	Supplies and Services Review	Lynne Fensome	0.005	0.005	0.000	O	G
Regeneration	Bus Dev, Housing and Markets	Niall Waller	0.004	0.004	0.000	O	G
<b>Total Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>			<b>0.091</b>	<b>0.086</b>	<b>(0.005)</b>		
<b>Total 2020/21 Budget Efficiencies</b>			<b>5.206</b>	<b>4.982</b>	<b>(0.224)</b>		

	%	£
<b>Total 2020/21 Budget Efficiencies</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.206</b>
<b>Total Projected 2020/21 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>(0.224)</b>
<b>Total Projected 2020/21 Budget Efficiencies Achieved</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>4.982</b>
<b>Total 2020/21 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Total Projected 2020/21 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Total Projected 2020/21 Budget Efficiencies Achieved</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>

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**Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves**

	<b>£m</b>
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2020	11.025
Less - Base Level	<b>(5.769)</b>
<b>Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet</b>	
Less - allocation for ongoing resourcing of the Victim Contact Team	
Less - amount approved for Childrens Services ' Front Door Pressures'	
Less - COVID-19 Emergency Funding Allocation*	
*Month 4 projected outturn of £0.983m will be funded from this	
Less - projected national pay award increase	
<b>Total Contingency Reserve available for use</b>	

### Appendix 3

<b>£m</b>
5.256
(0.134)
(2.886)
0.818
<b>1.418</b>



**MONTH 4 - SUMMARY**

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>					
Income	(110.050)	(36.493)	73.556	There is a pressure forecast of £0.190m. Of this £0.105m relates to loss of income on properties which are not tenanted and £0.064m to garages, £0.070m relates to void water charges. Additional rental income is projected of £0.063m. The remaining £0.014m is attributed to Minor Variances	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	27.081	9.027	(18.054)		
Estate Management	5.582	1.838	(3.744)	Additional expenditure of £0.058m is anticipated during the year in respect of the purchase of software. This is offset by salary efficiencies arising from vacancy savings of £0.080m	
Landlord Service Costs	4.301	1.442	(2.858)	Minor Variances of £0.009m	
Repairs & Maintenance	26.722	8.467	(18.254)	Reduction in Materials for Responsive and Voids expenditure due to Covid restrictions (£0.221m). Reduced projection of Responsive sub contractor spend on basis of Covid restrictions (£0.138m). Staffing Vacancy savings (£0.109m). Minor variances £0.028m.	
Management & Support Services	7.545	2.483	(5.062)	Efficiency projected of £0.032m of this £0.016m relates to salary savings and £0.016m to minor variances	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	38.785	12.928	(25.856)		
HRA Projects	(0.458)	(0.153)	0.305		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	0.492	0.164	(0.328)		
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>(0.295)</b>	<b>(0.295)</b>		

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Capital Programme Monitoring 2020/21 (Month 4)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report summarises changes made to the Capital Programme 2020/21 since it was set in January 2020 to the end of Month 4 (July 2020), along with expenditure to date and projected outturn.

The Capital Programme has seen a net increase in budget of £6.829 during the period which comprises of:-

- Net budget reduction in the programme of £12.287m (See Table 2 - Council Fund (CF) £0.837m, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£13.124m));
- Introduction of Carry Forward from 2019/20 of £19.766m (CF £19.766m, HRA £0.000m)
- Identified savings at Month 4 (£0.650m) (CF).

Actual expenditure was £9.512m (See Table 3).

The final outturn funding surplus from the 2019/20 – 2021/22 Capital Programme was £1.145m. The 2020/21 – 2022/23 Capital Programme was approved on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020, with a funding deficit of £2.264m. The surplus carried forward led to an opening funding position deficit of £1.119m.

Capital receipts received in the first quarter of 2020/21, along with savings identified, total £0.948m. A request for an additional allocation of £0.217m towards the Queensferry Campus project, puts the current funding deficit, for the 3 year period, at £0.388m. This is in advance of any capital receipts or other funding being realised.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet are requested to approve the overall report.
2	Cabinet are requested to approve the carry forward adjustments set out at 1.16.
3	Cabinet are requested to approve the additional allocations, as set out in 1.19.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING POSITION – MONTH 4 2020/21</b>
1.01	<b>Background</b>  The Council approved a Council Fund (CF) Capital Programme of £42.582m and a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme of £30.464m for 2020/21 at its meeting of 28 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020.
1.02	For presentational purposes the Capital Programme is shown as a whole, with sub-totals for the Council Fund and HRA. In reality the HRA programme is ‘ring fenced’ and can only be used for HRA purposes.
1.03	<b>Changes since Budget approval</b>  Table 1 below sets out how the programme has changed during 2020/21. More detailed cumulative information relating to each Portfolio is provided in Appendix A:-

**Table 1**

REVISED PROGRAMME	Original Budget 2020/21	Carry Forward from 2019/20	2020/21 Savings	Changes - This Period	Revised Budget 2020/21
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
People & Resources	0.400	0.170	0.000	(0.170)	0.400
Governance	1.176	0.975	0.000	0.000	2.151
Education & Youth	10.166	8.519	0.000	(1.582)	17.103
Social Services	1.247	4.188	0.000	3.780	9.215
Planning, Environment & Economy	3.078	0.905	0.000	0.204	4.187
Streetscene & Transportation	3.030	1.302	0.000	10.001	14.333
Strategic Programmes	0.985	0.636	0.000	0.160	1.781
Housing & Assets	22.500	3.071	(0.650)	(11.556)	13.365
<b>Council Fund Total</b>	<b>42.582</b>	<b>19.766</b>	<b>(0.650)</b>	<b>0.837</b>	<b>62.535</b>
<b>HRA Total</b>	<b>30.464</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(13.124)</b>	<b>17.340</b>
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>73.046</b>	<b>19.766</b>	<b>(0.650)</b>	<b>(12.287)</b>	<b>79.875</b>

1.04

**Carry Forward from 2019/20**

Carry forward sums from 2019/20 to 2020/21, totalling £19.766m (CF £19.766m, HRA £0.000m), were approved as a result of the quarterly monitoring reports presented to Cabinet during 2019/20.

1.05

**Changes during this period**

Funding changes during this period have resulted in a net decrease in the programme total of £12.287m (CF £0.837m, HRA (£13.124m)). A summary of the changes, detailing major items, is shown in Table 2 below:-

**Table 2**

<b>CHANGES DURING THIS PERIOD</b>		
	<b>Para</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b><u>COUNCIL FUND</u></b>		
<b>Increases</b>		
Transportation Grants	1.06	10.884
Programme	1.07	3.778
Gypsy and Traveller Capital Grant	1.08	0.286
Other Aggregate Increases		0.718
		15.666
<b>Decreases</b>		
Affordable Housing	1.09	(11.700)
School Moderisation	1.10	(1.590)
Waste Services	1.11	(1.200)
Other Aggregate Decreases		(0.339)
		(14.829)
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.837</b>
<b><u>HRA</u></b>		
<b>Increases</b>		
Other Aggregate Increases		0.000
<b>Decreases</b>		
Across Programme Areas	1.12	(13.124)
		(13.124)
<b>Total</b>		<b>(13.124)</b>

1.06	It is usual in the early part of the financial year to receive notification of funding allocations that were not available at budget setting time. This is the case with the Local Transport, Active Travel, Road Safety and Safe Routes grants from Welsh Government (WG). These grants will provide a range of transportation schemes across the County.
1.07	In addition to the above, the Council also received monies from WG relating to Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) and Innovative Housing Programme (IHP) for works taking place at Marleyfield House Care Home, Buckley.
1.08	There has also been an introduction of grant funding from WG for refurbishment work at the Riverside Traveller site in Queensferry.
1.09	As part of the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), the Council are building new social and affordable houses. An additional £20m loan to NEW Homes was approved in the Capital Programme for

	2020/21. Re-profiling of the prudential borrowing has been carried out to match projected actual expenditure in this financial year.
1.10	Re-profiling of prudential borrowing for school modernisation schemes to next financial year has also been carried out. The service will utilise WG grant funding in the first instance in 2020/21.
1.11	<p>Approval for capital funding for Standard Waste Transfer Station, was subject to receipt of Welsh Government 'Invest to Save' (£1.2m) funding which is no longer available due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Given that replacing Standard is a critical element of the Streetscene Service, it will be necessary for the service to submit a bid for a second element of funding from the Council fund to replace the 'Invest to Save' funds for the 2021/22 programme.</p>
1.12	Re-profiling of budget across all programme areas of the HRA. The current forecast is based on current government advice on the pandemic and subsequent public health guidance for construction work. Due to the social distancing measures in place, this has prevented works from continuing as planned.
1.13	<p><b>Capital Expenditure compared to Budget</b></p> <p>Expenditure as at Month 4, across the whole of the Capital Programme was £9.512m. The breakdown of expenditure is analysed in Table 3, along with the percentage spend against budget.</p> <p>This shows that 11.91% of the budget has been spent (CF 9.10%, HRA 22.02%). Corresponding figures for Month 4 2019/20 were 16.82% (CF 16.13%, HRA 17.91%).</p>
1.14	The table also shows a projected underspend (pending carry forward and other adjustments) of £6.420m on the Council Fund and a break even position on the HRA.

**Table 3**

EXPENDITURE	Revised Budget	Cumulative Expenditure Month 4	Percentage Spend v Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance Budget v Outturn (Under)/Over
	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
People & Resources	0.400	0.000	0.00	0.400	0.000
Governance	2.151	0.029	1.35	1.980	(0.171)
Education & Youth	17.103	0.784	4.58	12.564	(4.539)
Social Services	9.215	1.812	19.66	9.215	0.000
Planning, Environment & Economy	4.187	0.271	6.47	4.000	(0.187)
Streetscene & Transportation	14.333	0.998	6.96	13.790	(0.543)
Strategic Programmes	1.781	0.122	6.85	1.581	(0.200)
Housing & Assets	13.365	1.677	12.55	12.585	(0.780)
<b>Council Fund Total</b>	<b>62.535</b>	<b>5.693</b>	<b>9.10</b>	<b>56.115</b>	<b>(6.420)</b>
Disabled Adaptations	0.737	0.137	18.59	0.737	0.000
Energy Schemes	0.275	0.126	45.82	0.275	0.000
Major Works	1.311	0.403	30.74	1.311	0.000
Accelerated Programmes	0.371	0.045	12.13	0.371	0.000
WHQS Improvements	9.060	2.615	28.86	9.060	0.000
SHARP Programme	5.586	0.493	8.83	5.586	0.000
<b>Housing Revenue Account Total</b>	<b>17.340</b>	<b>3.819</b>	<b>22.02</b>	<b>17.340</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Programme Total</b>	<b>79.875</b>	<b>9.512</b>	<b>11.91</b>	<b>73.455</b>	<b>(6.420)</b>

1.15 Details of the variances for individual programme areas are listed in Appendix B, which includes the reasons, and remedial actions which may be required, where those variances exceed +/- 10% of the revised budget. In addition, where carry forward into 2021/22 has been identified, this is also included in the narrative.

1.16 **Carry Forward into 2021/22**  
During the quarter, carry forward of £6.420m (all CF) has been identified which reflects reviewed spending plans across all programme areas; these amounts can be split into 2 areas, those required to meet the cost of programme works and/or retention payments in 2021/22 and Corporate provision that are allocated as requested and approved.

1.17 The Corporate provision is as follows:-

- Community Asset Transfers - Community groups have a number of years to draw down their funding once approved. These sums are set aside to ensure that funds are available when called upon.

1.18 Information relating to each programme area is contained in Appendix B and summarised in Table 4 below:



**Table 4**

<b>CARRY FORWARD INTO 2021/22</b>	<b>Month 4 £m</b>
Governance	0.171
Education & Youth	4.539
Planning, Environment & Economy	0.187
Streetscene & Transportation	0.543
Strategic Programmes	0.200
Housing & Assets	0.780
<b>Council Fund</b>	<b>6.420</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.420</b>

1.19

**Additional Allocations**

Additional allocations have been identified in the programme in this quarter as follows:

- Arosfa Extension - £0.090m. Arosfa is a short term care facility supporting children and young people who have a physical or learning disability. The facility is regularly oversubscribed meaning short term care has to be purchased Out of County, at additional cost.

Following an assessment of works, revised extension and refurbishment costs of this existing scheme estimate a £0.090m shortfall against allocated funding. Development will generate revenue savings by reducing the costs of Out of County placements, and provide additional, higher quality short term care within the County.

This can be funded from within the current 'headroom' provision.

- Development of Queensferry Campus - £0.217m. Works at Queensferry Campus include the refurbishment of Queensferry CP, the creation of a new Pupil Referral Unit and the development of a new Community Hub building that will cater for local groups. The proposals form part of the WG 21st Century Schools and Education programme.

Following market testing, the total cost of the project is £0.217m in excess of the current funding envelop. Cabinet is requested to approve additional capital resources of £0.217m towards these works.

1.20	<p><b>Savings</b></p> <p>The following saving have been identified in the programme in this quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) - £0.650m. A saving has been identified in relation to the DFG budget. The DFG budget is customer driven and subject to change each year, however the service have reviewed the in-year position carefully and the accrued total budget will not be fully utilised. This one-off saving can be released back into the Capital Programme.</li> </ul>																																	
1.21	<p><b>Funding of 2020/21 Approved Schemes</b></p> <p>The position at Month 4 is summarised in Table 5 below for the three year Capital Programme between 2020/21 – 2022/23:-</p> <p><b>Table 5</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><b>FUNDING OF APPROVED SCHEMES 2020/21 - 2022/23</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>£m</b></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>£m</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Balance carried forward from 2019/20</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">(1.145)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Increases</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shortfall in 2020/21 to 2022/23 Budget</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.264</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional allocation to Queensferry Campus</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.217</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">2.481</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Decreases</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actual In year receipts</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(0.298)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Savings from Disabled Facilities Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(0.650)</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">(0.948)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Funding - (Available)/Shortfall</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><b>0.388</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>FUNDING OF APPROVED SCHEMES 2020/21 - 2022/23</b>				<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	Balance carried forward from 2019/20		(1.145)	<b>Increases</b>			Shortfall in 2020/21 to 2022/23 Budget	2.264		Additional allocation to Queensferry Campus	0.217				2.481	<b>Decreases</b>			Actual In year receipts	(0.298)		Savings from Disabled Facilities Grant	(0.650)	(0.948)	<b>Funding - (Available)/Shortfall</b>		<b>0.388</b>
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1.22	<p>The final outturn funding surplus from the 2019/20 – 2021/22 Capital Programme was £1.145m.</p> <p>The 2020/21 – 2022/23 Capital Programme was approved on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020, with a funding deficit of £2.264m. The surplus carried forward will lead to an opening funding position deficit of £1.119m.</p> <p>Capital receipts received in the first quarter of 2020/21, along with savings identified total £0.948m.</p> <p>A request for an additional allocation of £0.217m towards the Queensferry Campus project, puts the current funding deficit, for the 3 year period, at £0.388m. This is in advance of any capital receipts or other funding being realised.</p>																																	
1.23	<p><b>Investment in County Towns</b></p> <p>At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the Council approved a Notice of Motion relating to the reporting of investment in county towns. The extent</p>																																	

and format of the reporting was agreed at the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

1.24 Table 6 below shows a summary of the 2019/20 actual expenditure, the 2020/21 revised budget and budgets for future years as approved by Council at its meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. Further detail can be found in Appendix C, including details of the 2020/21 spend to Month 4.

**Table 6**

<b>INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS</b>			
	<b>2019/20 Actual £m</b>	<b>2020/21 Revised Budget £m</b>	<b>2021 - 2023 Budget £m</b>
Buckley / Penyffordd	7.729	12.073	0.656
Connah's Quay / Shotton	3.844	6.031	0.000
Flint / Bagillt	3.048	3.587	0.000
Holywell / Caerwys / Mostyn	3.291	1.326	2.956
Mold / Treuddyn / Cilcain	3.406	5.816	3.038
Queensferry / Hawarden / Sealand	5.925	10.160	2.856
Saltney / Broughton / Hope	0.748	2.932	4.222
Unallocated / To Be Confirmed	0.728	7.996	33.920
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.719</b>	<b>49.921</b>	<b>47.648</b>

1.25 The inclusion of actuals for 2019/20 and approved schemes for future years allows a slightly fuller picture of investment plans. However, expenditure which has occurred in years' prior to 2019/20 has not be included, and the expenditure and budgets reported should be considered in that context.

1.26 There are two significant factors which increase allocations to particular areas, which are homes developed under SHARP, and new or remodelled schools. The impact of these can be seen in the detail shown in Appendix C.

1.27 Some expenditure cannot yet be allocated to specific towns as schemes are not yet fully developed or are generic in nature and not easily identifiable to one of the seven areas. As such schemes are identified the expenditure will be allocated to the relevant area.

1.28 Information on the split between internal and external funding can be found in Appendix C.

1.29 In addition to the information contained in Appendix C, there is also considerable capital expenditure on the HRA Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), which was originally outside the scope of this analysis. A summary is provided in Table 7 below, albeit using a slightly different catchment area basis.

**Table 7**

<b>WHQS Programme</b>		
	<b>2019/20 Actual £m</b>	<b>2020/21 Budget £m</b>
Holywell	2.950	0.300
Flint	2.110	0.300
Deeside & Saltney	0.420	2.611
Buckley	0.600	4.579
Mold	7.130	1.432
Connah's Quay & Shotton	0.480	1.400
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.690</b>	<b>10.622</b>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Financial implications - As set out in the body of the report.
2.02	Personnel implications - None directly as a result of this report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<p>This is still an early position in the financial year and some service areas have stated they are likely to have a better position of where schemes stand within the next quarter of the year. COVID-19 recovery plans may also impact on the Programme, causing delays to core funded schemes which may result in them being re-profiled into the next financial year.</p> <p>These delays could impact the delivery of the programme in 2021/22, which could result in future schemes being stalled in order to deliver the schemes carried forward from 2020/21. There is a risk around having resources available to manage and deliver schemes.</p> <p>Grants received in year will be monitored closely to ensure that expenditure is incurred within the terms and conditions of the grant. The capital team will work with project leads to report potential risks of achieving spend within timescales and assist in liaising with the grant provider.</p> <p>The Council has a prudent policy of allocating its own capital receipts to fund capital projects only when receipts are actually received rather than when it is anticipated the receipt will be received, and this position continues to be the case. Due to the pandemic there may be a delay in obtaining capital receipts as the timing of these receipts are also subject to market forces outside of the Council's control. In line with current policy no allowance has</p>

	been made for these receipts in reporting the Council's capital funding position.
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	No consultation is required as a direct result of this report.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A: Capital Programme - Changes during 2020/21
5.02	Appendix B: Variances
5.03	Appendix C: Investment in Towns

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Capital Programme monitoring papers 2020/21.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Chris Taylor, Principal Accountant <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 703309 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk">christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Budget Re-profiling:</b> Capital schemes are very dynamic and a number of factors can influence their timing and funding. Budget re-profiling assures that the correct resources are available in the correct accounting period to finance the actual level of expenditure.</p> <p><b>Capital Expenditure:</b> Expenditure on the acquisition of <b>non-current assets</b> or expenditure which extends the useful life of an existing asset</p> <p><b>Capital Programme:</b> The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.</p> <p><b>Capital Receipts:</b> Receipts (in excess of £10,000) realised from the disposal of assets.</p> <p><b>Carry Forward:</b> Carry forward occurs when schemes due to be completed in a given financial year are delayed until a subsequent year. In this case</p>

the relevant funding is carried forward to meet the delayed, contractually committed expenditure.

**CERA: Capital Expenditure** charged to **Revenue Account**. The Council is allowed to use its revenue resources to fund capital expenditure. However the opposite is not permissible.

**Council Fund (CF):** The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure is charged.

**Housing Revenue Account (HRA):** The fund to which all the Council's revenue and capital expenditure relating to its housing stock is charged.

**MRA: Major Repairs Allowance.** A general capital grant from WG for HRA purposes.

**Non-current Asset:** A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by the Council, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the Council for more than 12 months.

**Section 106:** Monies are received from developers/contractors pursuant to Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. These sums are available for use once the relevant terms of the individual agreement have been met. The monies are most commonly used for educational enhancement, play areas, highways and affordable housing.

**Target Hardening:** Measures taken to prevent unauthorised access to Council sites.

**Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing (USB), commonly referred to as Supported Borrowing** - Each year Welsh Government provide Councils with a Supported Borrowing allocation. Councils borrow to fund capital expenditure equivalent to that annual allocation, Welsh Government then include funding to cover the revenue costs associated with the borrowing for future years within the Revenue Support Grant. The Council decides how this funding is spent.

**Unsupported (Prudential) Borrowing:** Borrowing administered under the Prudential Code, whereby Authorities can set their own policies on acceptable levels and types of borrowing. The Prudential Framework allows Authorities to take out loans in response to overall cash flow forecasts and other factors provided they can show that the borrowing is to meet planned capital expenditure in the current year or the next three years.

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME - CHANGES DURING 2020/21

	Original Budget 2020/21	Carry Forward from 2019/20	2020/21 Savings	Changes (Current)	Revised Budget 2020/21
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Council Fund :</b>					
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>					
'Headroom'	0.350	0.170	0.000	(0.170)	0.350
Corporate Finance - H & S	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.050
	<b>0.400</b>	<b>0.170</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.170)</b>	<b>0.400</b>
<b>Governance</b>					
Information Technology	1.176	0.975	0.000	0.000	2.151
	<b>1.176</b>	<b>0.975</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>2.151</b>
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>					
Education - General	1.500	2.668	0.000	(1.200)	2.968
Primary Schools	2.399	0.065	0.000	0.118	2.582
Schools Modernisation	5.365	0.072	0.000	(0.550)	4.887
Secondary Schools	0.652	5.784	0.000	0.008	6.444
Special Education	0.250	(0.070)	0.000	0.042	0.222
	<b>10.166</b>	<b>8.519</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(1.582)</b>	<b>17.103</b>
<b>Social Services</b>					
Services to Older People	0.725	4.048	0.000	3.778	8.551
Children's Services	0.522	0.140	0.000	0.002	0.664
	<b>1.247</b>	<b>4.188</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>3.780</b>	<b>9.215</b>
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>					
Closed Landfill Sites	0.000	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250
Engineering	0.038	0.350	0.000	0.038	0.426
Energy Services	2.950	0.300	0.000	(0.339)	2.911
Ranger Services	0.040	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.045
Townscape Heritage Initiatives	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.342	0.392
Private Sector Renewal/Improv't	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.163
	<b>3.078</b>	<b>0.905</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.204</b>	<b>4.187</b>
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>					
Waste	2.430	0.497	0.000	(0.953)	1.974
Cemeteries	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070
Highways	0.600	0.704	0.000	0.000	1.304
Local Transport Grant	0.000	0.055	0.000	10.884	10.939
Solar Farms	0.000	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046
	<b>3.030</b>	<b>1.302</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>10.001</b>	<b>14.333</b>

APPENDIX A (Cont.)

	Original Budget 2020/21	Carry Forward from 2019/20	2020/21	Changes (Current)	Revised Budget 2020/21
			Savings		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Strategic Programmes</b>					
Leisure Centres	0.285	0.047	0.000	(0.022)	0.310
Play Areas	0.200	0.218	0.000	0.000	0.418
Libraries	0.000	0.012	0.000	0.022	0.034
Theatr Clwyd	0.500	0.359	0.000	0.160	1.019
	<b>0.985</b>	<b>0.636</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.160</b>	<b>1.781</b>
<b>Housing &amp; Assets</b>					
Administrative Buildings	0.650	1.205	0.000	0.286	2.141
Community Asset Transfers	0.100	0.836	0.000	0.000	0.936
Food Poverty	0.050	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.092
Affordable Housing	20.000	0.000	0.000	(11.700)	8.300
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.700	0.988	(0.650)	(0.142)	1.896
	<b>22.500</b>	<b>3.071</b>	<b>(0.650)</b>	<b>(11.556)</b>	<b>13.365</b>
<b>Housing Revenue Account :</b>					
Disabled Adaptations	1.104	0.000	0.000	(0.367)	0.737
Energy Schemes	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.275
Major Works	1.811	0.000	0.000	(0.500)	1.311
Accelerated Programmes	0.742	0.000	0.000	(0.371)	0.371
WHQS Improvements	15.361	0.000	0.000	(6.301)	9.060
SHARP Programme	11.171	0.000	0.000	(5.585)	5.586
	<b>30.464</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(13.124)</b>	<b>17.340</b>
<b>Totals :</b>					
<b>Council Fund</b>	42.582	19.766	(0.650)	0.837	62.535
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>	30.464	0.000	0.000	(13.124)	17.340
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>73.046</b>	<b>19.766</b>	<b>(0.650)</b>	<b>(12.287)</b>	<b>79.875</b>



## PEOPLE &amp; RESOURCES

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
'Headroom'	0.350	0.000	0.350	0.000	0	0.000		Corporate provision - to be allocated as requested and approved.	Any unspent allocation will be the subject of a carry forward request at outturn.
Corporate Finance - Health & Safety	0.050	0.000	0.050	0.000	0	0.000		Corporate provision - to be allocated as requested and approved.	Any unspent allocation will be the subject of a carry forward request at outturn.
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.400</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.400</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

## GOVERNANCE

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Information Technology	2.151	0.029	1.980	(0.171)	-8	0.000	Cyber Security - This project requires the replacement of a number of security appliances used within the Council. Carry forward of £0.055m is requested due to being able to extend the life an appliances by a further year. Equipment at Datacentres - Due to COVID-19 and the response required from the IT Service, work has not commenced on this project. A request for rollover of the budget £0.180m.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.171m</b> to 2021/22.	£0.64m of budget for the equipment at datacentres is to be used towards the air conditioning replacement at datacentres in year. The service will submit a capital bid for next years programme to replenish this budget.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.151</b>	<b>0.029</b>	<b>1.980</b>	<b>(0.171)</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Education - General	2.968	0.137	2.844	(0.124)	-4	0.000	2021/22 retention monies for the Glanrafon School Kitchen Project (£0.005m) / R&M Schools Backlog (£0.110m) / Fire Risk Assessments (£0.009m).	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.124m</b> to 2021/22.	
Primary Schools	2.582	0.171	2.562	(0.020)	-1	0.000	2021/22 retention monies for the R&M schemes.		
Schools Modernisation	4.887	0.318	4.887	0.000	0	0.000			
Secondary Schools	6.444	0.173	2.049	(4.395)	-68	0.000	Castell Alun High School scheme has not yet entered into contract. Therefore it is likely <b>£4.015m</b> budget will be required to be rolled into 2021/22. Traffic Management scheme at Buckley Elfed <b>£0.380m</b> is on hold until next summer.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£4.395m</b> to 2021/22.	
Special Education	0.222	(0.015)	0.222	0.000	0	0.000	Potential shortfall on DDA Projects due to proposed adaptation schemes in 2020/21.	Ongoing monitoring within the service.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.103</b>	<b>0.784</b>	<b>12.564</b>	<b>(4.539)</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## SOCIAL SERVICES

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Services to Older People	8.551	1.639	8.551	0.000	0	0.000			
Children's Services	0.664	0.173	0.664	0.000	0	0.000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.215</b>	<b>1.812</b>	<b>9.215</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT &amp; ECONOMY

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Closed Landfill Sites	0.250	0.000	0.250	0.000	0	0.000			
Engineering	0.426	0.000	0.239	(0.187)	-44	0.000	Land Drainage - £0.085m funding required in 2021/22 to levy grant funding from WG for future and unforeseen flood and drainage capital works. Awaiting DCWW position on whether and when works at Gadlys Lane will proceed, £0.102m.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.187m</b> to 2021/22.	
Energy Services	2.911	(0.013)	2.911	0.000	0	0.000			
Ranger Services	0.045	0.005	0.045	0.000	0	0.000			
Townscape Heritage Initiatives	0.392	0.068	0.392	0.000	0	0.000			Bailey Hill - Awaiting full archaeological investigation / Covid delays and unexpected archaeology.
Private Sector Renewal/Improvement	0.163	0.210	0.163	0.000	0	0.000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.187</b>	<b>0.271</b>	<b>4.000</b>	<b>(0.187)</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTATION

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Waste Services	1.974	0.206	1.477	(0.497)	-25	0.000	Expenditure on transfer station development now taking place in the 2021/22 financial year.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.497m</b> to 2021/22.	Dependent on intended projects progressing by both Denbighshire and Conwy Councils
Cemeteries	0.070	0.005	0.070	0.000	0	0.000		Continued Monitoring.	Project has been delayed as a result of COVID-19. Possible roll forward request in future monitoring periods.
Highways	1.304	0.046	1.304	0.000	0	0.000			
Local Transport Grant	10.939	0.740	10.939	0.000	0	0.000			
Solar Farms	0.046	0.000	0.000	(0.046)	-100	0.000	Works to take place in 2021/22 for the installation of Solar PV at Standard Waste Transfer Station, to ensure site is energy neutral. This is a requirement as part wider improvement scheme at the site.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.046m</b> to 2021/22.	
	<b>14.333</b>	<b>0.998</b>	<b>13.790</b>	<b>(0.543)</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Leisure Centres	0.310	0.039	0.310	0.000	0	0.000			
Play Areas	0.418	0.037	0.218	(0.200)	-48	0.000	Aura has produced a 3 year Play Area Strategy. Central to the Play Area Strategy is the External Condition Survey of all Flintshire's Play Areas which is due to be completed in Autumn. Both the Play Area Strategy and External Condition Survey will inform the £0.200m Corporate Maintenance Budget which is now likely to be spent in 2021/22.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.200m</b> to 2021/22.	
Libraries	0.034	0.007	0.034	0.000	0	0.000			
Theatr Clwyd	1.019	0.039	1.019	0.000	0	0.000			Grant funding is being explored.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.781</b>	<b>0.122</b>	<b>1.581</b>	<b>(0.200)</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## HOUSING &amp; ASSETS

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Administrative Buildings	2.141	0.825	2.141	0.000	0	0.000			
Community Asset Transfers	0.936	0.062	0.156	(0.780)	-83	0.000	Expenditure is incurred as and when schemes are signed off.	<b>Carry Forward</b> - Request approval to move funding of <b>£0.780m</b> to 2021/22.	
Food Poverty	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0	0.000			
Affordable Housing	8.300	0.392	8.300	0.000	0	0.000			
Disabled Facilities Grants	1.896	0.306	1.896	0.000	0	0.000			DFG spend is customer driven and volatile.
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.365</b>	<b>1.677</b>	<b>12.585</b>	<b>(0.780)</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget £m	Actual Exp. £m	Projected Outturn £m	Variance (Under)/ Over £m	Variance %age %	Variance Prev Qtr £m	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
Disabled Adaptations	0.737	0.137	0.737	0.000	0	0.000			
Energy Services	0.275	0.126	0.275	0.000	0	0.000			
Major Works	1.311	0.403	1.311	0.000	0	0.000			
Accelerated Programmes	0.371	0.045	0.371	0.000	0	0.000			
WHS Improvements	9.060	2.615	9.060	0.000	0	0.000			
SMRP	5.586	0.493	5.586	0.000	0	0.000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.340</b>	<b>3.819</b>	<b>17.340</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn



## SUMMARY

## Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/21 - Month 4

Programme Area	Total Budget	Actual Exp.	Projected Outturn	Variance (Under)/ Over	Variance %age	Variance Prev Qtr	Cause of Variance	Action Required	Comments
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	£m			
People & Resources	0.400	0.000	0.400	0.000	0	0.000			
Governance	2.151	0.029	1.980	(0.171)	-8	0.000			
Education & Youth	17.103	0.784	12.564	(4.539)	-27	0.000			
Social Services	9.215	1.812	9.215	0.000	0	0.000			
Planning, Environment & Economy	4.187	0.271	4.000	(0.187)	-4	0.000			
Streetscene & Transportation	14.333	0.998	13.790	(0.543)	-4	0.000			
Strategic Programmes	1.781	0.122	1.581	(0.200)	-11	0.000			
Housing & Assets	13.365	1.677	12.585	(0.780)	-6	0.000			
<b>Sub Total - Council Fund</b>	<b>62.535</b>	<b>5.693</b>	<b>56.115</b>	<b>(6.420)</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>0.000</b>			
Housing Revenue Account	17.340	3.819	17.340	0.000	0	0.000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>79.875</b>	<b>9.511</b>	<b>73.455</b>	<b>(6.420)</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>0.000</b>			

Variance = Budget v Projected Outturn

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INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS - 2019/20 ACTUAL SPEND

APPENDIX C

TOWN FUNDING	19/20 ACTUAL £000	BUCKLEY		CONNAH'S QUAY		FLINT		HOLYWELL		MOLD		QUEENSFERRY		SALTNEY		UNALLOCATED		TOTALS				
		Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Total £000		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>																						
<b>HOUSING - HRA</b>																						
SHARP	5,576	1,706	236	7		10		1,385	1	466			1,765							3,574	2,002	5,576
<b>EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH</b>																						
Connah's Quay High School	3,435				1,435	2,000														1,435	2,000	3,435
Queensferry Campus	368											368								368	0	368
Penyffordd Amalgamation	2,138	1,945	193																	1,945	193	2,138
<b>School Extension &amp; Remodelling:-</b>																						
Mynydd Isa Argoed High School	270	270																		270	0	270
St John the Baptist	232	188	44																	188	44	232
Bagillt Ysgol Glan Aber	2,184						1,017	1,167												1,017	1,167	2,184
Castell Alun High School	477													477						477	0	477
Shotton St Ethelwolds	217			2	215															2	215	217
Flint Saint Richard Gwyn	531							531												0	531	531
<b>PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT &amp; ECONOMY</b>																						
Bailey Hill	271											271								0	271	271
Targeted Regeneration Investment	474								474											0	474	474
<b>SOCIAL CARE</b>																						
LD Day Care Facility	1,016												1,016							0	1,016	1,016
Marleyfield EPH	595		595																	0	595	595
<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTION</b>																						
Bus Stops	59			50	9															50	9	59
Highways Maintenance	2,349	112	269	26	100	46	174	119	447	86	324	24	89	52	197	60	224		525	1,824	2,349	
Transport Grant	3,769						103	62	274		201		2,663		22		444		62	3,707	3,769	
<b>STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES</b>																						
Treaty Clwyd - Redevelopment	1,135									284	851									284	851	1,135
<b>HOUSING &amp; ASSETS</b>																						
Affordable Housing	3,623	1,662	509					294	235	923										2,879	744	3,623
	<b>28,719</b>	<b>5,883</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>668</b>		<b>13,076</b>	<b>15,643</b>	<b>28,719</b>	

AREA TOTAL

7,729

3,844

3,048

3,291

3,406

5,925

748

728



TOWN FUNDING	ACTUAL TO DATE £000	BUCKLEY		CONNAH'S QUAY		FLINT		HOLYWELL		MOLD		QUEENSFERRY		SALTNEY		UNALLOCATED		TOTALS				
		Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Total £000		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>																						
<b>HOUSING - HRA</b>																						
SHARP	493	108								86		299								493	0	493
<b>EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH</b>																						
Connah's Quay High School	42				42															0	42	42
Queensferry Campus	148												148							0	148	148
Castell Alun High School	148													148						148	0	148
																				0	0	0
<b>SOCIAL CARE</b>																						
Marleyfield EPH	1,629		1,629																	0	1,629	1,629
<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTION</b>																						
Highways Maintenance	46								39	7										46	0	46
Transport Grant	740				47		164	18	77				153		28		253			18	722	740
<b>STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES</b>																						
Theatr Clwyd - Redevelopment	23									6	17									6	17	23
<b>HOUSING &amp; ASSETS</b>																						
County Hall Demolition	526									526										526	0	526
Affordable Housing	362									362										362	0	362
	4,157	108	1,629	0	89	0	164	57	77	987	17	299	301	148	28	0	253			1,599	2,558	4,157
<b>AREA TOTAL</b>			1,737		89		164		134		1,004		600		176		253					

INVESTMENT IN COUNTY TOWNS - 2021- 2023 BUDGET

APPENDIX C (Cont)

TOWN FUNDING	FUTURE BUDGET £000	BUCKLEY		CONNAH'S QUAY		FLINT		HOLYWELL		MOLD		QUEENSFERRY		SALTNEY		UNALLOCATED		TOTALS			
		Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Internal £000	External £000	Total £000			
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>																					
<b>HOUSING - HRA</b>																					
SHARP	15,048							1,916		10		31					13,091		15,048	0	15,048
<b>EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH</b>																					
Queensferry Campus	2,825											1,020	1,805						1,020	1,805	2,825
Brynford CP	1,040							1,040											1,040	0	1,040
Castell Alun High School	4,222													4,222					4,222	0	4,222
Joint Archive Facility, FCC and DCC	3,028									3,028									3,028	0	3,028
<b>SOCIAL CARE</b>																					
Marleyfield EPH	656	656																	656	0	656
Foster Care Homes Adaptations	120																120		120	0	120
Mockingbird	688																	688	0	688	688
<b>STREETSCENE &amp; TRANSPORTION</b>																					
Highways Asset Management Plan:-	1,200																1,200		1,200	0	1,200
<b>HOUSING &amp; ASSETS</b>																					
Affordable Housing	18,821																18,821		18,821	0	18,821
	47,648	656	0	0	0	0	0	2,956	0	3,038	0	1,051	1,805	4,222	0		33,232	688	45,155	2,493	47,648
<b>AREA TOTAL</b>			656	0	0	0	0	2,956	0	3,038	0	2,856	4,222				33,920				



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 for recommendation for approval to Council (attached as Appendix 1).

As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Annual Report was reviewed by Audit Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 and will be presented to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 subject to Cabinet recommendation for approval.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members approve recommendation of the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 to Council.
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## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE ANNUAL REPORT</b>
1.01	On 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2019, following the recommendation of the Cabinet and consideration by the Audit Committee, the Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20.
1.02	The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Corporate Finance Manager, who acts in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Strategy and Practices.
1.03	The Council has nominated Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of Treasury Management Strategy and Policies.
	<b><u>CONSIDERATIONS</u></b>
1.04	The draft Annual Treasury Management Report 2019/20 is attached as Appendix 1. As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, this Annual Report was reviewed by Audit Committee on 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020 and will also be reported to Council on 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2020.
	<b><u>Summary of Key Points</u></b>
1.05	The two major influences on the UK economy in 2019/20 were the uncertainty created by the negotiations towards the UK's exit from the European Union followed by the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Bank of England rate held steady at 0.75% for most of 2019/20 but in March was cut to 0.25%, and soon after to 0.1%. Section 2 of the report provides a full economic and interest rate review for 2019/20.
1.06	Short term money market rates remained at very low levels which continued to have a significant impact on investment income. The average return on Council investments for the year was 0.62%. Section 4 provides further details of the Council's investment activity during the year.
1.07	Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) long term rates remained low during 2019/20 and a total of £19.45m PWLB loans were taken out during the year. Of these, £1.95m have been on-lent to NEW Homes, the Council's wholly owned subsidiary, to fund the building of affordable homes in Flintshire. Section 3 provides more information on borrowing and debt management during the year.
1.08	Debt rescheduling opportunities were considered by officers and the Council's treasury management advisors. The premium charged for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. As a consequence, no rescheduling activity was undertaken.



1.09	The treasury function operated within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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2.01	Financial implications are addressed in the report.
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
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3.01	Arlingclose Ltd, being the Council's treasury management advisors.
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
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4.01	Risk Management directly addressed within the report and appendices including identification of risks and measures to mitigate likelihood and impact of risks identified.
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
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5.01	1. Draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20
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<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
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6.01	None
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<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
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7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Paul Vaughan – Interim Technical Finance Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702219 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:paul.vaughan@flintshire.gov.uk">paul.vaughan@flintshire.gov.uk</a>
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<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
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	<p><b>Authorised Limit:</b> A statutory limit that sets the maximum level of external debt for the Council.</p> <p><b>Balances and Reserves:</b> Accumulated sums that are held, either for specific future costs or commitments (known as earmarked) or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.</p>
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**Bank Rate:** The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate".

**Basis Point:** A unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent). In most cases, it refers to changes in interest rates and bond yields. For example, if interest rates rise by 25 basis points, it means that rates have risen by 0.25% percentage points.

**Bond:** A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.

**Capital Expenditure:** Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets.

**Capital Financing Requirement (CFR):** The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.

**Certificates of Deposits (CD's):** A savings certificate entitling the bearer to receive interest. A CD bears a maturity date, a specified fixed interest rate and can be issued in any denomination. CDs are generally issued by commercial banks. The term of a CD generally ranges from one month to five years.

**Cost of Carry:** The "cost of carry" is the difference between what is paid to borrow compared to the interest which could be earned. For example, if one takes out borrowing at 5% and invests the money at 1.5%, there is a cost of carry of 3.5%.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** The UK's main measure of inflation (along with Retail Price Index or 'RPI') The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England set the Bank Rate in order to try and keep CPI at or close to the target set by the Government. The calculation of CPI includes many items of normal household expenditure but excludes some items such as mortgage interest payments and Council Tax.

**Credit Rating:** Formal opinion by a registered rating agency of a counterparty's future ability to meet its financial liabilities; these are opinions only and not guarantees.

**Corporate Bonds:** Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.

**Counterparty List:** List of approved financial institutions with which the Council can place investments.

**Debt Management Office (DMO):** The DMO is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury and provides direct access for local authorities into a government deposit facility known as the Debt Management Account

Deposit Facility (DMADF). All deposits are guaranteed by HM Government and therefore have the equivalent of a sovereign credit rating.

**Federal Reserve:** The US central bank, the equivalent of the Bank of England. (Often referred to as “the Fed”).

**Financial Instruments:** Financial instruments are tradable assets of any kind. They can be cash, evidence of an ownership interest in an entity, or a contractual right to receive or deliver cash or another financial instrument

**Gilts:** Gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government. They take their name from ‘gilt-edged’. They are deemed to be very secure as the investor expects to receive the full face value of the bond to be repaid on maturity.

**LIBID:** The London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) is the rate bid by banks on Eurocurrency deposits (i.e. the rate at which a bank is willing to borrow from other banks).

**LIBOR:** The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is the rate of interest that banks charge to lend money to each other. The British Bankers' Association (BBA) work with a small group of large banks to set the LIBOR rate each day. The wholesale markets allow banks who need money to borrow from those with surplus amounts. The banks with surplus amounts of money are keen to lend so that they can generate interest which it would not otherwise receive.

**LOBO:** Stands for Lender Option Borrower Option. The underlying loan facility is typically very long-term - for example 40 to 60 years - and the interest rate is fixed. However, in the LOBO facility the lender has the option to call on the facilities at pre-determined future dates. On these call dates, the lender can propose or impose a new fixed rate for the remaining term of the facility and the borrower has the ‘option’ to either accept the new imposed fixed rate or repay the loan facility.

**IFRS:** International Financial Reporting Standards.

**Maturity:** The date when an investment or borrowing is repaid.

**Maturity Structure / Profile:** A table or graph showing the amount (or percentage) of debt or investments maturing over a time period.

**Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** Government Body that sets the Bank Rate. Its primary target is to keep inflation within 1% of a central target of 2%. Its secondary target is to support the Government in maintaining high and stable levels of growth and employment.

**Money Market Funds (MMF):** Pooled funds which invest in a range of short term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity.

**Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP):** An annual provision that the Council is statutorily required to set aside and charge to the Revenue Account for the repayment of debt associated with expenditure incurred on capital assets.

**Non Specified Investment:** Investments which fall outside the WG Guidance for Specified investments (below).

**Operational Boundary:** This linked directly to the Council's estimates of the CFR and estimates of other day to day cash flow requirements. This indicator is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit reflecting the most likely prudent but not worst case scenario but without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit.

**Premiums and Discounts:** In the context of local authority borrowing,  
(a) the premium is the penalty arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date and  
(b) the discount is the gain arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date.

**Prudential Code:** Developed by CIPFA and introduced in April 2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice.

**Prudential Indicators:** Indicators determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable; they are not intended to be comparative performance indicators

**Public Works Loans Board (PWLB):** The PWLB is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. The PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.

**Quantitative Easing (QE):** In relation to the UK, it is the process used by the Bank of England to directly increase the quantity of money in the economy. It does not involve printing more banknotes. Instead, the Bank buys assets from private sector institutions – that could be insurance companies, pension funds, banks or non-financial firms – and credits the seller's bank account. So the seller has more money in their bank account, while their bank holds a corresponding claim against the Bank of England (known as reserves). The end result is more money out in the wider economy.

**Revenue Expenditure:** Expenditure to meet the continuing cost of delivery of services including salaries and wages, the purchase of materials and capital financing charges.

**Retail Price Index (RPI):** A monthly index demonstrating the movement in the cost of living as it tracks the prices of goods and services including mortgage interest and rent.

**Term Deposits:** Deposits of cash with terms attached relating to maturity and rate of return (Interest).

**Specified Investments:** Term used in the Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. Investments that offer high security and high liquidity, in sterling and for no more than one year. UK government, local authorities and bodies that have a high credit rating.

**Supported Borrowing:** Borrowing for which the costs are supported by the government or third party.

**Supranational Bonds:** Instruments issued by supranational organisations created by governments through international treaties (often called multilateral development banks). The bonds carry an AAA rating in their own right. Examples of supranational organisations are the European Investment Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

**Treasury Bills (T-Bills):** Treasury Bills are short term Government debt instruments and, just like temporary loans used by local authorities, are a means to manage cash flow. They are issued by the Debt Management Office and are an eligible sovereign instrument, meaning that they have an AAA-rating.

**Treasury Management Code:** CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services, initially brought in 2003, subsequently updated in 2009 and 2011.

**Treasury Management Practices (TMP):** Treasury Management Practices set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve its policies and objectives and prescribe how it will manage and control these activities.

**Temporary Borrowing:** Borrowing to cover peaks and troughs of cash flow, not to fund capital spending.

**Unsupported Borrowing:** Borrowing which is self-financed by the local authority. This is also sometimes referred to as Prudential Borrowing.

**Yield:** The measure of the return on an investment instrument.

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# **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

### **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

## **1.00 INTRODUCTION**

The Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 (the Strategy) including key indicators, limits and an annual investment strategy on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The Strategy was produced based on the 2017 edition of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice.

The purpose of this report is to review the outcomes from 2019/20 treasury management operations and compare these with the Strategy.

Treasury management comprises the management of the local authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

## **2.00 ECONOMIC & INTEREST RATE REVIEW 2019/20**

*This is provided by Arlingclose Ltd, the Council's treasury management advisors.*

### **2.01 Economic commentary**

The UK's exit from the European Union and future trading arrangements had remained one of the major influences on the UK economy and sentiment during 2019/20. The 29th March 2019 Brexit deadline was extended to 12th April, then to 31st October and finally to 31st January 2020. Politics played a major role in financial markets over the period as the UK's tenuous progress negotiating its exit from the European Union together with its future trading arrangements drove volatility, particularly in foreign exchange markets. The outcome of December's General Election removed a lot of the uncertainty and looked set to provide a 'bounce' to confidence and activity.

The headline rate of UK Consumer Price Inflation fell to 1.7% year on year in February, below the Bank of England's target of 2%. Labour market data remained positive. The ILO unemployment rate was 3.9% in the three months to January 2020 while the employment rate hit a record high of 76.5%. The average annual growth rate for pay excluding bonuses was 3.1% in January 2020 and the same when bonuses were included, providing some evidence that a shortage of labour had been supporting wages.

GDP growth in Q4 2019 was reported as flat by the Office for National Statistics and service sector growth slowed and production and construction activity contracted on the back of what at the time were concerns over the impact of global trade tensions on economic activity. The annual rate of GDP growth remained below-trend at 1.1%.



Then coronavirus swiftly changed everything. COVID-19, which had first appeared in China in December 2019, started spreading across the globe causing plummeting sentiment and falls in financial markets not seen since the Global Financial Crisis as part of a flight to quality into sovereign debt and other perceived 'safe' assets.

In response to the spread of the virus and sharp increase in those infected, the government enforced lockdowns, central banks and governments around the world cut interest rates and introduced massive stimulus packages in an attempt to reduce some of the negative economic impact to domestic and global growth.

The Bank of England, which had held policy rates steady at 0.75% through most of 2019/20, moved in March to cut rates to 0.25% from 0.75% and then swiftly thereafter brought them down further to the record low of 0.1%. In conjunction with these cuts, the UK government introduced a number of measures to help businesses and households impacted by a series of ever-tightening social restrictions, culminating in pretty much the entire lockdown of the UK.

The US economy grew at an annualised rate of 2.1% in Q4 2019. After escalating trade wars and a protracted standoff, the signing of Phase 1 of the trade agreement between the US and China in January was initially positive for both economies, but COVID-19 severely impacted sentiment and production in both countries. Against a slowing economic outlook, the US Federal Reserve began cutting rates in August. Following a series of five cuts, the largest of which were in March 2020, the Fed Funds rate fell from 2.5% to range of 0% - 0.25%. The US government also unleashed a raft of COVID-19 related measures and support for its economy including a \$2 trillion fiscal stimulus package. With interest rates already on (or below) the floor, the European Central Bank held its base rate at 0% and deposit rate at -0.5%.

## **2.02 Financial markets**

Financial markets sold off sharply as the impact from the coronavirus worsened. After starting positively in 2020, the FTSE 100 fell over 30% at its worst point with stock markets in other countries seeing similar huge falls. In March sterling touched its lowest level against the dollar since 1985. The measures implemented by central banks and governments helped restore some confidence and financial markets have rebounded in recent weeks but remain extremely volatile. The flight to quality caused gilts yields to fall substantially. The 5-year benchmark falling from 0.75% in April 2019 to 0.26% on 31st March. The 10-year benchmark yield fell from 1% to 0.4%, the 20-year benchmark yield from 1.47% to 0.76% over the same period. 1-month, 3-month and 12-month bid rates averaged 0.61%, 0.72% and 0.88% respectively over the period.

Since the start of the calendar 2020, the yield on 2-year US treasuries had fallen

from 1.573% to 0.20% and from 1.877% to 0.61% for 10-year treasuries. German bund yields remain negative.

### **3.00 BORROWING REQUIREMENTS AND DEBT MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.01 PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) Certainty Rate**

The Council qualified for the PWLB Certainty Rate, allowing the authority to borrow at a reduction of 20 basis points on the Standard Rate for a further 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

#### **3.02 Borrowing Activity in 2019/20.**

The total long term borrowing outstanding, brought forward into 2019/20 totalled £272.8 million.

	<b>Balance 01/04/2019 £m</b>	<b>Debt Maturing £m</b>	<b>New Debt £m</b>	<b>Balance 31/03/2020 £m</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>340.1</b>	(6.6)	16.8	<b>350.3</b>
<b>Short Term Borrowing</b>	44.0	(44.0)	53.0	53.0
<b>Long Term Borrowing</b>	272.8	(0.9)	19.4	291.3
<b>TOTAL BORROWING</b>	<b>316.8</b>	<b>(44.9)</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>344.3</b>
<b>Other Long Term Liabilities</b>	5.0	(0.5)	0.0	4.5
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT</b>	<b>321.8</b>	<b>(45.4)</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>348.8</b>
<b>Increase/(Decrease in Borrowing (£m))</b>	-	-	27.0	

The Council's Capital Programme is financed by a combination of capital receipts and grants, CERA (revenue contributions) and borrowing. The borrowing strategy in recent years, in accordance with advice received from the Council's treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, has been to use existing cash balances and short term borrowing to confirm the long term borrowing requirement. This is to ensure that the Council does not commit to long term borrowing too early and borrow unnecessarily which will be costly. This is balanced against securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the

period for which the funds are required so as not to compromise the long term stability of the portfolio.

Short term borrowing continued to be available throughout the year at much lower rates than long term borrowing and was utilised as far as possible without exposing the Council to excessive refinancing risk. The total short term (temporary) borrowing as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was £53m with an average rate of 1.07%.

The relative costs and benefits of internal / short term borrowing and long term borrowing were monitored closely, in conjunction with Arlingclose, throughout the year. The Council continues to have a long term borrowing requirement and as PWLB long term rates remained low during the year the following loans were taken out:

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Maturity Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Loan Type</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2019	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2034	£10.0m	1.65%	EIP
13 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2019	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2037	£7.5m	1.28%	EIP
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2060	£584k	3.06%	Annuity
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2020	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2060	£294k	2.65%	Annuity
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2020	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2060	£1.07m	2.65%	Annuity

£1.95m of these loans have been on-lent to NEW Homes, the Council's wholly owned subsidiary, to fund the building of affordable homes in Flintshire.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, loans with the PWLB were in the form of fixed rate (£257.16m) and variable rate (£10m), £18.95m were variable in the form of LOBO's (Lender Option Borrower Option) and £5.17m were interest free loans from the Government, available for specific schemes. The Council's average rate for long term borrowing was 4.57%.

The Council's underlying need to borrow as measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was £350.3m. The Council's total external debt was £348.8m.

### **3.03 Loans at Variable Rates**

The Council has £10m of PWLB variable rate loans, at an average rate of 0.91% which mitigate the impact of changes in variable rates on the Council's overall treasury portfolio. This strategic exposure to variable interest rates will be regularly reviewed and, if appropriate, reduced by switching into fixed rate loans.

### 3.04 Lender Option Borrower Option loans (LOBOs)

The Council holds £18.95m of LOBOs, loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. All of these LOBOs had options during the year, none of which were exercised by the lender.

### 3.05 Debt Rescheduling

Options for debt rescheduling were explored in conjunction with our treasury management advisors. The premium charged for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. As a consequence no rescheduling activity was undertaken.

The Corporate Finance Manager, in conjunction with the Council's treasury advisors, will continue to review any potential opportunities for restructuring the Council's debt in order to take advantage of potential savings as interest rates change and to enhance the balance of the long term portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

## 4.00 INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

### 4.01 Guidance

The Welsh Government's Investment Guidance gives priority to security and liquidity and the Council's aim is to achieve a yield commensurate with these principles.

### 4.02 Investment Activity in 2019/20

#### Summary of investments as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Country	Total	<1 month	1 –12 months	>12 months
	£m	%	£m	£m
UK BANKS				
UK BUILDING SOCIETIES				
OVERSEAS				
MMF's				
LOCAL AUTHORITIES				
DMO	31.1	31.1		
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0</b>

As none of these investments were greater than three months they are classified as cash in the Council's Balance Sheet.

Security of capital remained the Council's main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its Strategy for 2019/20. Investments during the year included:

- Deposits with the Debt Management Office
- Deposits with other local authorities
- Investments in AAA-rated Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) money market funds
- Call accounts and deposits with banks and building societies

#### **4.03 Credit Risk**

The Authority assessed and monitored counterparty credit quality with reference to credit ratings; credit default swaps; GDP of the country in which the institution operates; the country's net debt as a percentage of GDP and share price. The minimum long-term counterparty credit rating determined by the Authority for the 2019/20 treasury strategy was A-/A-/A3 across rating agencies Fitch, S&P and Moody's.

#### **4.04 Counterparty Update**

In Q4 2019 Fitch affirmed the UK's AA sovereign rating, removed it from Rating Watch Negative (RWN) and assigned a negative outlook. Fitch then affirmed UK banks' long-term ratings, removed the RWN and assigned a stable outlook. Standard & Poor's also affirmed the UK sovereign AA rating and revised the outlook to stable from negative. The Bank of England announced its latest stress tests results for the main seven UK banking groups. All seven passed on both a common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio and a leverage ratio basis. Under the test scenario the banks' aggregate level of CET1 capital would remain twice their level before the 2008 financial crisis.

After remaining flat in January and February and between a range of 30-55bps, Credit Default Swap spreads rose sharply in March as the potential impact of the coronavirus on bank balance sheets gave cause for concern. Spreads declined in late March and through to mid-April but remain above their initial 2020 levels. NatWest Markets Plc (non-ring-fenced) remains the highest at 128bps and National Westminster Bank Plc (ring-fenced) still the lowest at 56bps. The other main UK banks are between 65bps and 123bps, with the latter being the thinly traded and volatile Santander UK CDS.

While the UK and non-UK banks on the Arlingclose counterparty list remain in a strong and well-capitalised position, the duration advice on all these banks was cut to 35 days in mid-March.

Fitch downgraded the UK sovereign rating to AA- in March which was followed by a number of actions on UK and non-UK banks. This included revising the outlook on all banks on the counterparty list to negative, with the exception of Barclays Bank, Rabobank, Handelsbanken and Nordea Bank which were placed on Rating Watch Negative, as well as cutting Close Brothers long-term rating to A-. Having revised their outlooks to negative, Fitch upgraded the long-term ratings on Canadian and German banks but downgraded the long-term ratings for Australian banks. HSBC Bank and HSBC UK Bank, however, had their long-term ratings increased by Fitch to AA-.

#### **4.05 Liquidity**

In keeping with the WG's Guidance on Investments, the Council maintained a sufficient level of liquidity through the use of money market funds and call accounts.

#### **4.06 Yield**

The UK Bank Rate began the year at 0.75% with decreases in March to 0.25% then to 0.10%. Short term money market rates also remained at very low levels which continued to have a significant impact on investment income. The low rates of return on the Authority's short-dated money market investments reflect prevailing market conditions and the Authority's objective of optimising returns commensurate with the principles of security and liquidity.

The Authority's budgeted investment income for the year had been prudently estimated at £80k. The average cash balance was £25.9m during the period and interest earned was £163k, at an average interest rate of 0.62%.

#### **4.07 Loans to NEW Homes**

The loans to NEW Homes do not meet the definition of an investment and are not therefore included in the Council's investment figures below. They are classed as capital expenditure.

### **5.00 COMPLIANCE**

The Council can confirm that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2019/20. These were approved by Council as part of the Treasury Management Strategy on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during 2019/20. None of the Prudential Indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

The treasury function operated within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement 2019/20.

## **6.00 OTHER ITEMS**

The following were the main treasury activities during 2019/20

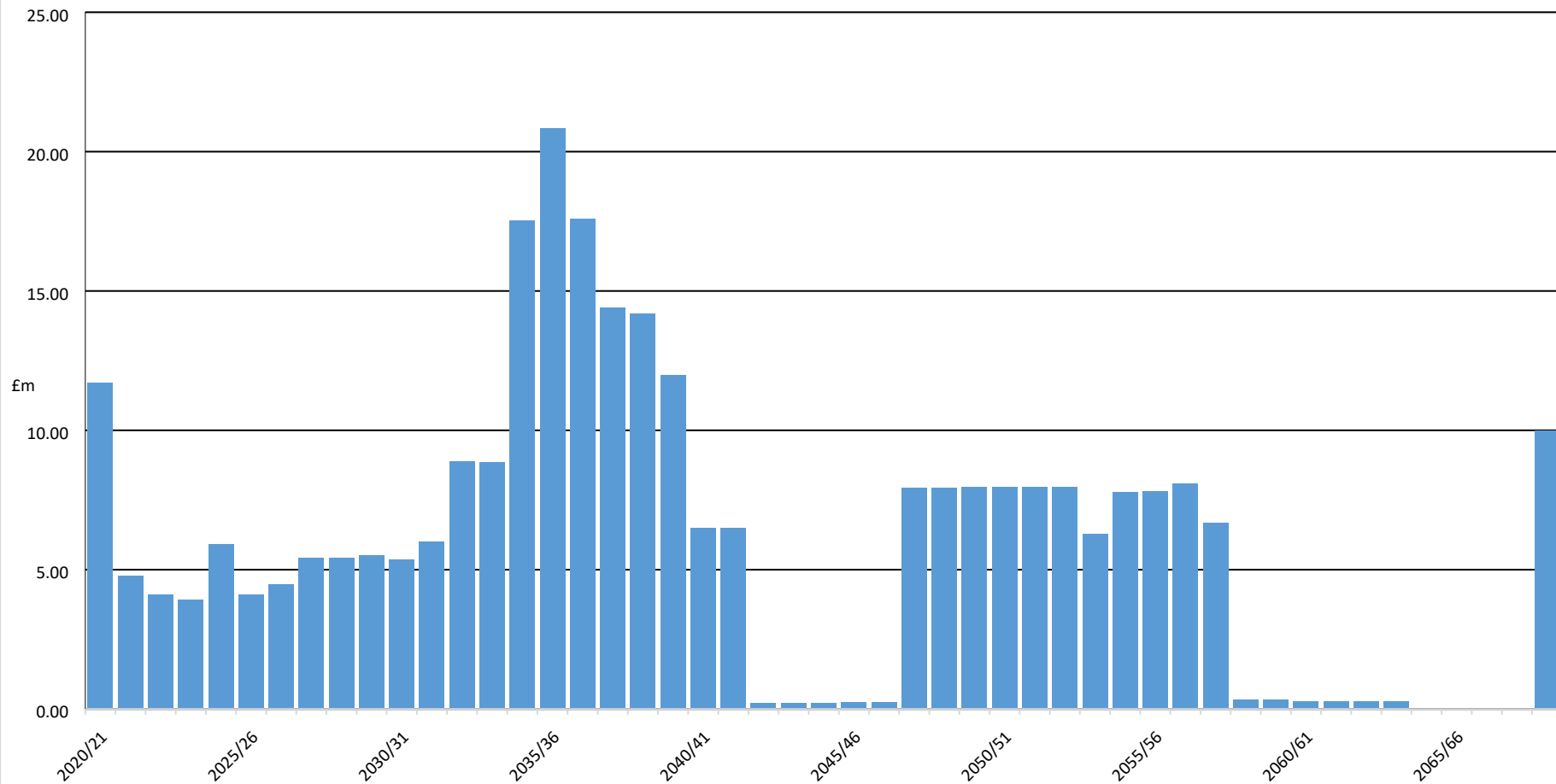
- The Council's Audit Committee received a Mid-Year Report on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- Quarterly update reports were presented to the Audit Committee.
- The 2020/21 Investment Strategy Statement was approved by Council on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- The Council continued to be a member of the CIPFA Treasury Management Network.
- The Council's cash flow was managed on a daily basis. During the year the Council acted both as a borrower and as a lender and was a net borrower over the year in question. The maximum investments the Authority had on deposit at any one time were £50.5m and the maximum long-term borrowing at any one time was £291.3m.

## **7.00 CONCLUSION**

The treasury management function has operated within the statutory and local limits detailed in the 2019/20 Treasury Management Strategy.

The Policy was implemented in a pro-active manner with security and liquidity as the focus.

Debt Maturity Profile - March 2020







## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Revised Consultation Process for the Progression of Traffic Regulation Orders and Welsh Government Grant Funded Schemes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to the current physical distancing restrictions associated with the on-going Covid 19 pandemic, concerns have been raised regarding the Council's ability to fulfil its statutory duty of consultation, both for the progression of Welsh Government (WG) annual grant schemes and also the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's).

Whilst the ability to progress TRO's has since been addressed through the issuing of revised legislation by WG (detailed within this report for information), the purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the introduction of a revised process of consultation to progress the Council's WG Annual Grant Transport Schemes for the 2020/21 financial year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet acknowledge the restrictions associated with conducting consultation events during the Covid 19 pandemic and approves the implementation of the revised consultation process for the 2020/21 WG Transport Schemes.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
1.01	Legislation requires the Authority to have consultation processes in place for the progression of statutory Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) and national policy stipulates the need for public engagement for the progression of Welsh Government (WG) grant-funded transport schemes.
1.02	The current process for consulting on TRO's and Grant-Funded Schemes was presented to Cabinet on 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 in the report ' <i>Review of the Consultation Process for Introducing Traffic Calming and Other Highway Traffic and Safety Features on the Highway</i> ' and has been included within <b><u>Appendix 1</u></b> for information.
1.03	Physical distancing guidelines, introduced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, has led to the Council postponing schemes and TRO consultation events. Whilst revised legislation has since been introduced enabling the recent recommencement of the TRO process (described below), the Council's current policy of consultation in respect of WG grant funded transport schemes remains unsuitable, and therefore, it is now necessary to revise the consultation process to avoid large gatherings and exposure for high risk and vulnerable groups.
1.04	<p><b><u>Traffic Regulation Orders:</u></b></p> <p>Pre-Covid, the current process for progressing TRO's would require Officers to engage with the respective Local Member(s) in order to ascertain approval for the proposal. Should the scheme receive the support of the Local Member, proposals would then be subject to a full 21 day Statutory Consultation Process which would include the erection of Public Notices on site, copies of the proposal placed on deposit for public viewing at the Council's Principal Office (Alltami Depot) and designated locations (local Library / Connects Centre), advertisements placed within the local press and proposals displayed on the Flintshire County Council website.</p>
1.05	Given it was not possible for the Council to satisfy the statutory consultation requirements by placing the documents on deposit for public viewing, a decision was made to suspend the advertisement of TRO's in order to avoid potential challenge. This situation has however, recently been alleviated following Welsh Governments recently published draft legislation "The Traffic Orders Procedure (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2020" which came into force in July 2020. The revised legislation provides an alternative means of publicising Orders in circumstances where it is not reasonably practicable to follow previous requirements. The revised legislation also simplifies the procedure for making temporary traffic Orders that are made for purposes relating to Coronavirus.
1.06	In light of this pending legislation, the Council has since reviewed its TRO consultation procedure in respect of the depositing of information for public viewing. Whilst it remains a requirement for documents to be viewed at the Principal Office, documents are now displayed within an area of designated window space at Alltami Depot only, thus alleviating the need for members of the public to enter both the Council's Depot and other public

	buildings. In addition to the above, the Council will continue to utilise site notices and newspaper advertisements with virtual documents being made available on the Council's webpage.
1.07	In the event that an enquirer is unable to visit the Principal Office or access the information online, an offer will be made to dispatch a hard copy by post. Also, to ensure that there is no prejudice, the department will continue to work with other agencies to ensure that an enhanced level of engagement is available to the elderly or others with special needs requirements.
1.08	<p><b><u>WG Annual Grant Schemes:</u></b></p> <p>Pre-Covid, the process for progressing the Council's WG transport funded schemes, would in the first instance, require Officers to obtain the support from the respective Local Member(s), for whom will seek the views and support of the respective Town / Community Council. This may involve the consideration of a number of scheme options, however, upon the agreement of a preferred option, Officers will then submit an application to WG for funding. Should the application be successful, a wider consultation exercise with the local community would then be undertaken. This would involve the undertaking of a letter drop inviting residents to attend a number of Public Consultation events where Council Officers will be present to talk through the proposals and to answer any questions or concerns. Should elements of the proposals require the introduction of a TRO, the process described above would be followed.</p>
1.09	Despite the gradual relaxation of physical distancing guidelines and shielding requirements for those most at risk from Covid, there is still a desire to reduce the need for large gatherings and indoor meetings and events. In order for the Council to adhere to its statutory duty of consultation for the progression of Transport Schemes, the following amendments to the consultation process are proposed;
1.10	Having received the approval of the respective Local Member and upon successful award of grant funding, it is proposed that a letter drop to all properties within the extents of any given scheme will be conducted in the first instance, inviting residents to view the proposals on-line via the Council's website. This will also provide residents with an opportunity to view 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ's), however, in the event that the FAQ's do not address particular concerns, residents will also have the option to submit questions to a central email address which can be accessed by the Officers concerned. For residents that do not have on-line access, a call-back option (detailed within the initial letter) can also be requested via the 'Streetscene General Enquiries' telephone number.
1.11	In the event that matters cannot be addressed or resolved via the above process and until such time that indoor events can resume, outdoor 'pop-up' consultation events can be arranged for a limited number of residents at any given time in order to comply with current social distancing requirements. Such events would take place in a nearby outdoor space and will require attendees to pre-book an appointment where residents would again be given the opportunity to view proposals and to discuss matters with Council Officers.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Should the Authority not seek to adopt an amended process during the period of the pandemic, the Council run the risk of either not adhering to its statutory duty of consultation, or, failure of its responsibility to deliver required infrastructure improvement works as defined within the Active Travel Act / Road Safety Framework for Wales.
2.02	Whist the Council have enjoyed great success with the acquisition of Welsh Government grant funding, the progression of the Council's transport strategy as a whole will be dependent on the ability to adequately consult with key stakeholders. Failure to deliver in-year schemes may also impact on the Councils ability to successfully acquire future Welsh Government Grant funding.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
3.01	Long-term	<p><b>Positive</b> – The adoption of a revised process of consultation will not only enable the progression of in-year schemes but will also enable the progression of the Council's transport strategy as a whole.</p> <p>The Council's ability to introduce low carbon sustainable transport options aligns itself with the long term aspirations of The Environment (Wales) Act, The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act &amp; The Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations. The concept is also strongly endorsed within the Council's Council Plan under the priority of a 'Green Council' for which is reinforced by the Council's approach to integrated and sustainable transport.</p>
	Prevention	<p><b>Positive</b> – The adoption of a revised process of consultation will safeguard the County's most vulnerable groups, thus limiting potential exposure to Covid 19 and controlling the spread of infection amongst the local population.</p> <p>The revised process will also enable the delivery and progression of the Council's in year schemes, thus maintaining the confidence of Welsh Government for future funding.</p> <p>The continuation of the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy will reinforce the Council's commitment to climate</p>

	change whilst also facilitating a vision for a zero carbon future as defined within WG legislation. Implementation of the required infrastructure will provide reliance to County's highway network and also boost the Council's status as a 'key player' within the region thus reducing the risk of public abandonment in terms of tourism, residential and business growth.
Integration	<b>Positive</b> – The continued development and delivery of multi-modal integrated transport options is key to the success of a sustainable, integrated transport network.
Collaboration	<p><b>Positive</b> – The adoption of a revised process of consultation will enable the Council to engage with Key groups including the County's most vulnerable who may otherwise, be prevented / discouraged from attending events through fears of personal risk &amp; exposure.</p> <p>The continual development of a fit for purpose Integrated Transport Strategy will enable FCC to work with local authorities across the region in order to standardise the provision of infrastructure.</p> <p>The nature of this approach recognises the importance of strategic cross-border movements to the local economy in terms of commuter movements, business and tourism.</p>
Involvement	<b>Positive</b> – Implementation of successful transport interventions thus far demonstrates the Council's engagement with key stakeholders both cross border and within WG.
<b>Well-being Goals Impact</b>	
Prosperous Wales	<p>Limiting the spread of Covid 19 will greatly assist the Welsh economy in the forthcoming economic recovery.</p> <p>The continuation of the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy will boost the Council's status as a 'key player' within the region thus reducing the risk of public abandonment in terms of tourism, residential and business growth.</p>

Resilient Wales	<p><b>Positive</b> - The continuation of the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy and ability to deliver required infrastructure improvement works (as defined within the Active Travel Act / Road Safety Framework) is key to the success of a sustainable, integrated transport network.</p> <p>The provision of a revised process of consultation will improve the resilience of the local population, not only in terms of assisting economic recovery, but also facilitating increased confidence amongst service users.</p>
Healthier Wales	<p><b>Positive</b> – The adoption of a revised process of consultation will enable the County's most vulnerable groups to actively engage during the consultation process without fears of personal risk &amp; exposure, thus limiting the spread of Covid 19.</p> <p>The ability to promote and develop active and sustainable transport modes provide obvious benefits to air quality through the reduction of Co2 emissions. This will also greatly assist the Council to achieve decarbonisation targets set within Central and WG legislation.</p>
More Equal Wales	<p><b>Positive</b> – The adoption of a revised process of consultation will enable the County's most vulnerable groups to actively engage during the consultation process without fears of personal risk &amp; exposure, thus limiting the spread of Covid 19. Vulnerable groups may include disabled residents, those with underlying health conditions and also residents from ethnic minority backgrounds.</p> <p>Improved connectivity through the implementation of required infrastructure will benefit tourism, residential and business growth. Health benefits obtained from improved air quality and increased levels of exercise will benefit the Council's most deprived communities, often associated with densely populated areas.</p>
Cohesive Wales	<p><b>Positive</b> – The visible presence of active and sustainable transport options within the County will have a positive effect on</p>

		public awareness whilst displaying the Council's outward commitment to climate change.
	Vibrant Wales	<b>Positive</b> – The continued development and implementation of active and sustainable transport modes will improve the quality and sustainability of the natural environment whilst providing benefits to the local and regional economy in terms of tourism, residential and business growth.
	Globally Responsible Wales	<b>Positive</b> – The adoption of a revised process of consultation will safeguard the County's most vulnerable groups, thus limiting potential exposure to Covid 19 and controlling the spread of infection amongst the local population and beyond into neighbouring Counties.  The continuation of the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy will reinforce the Council's commitment to climate change whilst also striving to achieve a zero carbon future as defined within Central and WG legislation.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	With Cabinet Member (Streetscene and Countryside).
4.02	With EMRT.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<b>Appendix 1:</b> Review of the Consultation Process for Introducing Traffic Calming and Other Highway Traffic and Safety Features on the Highway.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Stephen O Jones, Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704700 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

8.00	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Coronavirus:</b> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus which has been designated as a World Pandemic.</p> <p><b>Traffic Regulation Orders: Traffic Regulation Orders:</b> (TROs) are legal agreements which Local Authorities or the Police to enforce regulations including on-street parking and speed limits. Most TROs are created with input from local communities and the Police in order to address specific traffic congestion, concerns of safety or quality of life issues.</p> <p><b>Flintshire County Council Integrated Transport Strategy:</b> An integrated strategy aiming to provide long term sustainable transport solutions through the successful integration of all modes of transport, which links to all of Flintshire and the wider region.</p> <p><b>Active Travel (Wales) Act:</b> A statutory document introduced in 2013, its purpose is to enable more people to undertake active travel for short journeys instead of using motorised vehicles where it is suitable for them to do so. An active travel route must be within a designated locality in a local authority area.</p> <p><b>Road Safety Framework for Wales:</b> The Framework sets out Welsh Government's priorities for road safety, with an emphasis on casualty reduction. The framework aims to regulate the approach of all Partners (which includes Local Authorities) by working towards the key objectives and vision of Welsh Government.</p>



## INFORMAL CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	29 September 2015
<b>Report Subject</b>	Review of the Consultation Process for Introducing Traffic Calming and Other Highway Traffic and Safety Features on the Highway
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Deputy Leader Of The Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
<b>Report By</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Strategic / Operational</b>	Strategic

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The process of engagement with the community on traffic matters can be complex, time consuming and it is very difficult to satisfy individual resident preferences whilst satisfying the Authority's statutory 'duty of care' to reduce accidents on the highway network.

The purpose of this report is to advise Scrutiny of plans to review and formalise the current consultation process with Local Members, Community Councils and members of the public, relating to the implementation of traffic calming measures

The current process for consulting on traffic orders and other safety related schemes has also been detailed for purposes of clarity and transparency

## RECOMMENDATIONS

(1)	That Informal Cabinet approves the proposed approach for consulting with local communities on future traffic calming schemes and notes the process currently followed for community consultation on other road safety arrangements.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>BACKGROUND TO CURRENT CONSULTATION PROCESS</b>
1.01	<p>Currently, all safety schemes (either statistically identified or locally requested) are assessed, scored and ranked in accordance with Flintshire County Council's Road Safety Scheme Matrix. All schemes are prioritised in order of hierarchical score with the highest scoring schemes being included within the Authority's annual bid to Welsh Government.</p>
1.02	<p>For those schemes identified within the Flintshire County Council Road Safety Scheme Matrix that may be eligible for physical traffic calming measures, any potential scheme must then be assessed in accordance with Flintshire County Council's Traffic Calming Policy. The Authority's traffic calming policy assesses both the need and suitability of physical features, taking into consideration factors such as recorded accidents, vehicular speeds, traffic flows, pedestrian generators and high risk / vulnerable users.</p>
1.03	<p>For the implementation of all new physical traffic calming schemes, the current process requires Officers to discuss initial proposals with the Local Member (s) before then engaging directly with Local Residents via a public exhibition. Residents are invited to view the scheme and to comment on the proposals and are provided with an opportunity to vote either in favour or against the scheme by means of a public ballot, which is usually held at the public exhibition. The results of the ballot are then analysed in order to ascertain the level of public support for any given scheme.</p>
1.04	<p>Although residents often welcome the opportunity to engage direct with Officers, the following concerns with this process have been noted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Engagement with mass consultees (local residents) can be complex, time consuming for Officers and in many cases, very difficult to satisfy individual resident demands or preference whilst satisfying the Authority's statutory duty of care to reduce accidents on the Flintshire road network.</li><li>(ii) Satisfying individual requests in one instance can often result in an objection being received from another. Should such a situation occur, Local Members can become embroiled in disagreements for which no apparent outcome can be found.</li><li>(iii) Highway safety proposals, in particular, physical traffic calming measures, are in most cases funded by Welsh Government grant funding and therefore have to be completed within the current financial year for which the funding is granted. Should a situation arise whereby conflicting public support exists, the formal consultation process (for which may include formal objections to the proposals) could delay the implementation of the scheme or in some instances, jeopardise delivery altogether.</li><li>(iv) Should the delivery of a safety scheme be compromised, the</li></ul>

	<p>Authority could be in breach of its statutory duty to reduce accidents having identified the risk via the Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council Safety matrices.</p> <p>(v) Currently, should an individual exercise their right to formally object to proposals, this will be recorded as one objection. By comparison, should the Community Council also wish to object, this would be considered as one objection also, and therefore, may not be deemed as proportionate given the Community Councils function of representing the views of the local community.</p>
1.05	<p>Having identified the concerns within the existing process, it is proposed that in future the Community Council are requested to gather the views of their local community and come to a conclusion on the best option, thus enabling the Authority to engage with a singular consultee in each case</p>
1.06	<p>In line with the existing process, Officers would engage with Local Members in the first instance, providing a number of potential scheme for consideration as well as a 'preferred option'. Once approval has been made with the Local Member, scheme options would then be provided to the Community Council for wider consultation with the local community. On receipt of an agreed option, the scheme would then be formally advertised.</p>
1.07	<p>Should the revised process be adopted, the benefits of adopting a singular Consultee, in this instance the Community Council, are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A revised process will provide the Authority with clarity on scheme preference and general consensus of resident's views (single consultee to represent public support)</li> <li>(ii) Community Council will have direct input into scheme proposals, ensuring increased scheme ownership by the Community Council and the wider community.</li> <li>(iii) Ensure scheme deadlines are achieved in line with grant funding allocation. Engagement with a singular consultee will mitigate risk of delays associated with mass consultees.</li> <li>(iv) Reduction in the level of Officer resources, previously associated with complex consultation process.</li> <li>(v) Streamline process for Local Members greatly reducing potential for inner-ward conflict.</li> </ul>
1.08	<p>For the avoidance of doubt, the Authority must be clear as to the nature of consultation exercise. It is essential that this is made apparent at the point engagement to avoid unrealistic public expectation.</p>
1.09	<p>The Highway Authority has a statutory duty to reduce the number of road traffic collisions on the highway network (in line with Welsh Government Guidance). Should a scheme requiring the implementation of physical measures be identified as appropriate, consultation with the Community Council and wider community will be on the basis of choosing a preferred scheme option and <i>not</i> the principle of the proposal.</p>

1.10	In recent years, the Authority has received a number of requests seeking the removal or changes to existing traffic calming schemes. Such requests often relate to schemes implemented in excess of 15 years ago and often include the earliest forms of speed retardant features (thermoplastic humps or <i>sleeping policemen</i> ). Many of these historic schemes were implemented by direct request of the representative Community Council via match funding initiatives prior to the implementation of the Authorities data led Traffic Calming Policy.
1.11	<p>Traffic calming changes or complete replacement schemes will only be considered in the following circumstances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Significant changes to traffic movements brought about by local highway improvements or changes.</li> <li>2. Road resurfacing</li> <li>3. Continued accident records</li> </ol>
1.12	In the above circumstances the consultation process for the revised scheme will follow the protocol for new schemes as detailed in this report
1.13	Similarly, all requests for the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) are assessed, scored and ranked in accordance with Flintshire County Council's TRO Matrix. Again, all schemes are prioritised in order of hierarchal score, with the highest scoring schemes being included within the annual programme of works pending available funding.
1.14	<p>Consultations following requests for new or amended TRO's will be as follows:</p> <p>In the event that implementation of a traffic regulation order be deemed appropriate, Officers would engage with Local Members in the first instance. Should the scheme receive the support of the Local Member, proposals would then be subject to a full 21 day Statutory Consultation Process which would include public notices erected on site, advertisements within local press and proposals displayed on the Flintshire County Council website.</p>
1.15	Should formal objections be received within the period of advertisement (21 days), Officers will respond to the complainant providing a detailed response to all matters raised. A request for the withdrawal of the objection will also be made within the correspondence. Should the complainant wish to uphold their objection, objections will then be included within a delegation report to Cabinet who will make a decision on the implementation of the order via delegated powers.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	From current staff resources.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	With Cabinet Member on process

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	Should the revised process not be adopted, the Authority is at risk of not adhering to its statutory duty of care to reduce the number of accidents on the Flintshire Road Network - please refer to item 1.09 (iv)

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None  Contact Office: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: <a href="mailto:stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	None

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Suspension of Town Centre Car Parking Charges
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County Council took the decision to suspend all Pay and Display car parking charges across the County from 25th March 2020. This decision was made to limit personal contact and reduce the risk of surface transmission of the COVID-19 virus via the pay and display machines and to assist key workers with essential shopping during the emergency. This aligned with national guidance issued by the British Parking Association.

Following the Welsh Government announcement to allow non-essential shops to reopen from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, the decision was made to continue the suspension of car parking charges until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

This report provides information on the proposal to further extend the suspension of car parking charges until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and provides details of the financial impact of such a decision. The extension will assist with the wider project of town centre recovery and regeneration post lockdown, particularly in the run up to the Christmas shopping period.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet approves the suspension of car parking charges in Flintshire's town centre car parks until 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>EXPLAINING THE PROPOSAL OF SUSPENDING CAR PARKING CHARGES</b>																					
1.01	The County Council took the decision to suspend all Pay and Display car parking charges across the County from 25th March 2020. This decision was made both to reduce personal contact and the risk of surface transmission of the COVID 19 virus from machines and to assist key workers and essential shopping at this challenging time. This aligned with national guidance issued by the British Parking Association <b>Appendix 1</b> . At this time the Civil Parking enforcement team were stood down from routine duties and deployed to assist with other work across the Council.																					
1.02	Following Welsh Governments announcement to allow non-essential shops to reopen from the 22nd June 2020, the decision was made to continue the suspension of charges until the 31st August 2020. This decision was made to support with town centre recovery post lockdown. At this time, the enforcement team were reinstated into their substantive role to ensure that all parking restrictions are being complied with.																					
1.03	To ensure the turnover of available spaces close to the town centre, there remained a requirement for a person parking in short stay car parks to obtain a ticket from the machine and display it in their vehicle. This ensures that valuable spaces were not taken up by those coming to the town centre to park all day. At those machines where a ticket is required, temporary floor markings have been placed to assist with social distancing and sanitisation stations have been placed at each machine. Whilst parking in car parks, all other rules apply such as parking within a marked bay and displaying a valid blue badge when parked in a designated disabled bay.																					
1.04	<p>To date the financial impact of the suspension of car parking charges is as follows:</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><b>Current Car Parking Income Loss Forecast 2020-21</b></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>£m</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual Budget</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Agreed Pressure 2020-21</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">(0.178)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residual Income Budget Target</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">0.844</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income Loss (Apr-Aug)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.352</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Welsh Government Grant Support (Already Received for Q1)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">(0.202)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residual Income Loss (Apr-Aug)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">£0.150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Current Car Parking Income Loss Forecast 2020-21</b>		<b>£m</b>	Annual Budget		1.022	Less Agreed Pressure 2020-21		(0.178)	Residual Income Budget Target		0.844	Income Loss (Apr-Aug)		0.352	Welsh Government Grant Support (Already Received for Q1)		(0.202)	Residual Income Loss (Apr-Aug)		£0.150
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1.05	A review has been undertaken of neighbouring Council's approach to car parking charges ( <b>Appendix 2</b> ). This has shown there has been a varied																					



	<p>approach to the issue. The majority of Council's took a similar decision to Flintshire and suspended all charges, with only a small number choosing to retain them as a way of discouraging people to travel during lockdown. For those who have suspended their charges, most are planning to reintroduce them in September/October 2020.</p> <p>Where charges had remained, income levels during the period of the pandemic have been as low as 10% - 20% of the expected level.</p>										
1.06	<p>It is proposed that the suspension of car parking charges in Flintshire is extended to 31st December 2020. This proposal is intended to support the cross Council work to reopen the town centres and encourage shoppers and visitors to return to our town centres. This approach will also allow for free parking in the run up to the Christmas period which will also support an upturn in shopper footfall.</p> <p>It is recommended that short stay parking continue to be controlled by way of displaying a valid Pay and Display ticket in the window of the vehicle to ensure the turnover of vehicles in spaces closest to the town centre and all other restrictions, such as displaying a blue badge in a disabled space, will still apply.</p>										
1.07	<p>Alternative options on charging structures, such as free parking after 3:00pm or the first two hours parking for free have been considered however, the benefit in income levels would be minimal and the investment to amend the legal orders and site signage for such a short period of time would be uneconomical.</p>										
1.08	<p>The financial impact of suspending parking charges until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 will be:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><b>£m</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Expected income 2020/21</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0.844</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loss of income (Apr-Dec)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0.633</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Welsh Government Grant Support (Already Received for Q1)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(£0.202)</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Residual Income Loss (Apr-Aug)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"> <u>£0.431*</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*There will also be an additional loss of income of approximately £0.0541M for the reduction in issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) due to service users not being required to purchase Pay and Display tickets.</p> <p>The loss of income will have a significant impact on the Streetscene and Transportation budget however, as experienced in other Council's, if charges were to be re-introduced, the expected budgeted income would still not be achieved, due to the reduced footfall.</p>		<b>£m</b>	Expected income 2020/21	£0.844	Loss of income (Apr-Dec)	£0.633	Welsh Government Grant Support (Already Received for Q1)	(£0.202)	 Residual Income Loss (Apr-Aug)	 <u>£0.431*</u>
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1.09	The loss of income will continue to be included in the COVID claim to Welsh Government, for which £0.202M was awarded for the first quarter.
1.10	If approved, a communications plan will be developed to inform service users and a review of onsite signage will undertake. A further review will be necessary in December to assess the situation and plan for the reintroduction of the charging scheme from January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2021.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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2.01	<p>The financial impact of suspending car parking charges from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 will be £0.431M. There will be an additional loss of income of approximately £0.054M for the reduction in issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) due to service users not being required to purchase Pay and Display tickets.</p> <p>There will be an approximate saving of £0.025M paid for the management of cash collections and purchase of P&amp;D Tickets</p> <p>A claim to Welsh Government for the loss on income for Quarter 1 has been successful with £0.202M awarded to date. Claims for quarter 2 and 3 will be made, however the outcome cannot be confirmed.</p>
2.02	There will be no impact on staff resources due to this proposal. The seven enforcement officers employed will still be required to patrol town centre car parks for compliance with set rules. They are also required to undertake on street parking enforcement and environmental crime (fly tip, dog control, littering) patrols and investigations.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
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3.01	<p><b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive – Suspending car parking charges in the short term will support a longer term objective of regenerating the local high streets of Flintshire into recovery following the lockdown phase. Assisting with free parking will encourage more residents to shop local, supporting smaller independent businesses to allow for sustainability in to the future.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Positive – The suspension of parking charges will assist with town centre recovery and prevent further deterioration of the town centre high streets and local independent businesses.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Neutral – No impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive – Collaborative working across portfolios and with Town/Community</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	Positive – Suspending car parking charges in the short term will support a longer term objective of regenerating the local high streets of Flintshire into recovery following the lockdown phase. Assisting with free parking will encourage more residents to shop local, supporting smaller independent businesses to allow for sustainability in to the future.	Prevention	Positive – The suspension of parking charges will assist with town centre recovery and prevent further deterioration of the town centre high streets and local independent businesses.	Integration	Neutral – No impact	Collaboration	Positive – Collaborative working across portfolios and with Town/Community
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		Councils and local businesses to work on an integrated approach to town centre recovery
Involvement		Neutral – No impact
<b>Well-being Goals Impact</b>		
Prosperous Wales		Positive This approach will assist the recovery of local, Welsh, town centre businesses post lockdown to assist with their sustainability in to the future.
Resilient Wales		Positive This approach will assist the recovery of town centre businesses post lockdown to assist with their sustainability in to the future.
Healthier Wales		Neutral – No Impact
More equal Wales		Neutral – No impact
Cohesive Wales		Neutral – No impact
Vibrant Wales		Positive Ensuring the sustainability of local independent Welsh businesses is important to the future of these high streets. Short term loss on income will assist with longer term recovery of businesses to improve the vibrancy of town centres.
Globally responsible Wales		Neutral – No impact

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside.
4.02	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education and Youth.
4.03	Chief Officer Team.
4.04	Neighbouring Authorities (information purpose only).

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 - National guidance on approach to parking enforcement Appendix 2 - Review of other Local Authorities approach to parking charges

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	N/A

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Stephen O Jones  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704700  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">Stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Short Stay Parking</b> – Time restricted parking (usually 2-3 hours) to allow the effective turnover of vehicles for shoppers to access parking spaces close to the town centres</p> <p><b>Penalty Charge Notice</b> – A financial penalty for not complying with the rules and regulation of a legal parking order</p> <p><b>Parking order</b> – A legal document detailing the rules and regulation of the car park.</p> <p><b>Pay by phone</b> – a contactless method of payment of car parking charges.</p>

## Appendix 1 – National Guidance

# Local Authority Parking and Traffic Management Operational Advice during Covid-19



Version 3 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Introduction

This guidance has been produced jointly by the British Parking Association, London Councils and the Local Government Association to assist local authorities to consider appropriate temporary measures in the unprecedented and very challenging circumstances around Covid-19. The authors of this advice will keep it under constant review in light of the rapidly changing situation and update & reissue as necessary. There will be appropriate publicity to accompany this advice, which will be shared with communication leads.

## Benefits of Parking Management

Parking management is an important public service, which provides benefits to motorists and the wider community. Those benefits include maintaining road safety and ensuring access to goods and services. This is extremely important, particularly for certain key workers, as local authorities aim to keep providing essential services at this challenging time.

### **NEW – Parking for critical health and social care workers**

Critical workers in the NHS and social care are doing vital and highly-valued work to support the most vulnerable in our society, save lives and keep our country running. They have been working day and night to as they step up to the unprecedented challenge we face as a nation. As they seek to minimise the spread of infection, we recognise that many will be travelling to and from their place of work by car and other vehicle.

Following an announcement by Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Jenrick, local councils in England are to provide free car parking for NHS staff and social care workers during the coronavirus outbreak. This will enable them to park in on street parking bays and council owned car parks without having to worry about cost or time restrictions.

We are therefore informing all councils that they should suspend parking charges for health and social care workers for on-street parking and open car parks. These critical workers will be encouraged to display supporting evidence in their windscreen, such as photocopies of their work pass with sensitive information removed, or a letter of evidence from their employer. We are also urging councils to waive all fines received by health and social care workers while carrying out

their duties in recent days. These workers should be encouraged and supported to appeal the fines, with supporting evidence of their work.

If a special Covid-19 permit system for healthcare workers had already been set up following previous advice this should just continue.

For information, this advice stated that where virtual permit systems exist, authorities may be able to invite key workers to register online and provide some minimal evidence of their key worker status and vehicle details, so they can be “whitelisted” either for the entire authority area or for a specific controlled area near their place of work.

Where physical permits are needed, authorities should consider emailing a temporary permit which can be self-printed and displayed within the vehicle.

This revised guidance should be effective from 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice.

Authorities may also wish to explore opportunities to increase parking capacity by talking to closed business, shopping centres or opening parks for additional key worker parking.

## **Enforcement**

We advise that the majority of enforcement activity should cease during the lock down period. Authorities may need to continue to deploy their front line teams in some capacity to focus their reduced parking resources on priority areas and controls. Enforcement officers should be focused on providing help and advice about where people can and can't park and encouraging poorly parked vehicles to move where possible rather than issuing PCNs.

It is recommended that any enforcement activity focuses on incidents of obstructive or dangerous parking that could have a more significant impact on safety and access for emergency and essential services. This would include yellow lines at junctions, loading restrictions and obstruction of dropped kerbs.

Those local authorities that undertake vehicle removals should only do so if a vehicle is parked dangerously or obstructing traffic flow. Where possible, any vehicle that needs to be removed should be relocated to a safe, lawful position close by rather than removed to the vehicle pound. Removing to a pound should absolutely be a last resort.

It is likely that in residential areas, parking demand may currently outstrip supply if most residents are at staying at home. This additional pressure will need to be managed carefully to prevent obstructive parking hindering emergency services and the delivery of essential supplies and services, such as waste collection. However, to especially help those who are self-isolating, authorities should take a pragmatic approach to unlawful parking if it is not dangerous or causing an obstruction, particularly in residential controlled parking zones.

Authorities should consider maximising parking spaces in one-hour single yellow line restrictions where commuters might usually park, by relaxing those parking restrictions to enable home-working. Authorities should also consider temporary extensions to their residents permits for the next 3 months and then keep this under review.

## **Moving Traffic Contraventions – London and Wales only**

Most moving traffic controls, such as no entries, banned turns and yellow boxes are for important safety and traffic management purposes. The continuation of enforcement is therefore likely to be important to ensure compliance. However, authorities should consider whether to continue the enforcement of non-safety critical controls.

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**Appendix 2 – Review of neighbouring Authorities approach to parking charges**

		<b>Wrexham</b>	<b>Cheshire West</b>	<b>Powys</b>	<b>Anglesea</b>	<b>Ceredigion</b>
<b>Were charges suspended</b>	YES	YES	NO	NO	Not initially, but recently changed to free after 10am. Coastal car parks remain at full charge.	YES
<b>When are charges be re-introduced</b>	Reintroduced charges in on beach and countryside car parks on the 6 <sup>th</sup> July. Reintroduced charging in town centre car parks on 3 <sup>rd</sup> August.	1st October	N/A	N/A	Town centre sites – standard charges to be reintroduced on 1 September 2020. Coastal car parks re-introduced on 6 <sup>th</sup> July	No date set but not likely to be before end of August/September
<b>Will any changes be made to parking charge structure?</b>	6 town centre car parks (mostly short stay) will remain free until 31st Dec with a max stay of 2 hours (2.5 for blue badge holders)	Car parking charges will be free after 2pm (this was a previously approved policy change and not related to COVID - will implement on the 1st October)	No	From 25th July to 31st April - allowing 2 hours free parking in all car parks.	No, from the 1st September.	No
<b>Relevant Comments</b>	Introduced PayByPhone as an additional “contactless” payment option. They were planning to do this before Covid but have accelerated its implementation		Continued with charges to discourage people attending the town centre.  Using parking technology to support businesses with discount in shops.  50-60% loss in footfall in town centre.	April & May income down by 97%, June down by 91%, July down by 80%	Pay by phone parking payment option to be introduced.  When fully charging income down by 90%	N/A

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Bus Network Review Update
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2018, Cabinet approved a new transport model for bus services in the County which comprised of a financially supported Core Bus Network, supported by sustainable Local Travel Arrangements (L.T.A's) which would serve the Core Network from all other areas of the County.

Subsequently, the existing supported bus services were reviewed and L.T.A's were successfully introduced in several areas of the County. In 2019, a number of commercial services were withdrawn by operators, which led to a further review of the existing LTA services across the County in order that the services could be better utilised to provide vital transport links for residents impacted by the loss of these commercial services.

This report provides an overview of the new LTA's across the County following the review and details the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the service and sets out the plan for the full recovery of these services.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | That Cabinet approves the outcome of the review of Local Travel Arrangements which has been necessary due to the pandemic and the further loss of local commercial bus services. |
|----|--|

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSALS</b>
1.01	<p>There is no statutory duty upon the Council to provide local bus services or any other form of public transport, however, the Council does have a statutory duty under the 1985 and 2000 Transport Acts to keep the bus network under review, and to intervene where it feels appropriate.</p>
1.02	<p>The approved core bus network structure is characterised by a number of key destinations across the County (hubs), such as main towns or public transport interchanges / railway stations with direct, high frequency bus services operating between the hubs and on some cross-boundary corridors to link passengers to key destination hubs for access to education, employment, shopping, health, social and leisure opportunities.</p> <p>The core network predominantly consists of commercial bus services; however, some support has continued to be provided to ensure that connections are maintained and that regular, high quality services continue to link the key hubs along the network.</p>
1.03	<p>In 2019, a number of commercial services that provided transport links along the core network were withdrawn. This triggered a review of the existing LTA services and the introduction of new subsidised bus routes to ensure the continuation of transport provision for those communities affected by the cessation of these commercial services.</p>
1.04	<p>New timetables were produced and publicised on the F.C.C website and press releases and Twitter feeds were released prior to the launch of the new services.</p> <p>Officers met with Town and Community Councils in the communities directly affected by the changes and local members have also supported the changes by publicising the new services and timetables on community media platforms.</p> <p>Leaflets and timetables were also produced and distributed at the Community Council meetings.</p>
1.05	<p>On March 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, and following Government guidelines in relation to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, all LTA's were subsequently suspended until further notice.</p> <p>Notices were distributed to the respective local communities and information was available on the Flintshire County Council website advising passengers of these changes. In order to mitigate the effects of the LTA suspension, the Council's DRT arrangements have remained operational throughout the pandemic providing an essential service for key workers who were impacted by the loss of transport services.</p> <p>The effects of the pandemic also resulted in a reduced service being provided by commercial operators and passengers were informed (via the</p>

	<p>Council's website) to refer to individual commercial operators web pages for up to date timetable information prior to onward travel.</p>
1.06	<p>Following the easing of lockdown restrictions on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the LTA'S were subsequently reinstated. However, given the requirement to operate in accordance with strict physical distancing guidelines, services were only able to operate on a 25% passenger capacity basis.</p> <p>In order to mitigate the reduced passenger capacity on vehicles, revisions were made to a number of timetables to allow for passenger requirements to be accommodated for which recent surveys indicate that passenger demand is currently being met.</p> <p>As can be expected, patronage levels are very much in the process of recovery, operators have reported a rise in confidence amongst transport users and it is anticipated that the recent revision of social distancing measures, combined with Welsh Governments announcement of 'Ramp-up Funding' (which will support Operators ability to increase frequency of services), should result in a continuation of this trend.</p>
1.07	<p>Whilst the Council's progress on the revision of LTA's has unfortunately been hindered by the recent Covid 19 pandemic, it is important to note that the review of the Council's LTA's is an ongoing process and as such, the following immediate proposals (next steps) have been highlighted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Funding has recently been secured from the Welsh Procurement Alliance and Saltney Ferry Town Council which will enable the introduction of a scheduled service to provide residents with access to existing commercial services on the Core Network which will enable onward travel to key services such as employment, education and healthcare. In an attempt to maximise vehicle utilisation, the service will be provided using one of the existing LTA vehicles.</li> <li>(ii) A review of the existing LTA services in Holywell and surrounding communities is due to commence shortly for which proposals will include the optimisation of existing routes and the introduction of TFW's Fflecsi Service, which aims to provide a similar provision to Flintshire's DRT. A copy of TFW's Fflecsi Service presentation is enclosed within <b>Appendix 2</b> for information. The arrangement will be monitored with a view to bringing the existing DRT into the Fflecsi service in the long term.</li> <li>(i) The Council have also been successful with securing Welsh Government Grant Funding for the provision of two Electric Bus Vehicles which are to be utilised on the LT7 and LT4 services. It is proposed that the vehicles will be stationed at the Council's Standard Recycling Yard in Buckley and will be powered by the Council's own energy source from the nearby Solar Farm. A procurement exercise is currently underway in order to acquire the most appropriate vehicles and associated charging infrastructure.</li> </ul>
1.08	<p>As highlighted previously, the Council's review of the LTA's is an ongoing process of continual review and as such, further proposals for the</p>

	forthcoming 6 months are currently being explored for which have been detailed within <b>Appendix 3</b> for information.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The requirement for larger vehicles to provide fully disabled accessible services that can operate on key strategic transport corridors and accommodate larger passenger numbers.
2.02	Investment to establish Quality Partnerships on each core network route to ensure ongoing stability of the network is being provided by WG.
2.03	The Bus Service Support Grant (BSSG) and its predecessor equivalents have been intended to supplement Council's own expenditure, not replace them. Welsh Government has indicated that it is the duty of each Council to determine how to spend its own un-hypothecated funding. Nevertheless, reflecting the fact that BSSG exists to Council's own expenditure, and Welsh Ministers' discretion in relation to the scheme, it should be expected that future BSSG allocations, from April 2019, will be determined to reflect in part Council's own expenditure on supporting bus and community transport services. Any potential reduction in Flintshire's own revenue support funding could therefore result in a reduction of the grant received from Welsh Government.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	There is no legal requirement for Bus operators to consult with Local Authorities before they introduce, change or withdraw a local bus service. Should further services be withdrawn from the core network, the Council will have limited resource to replace.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	With Cabinet Member (Streetscene and Countryside). Consultation with Elected Members. Consultation with Town and Community Council. Consultation with members of the public and community groups and forums. Consultation with bus operators. Consultation with neighbouring Authorities. Consultation with Welsh Government.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 - Buckley DRT Information Leaflet
5.02	Appendix 2 -TFW Fflecsi Service presentation

5.03	Appendix 3 – Flintshire County Council’s LTA Action Plan for forthcoming 6 months.
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<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
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6.01	None.
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<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
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7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Stephen O Jones, Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704700  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>
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<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
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8.01	<p><b>Demand Responsive Travel (DRT)</b> – A form of transport where vehicles alter their routes based on particular transport demand rather than using a fixed route or timetable. These vehicles typically pick-up and drop-off passengers in locations according to passengers needs and can include taxis, buses or other vehicles.</p> <p><b>Local Travel Arrangement (LTA)</b> – Shorter public bus service that runs to a set timetable utilising smaller vehicles (such as minibuses) and transport passengers to a ‘Hub’ enabling onward journeys via commercial services.</p> <p><b>Hub</b> – A Town Centre or bus stop on the core network to be utilised as a transport interchange for connecting passengers to commercial bus services.</p>
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# TRAFNIDIAETH SEILIEDIG AR ALW (DRT) DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT (DRT)

Ardal Bwcle / Buckley Area

01352 704771



**AMDANI** | **GO** →  
← Sir y Fflint | Flintshire



### **Beth yw Trafnidiaeth Seiliedig Ar Alw?**

Mae Cyngor Sir y Fflint yn cyflwyno Trafnidiaeth Seiliedig Ar Alw (DRT) mewn ardaloedd gwledig y Sir lle nad yw gwasanaethau masnachol ar gael. Bydd DRT yn rhoi cysylltiadau gwerthfawr i drigolion â gwasanaethau trafndiaeth, ynghyd â Rhwydwaith Craidd Sir y Fflint, a bydd yn gweithredu yn defnyddio un o gerbydau 16 sedd nodweddiadol Sir y Fflint sy'n hygyrch i gadeiriau olwyn.

### **Cofrestru a Manylion archebu**

Mae'r DRT yn wasanaeth y gellir ei archebu ymlaen llaw, a rhaid i deithwyr gofrestru i'w ddefnyddio. Y ffi gofrestru flynyddol yw £10.00. Fodd bynnag, caiff teithwyr sydd ar y gofrestr ar gyfer y gwasanaeth Ffonio a Theithio Cymunedol ar gyfer mynd i apwyntiadau meddygol eu cofrestru am ddim.

Gellir Cofrestru ac Archebu ar gyfer y Gwasanaeth drwy ffonio ein llinell archebu ymroddedig ar **01352 704771**. Os byddwch angen canslo, y cyfan sydd angen i chi ei wneud yw ffonio'r llinell archebu cyn gynted â phosibl. Sylwch, os byddwch chi'n canslo dro ar ôl tro ar fyr rybudd, mae'n bosibl na fydd modd i chi ddefnyddio'r gwasanaeth ymhellach.

### **What is Demand Responsive Transport?**

Flintshire County Council are introducing Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) in rural areas of the County where commercial services are not available. DRT will provide residents with valuable links to transport services along Flintshire's Core Network and will operate using one of Flintshire's distinctive, 16 seater wheelchair accessible vehicles.

### **Registration and Booking details**

The DRT is a prebookable service and passengers must register to use it. The annual registration fee is £10.00 however, passengers registered for the Community Ring and Ride service for medical appointments are registered for free.

Service Registration and Bookings can be made by calling our dedicated booking line on **01352 704771**. If you need to cancel all you need to do is phone on the booking line as soon as you are able. Please note, if you make repeated short notice cancellations you may not be allowed to make further bookings.

## Lle a sut y bydd yn gweithredu?

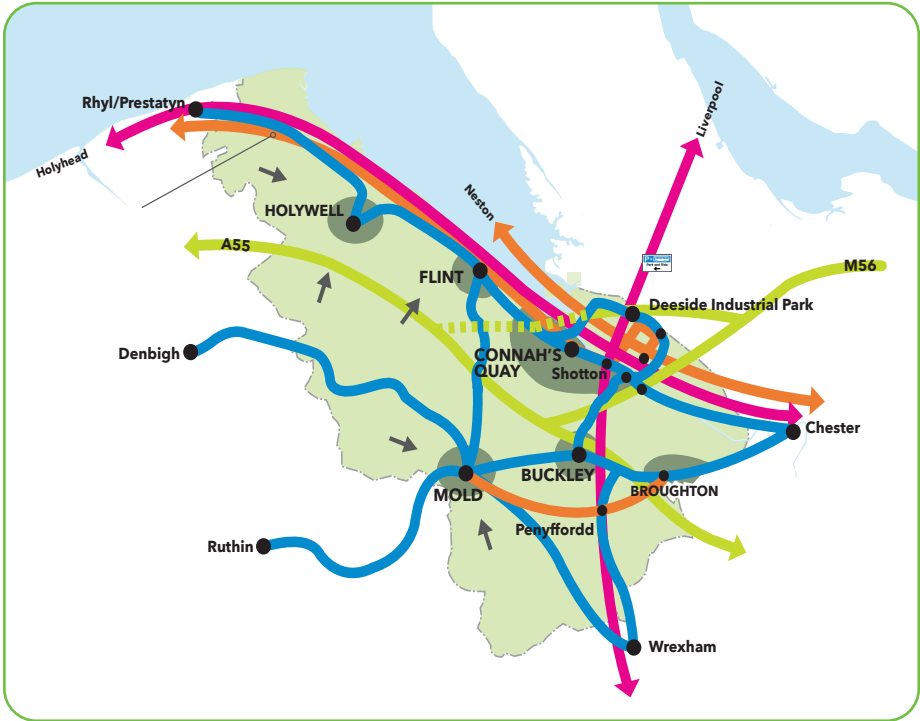
- Bydd y DRT yn cludo teithwyr o leoliad sy'n gyfleus iddyn nhw i 'ganolfan' allweddol neu safle bws ar hyd y rhwydwaith craidd.
- Efallai y bydd siwrneiau'n cael eu cydlynu gyda siwrneiau teithwyr eraill er mwyn sicrhau y bodlonir y nifer mwyaf o deithwyr am gost o £1.70 y siwrnai. Derbynir Cardiau Teithio Rhatach Cymru ar y gwasanaeth.
- Rhaid archebu lle erbyn 3pm y diwrnod cyn teithio er mwyn sicrhau bod y siwrnai ar gael. Gellir hefyd archebu lle i fyny at 14 diwrnod cyn teithio.
- Bydd y gwasanaeth ar gael rhwng 9am a 3pm a rhwng 4.30pm a 5.30pm, o Dydd Mawrth, Dydd iau a Dydd Sadwrn.
- Cytunir ar fan casglu a gollwng pan fyddwch yn archebu, a dim ond cwsmeriaid sydd wedi archebu ymlaen llaw a all deithio.

## Where and how will it operate?

- The DRT will transport passengers from a location convenient to them to a key 'hub' or a bus stop along the core network.
- Journeys may be co-ordinated with other passenger journeys to ensure maximum passenger numbers are accommodated at the cost of £1.70 per journey. Welsh Concessionary Travel Pass Cards are accepted on the service.
- Bookings must be made by 3pm the day before travel to ensure the journey can be accommodated and can also be made up to 14 days in advance of travel.
- The service will be available between the hours of 9am - 3pm and 4.30pm - 5.30pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- A pick-up point and time are agreed when you pre-book, only pre booked customers can travel.



# MAP RHWYDWAITH CRAIDD / CORE NETWORK MAP

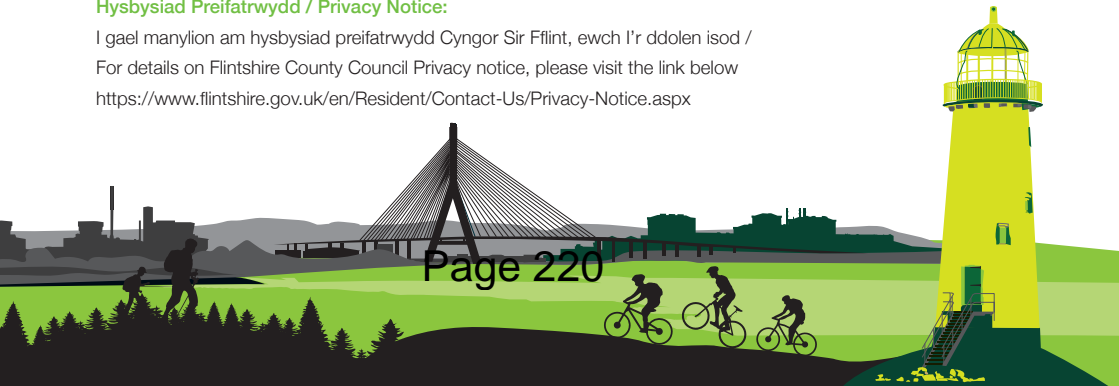


**Allwedd / Key**

- Canolfan Allweddol / Key Hub
- Rhwydwaith Bws Craidd / Core Bus Network
- Llwybrau Teithio Llesol / Active Travel Routes
- Rhwydwaith Rheilffyrdd / Rail Network
- Rhwydwaith Priffyrdd / Highway Network

**Hysbysiad Preifatrwydd / Privacy Notice:**

I gael manylion am hysbysiad preifatrwydd Cyngor Sir Flint, ewch I'r ddolen isod / For details on Flintshire County Council Privacy notice, please visit the link below <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Contact-Us/Privacy-Notice.aspx>



# Fflecsi update



Mae Trafnidiaeth Cymru yn eiddo i  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Transport for Wales is owned by the  
**Welsh Government**

July 2020

# What is Integrated Responsive Transport (IRT)?

Gives everyone in Wales access to effective public transport and is branded as 'fflecsi'

A replacement for subsidised bus services with high quality, responsive services which operate where and when needed

A highly flexible demand responsive transport service

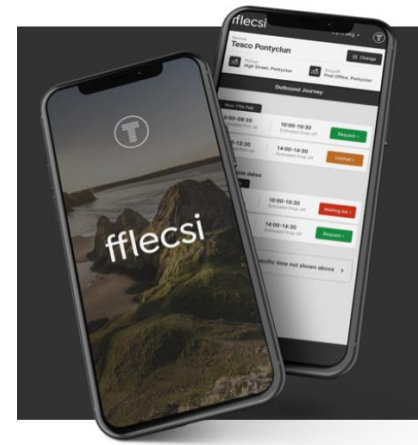
Will be a semi-scheduled transport service, mainly pre-booked in advance, but with flexibility to book up to 30 minutes before arrival

What is TfW's role?

TfW is leading on concept development and developing a set of tools that will be made available to local authorities in the provision of these services

We are providing funding (including for vehicles) and piloting concepts across 3 local authorities to test and develop service concepts

- Pembrokeshire – St David's Peninsula
- Conwy Valley – Llanrwst
- Blaenau Gwent – Ebbw Vale



# What is happening with the three IRT pilots?

Each pilot will test as many aspects of the overall concept as possible and will also focus on particular areas:

## St David's Peninsula

- A contract has been awarded following tender to Pembrokeshire Voluntary Trust – a Community Transport (CT) operator
- The operator has been providing a schools service morning and afternoon and will start to provide demand responsive services in September 2020

## Llanrwst

- This pilot will test community response to replacing a number of scheduled bus services with an IRT service
- Currently out to tender to procure an operator
- Significant community and stakeholder engagement has taken place with the service expected to go live in October 2020

## Blaenau Gwent

- Service specification underway, expected to provide a service that compliments existing bus service provision, operational October 2020



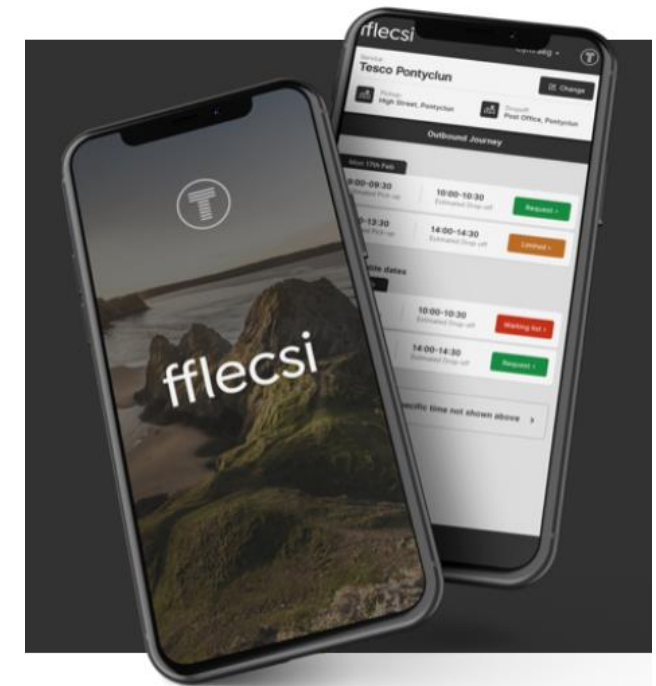
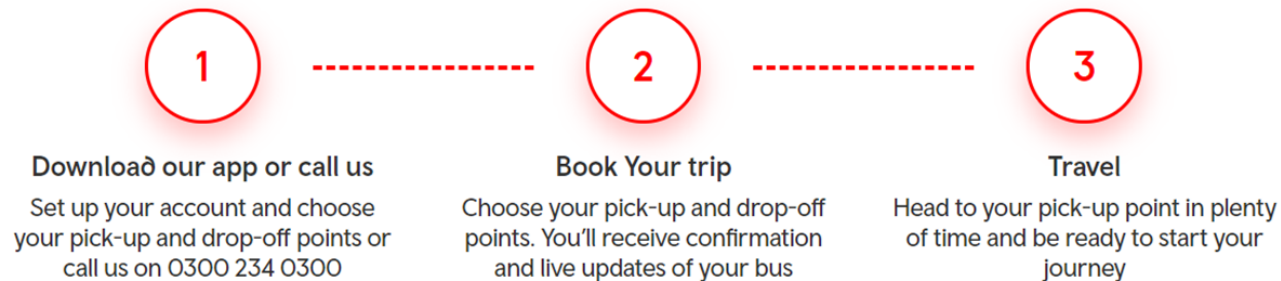
# fflecsi Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Overview

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic on 18 May 2020, we launched a trial of a new DRT public transport service, fflecsi. This is a collaborative scheme between TfW,, local authorities, ViaVan and local transport operators, replacing several scheduled local bus services with more flexible services that can pick up and drop off in a service area by request rather than at fixed bus stops.

Partners set up the service from an idea to a live service in 3 weeks, including a bilingual website, bilingual app, marketing and customer service team and bilingual contact centre. The website, marketing, customer service team and contact centre were procured and developed from scratch, and the app was rebranded and tailored.

Customers can book their journey via the fflecsi app or by calling our contact centre.

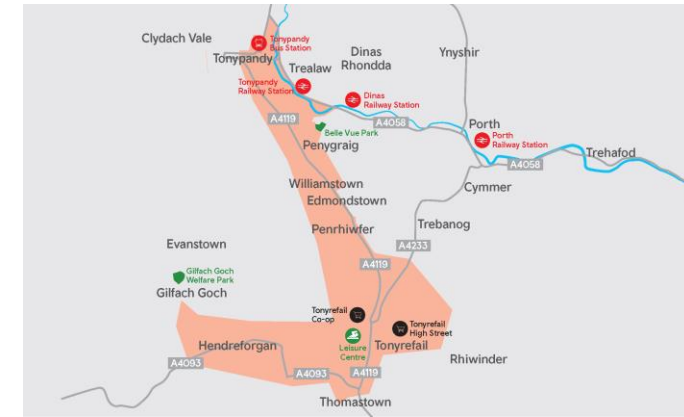
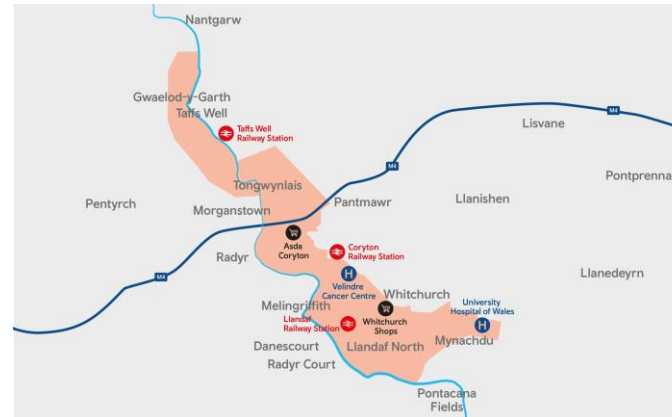
fflecsi is a different way to travel by bus and an exciting new pilot service from Transport for Wales in partnership with your local bus operators





# Where is Fflecsi DRT?

- The Newport service operates between 07:30 and 18:30 Monday – Saturday, within an area designed for essential journeys and including key destinations such as hospitals and supermarkets.
- A second trial started on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June in North Cardiff with Adventure Travel and a third in Rhondda with Stagecoach on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

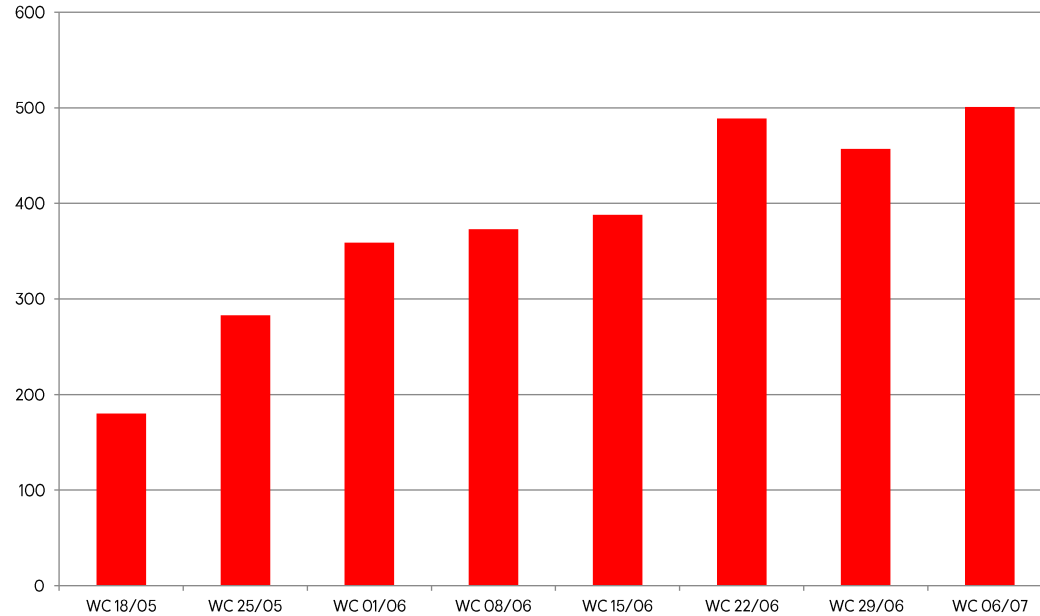


# Flecsi DRT passenger growth

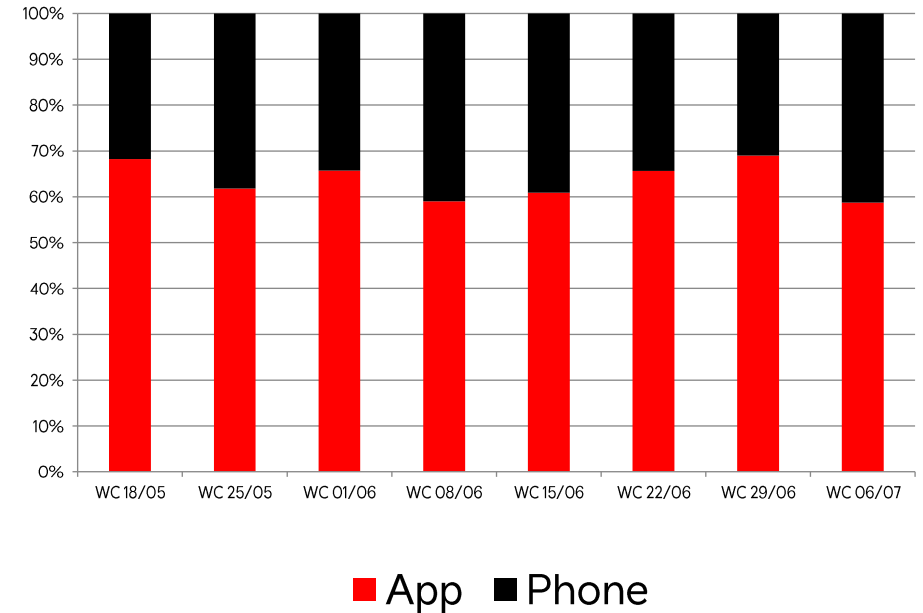
Flecsi usage has grown rapidly since its launch

The majority of users book the service using the rider app

Completed rides across Wales



Request split across Wales



# Fflecsi is growing rapidly

- The next services are expected to go live within three weeks, and by the end of 2020, we believe we could have fflecsi rolled out across Wales
- Plans for further fflecsi services are well advanced across Wales, including: Wrexham, Rhyl, Ynys Mon, Barry, Denbigh, Prestatyn, Colwyn Bay, Holywell, Pontypool



# fflecsi Customer Experience

We are able to measure customer experience across this service. If the customer books via the app, at the end of their journey they are asked to rate the experience on a scale of 1-5. In addition they can drill down into specifics and leave comments relating to their experience.

## Key highlights

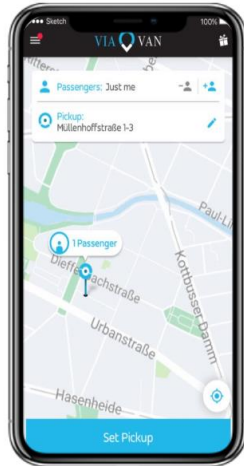
- To date, the average end of ride rating was **4.8** based on (feedback from 154 rides)
- **87.7%** of bookings have resulted in a **5\*** star rating
- We will start to contact customers that did not leave us a 5\* rating to apologise we hadn't met their expectations and understand more what we can do differently

## Customer feedback

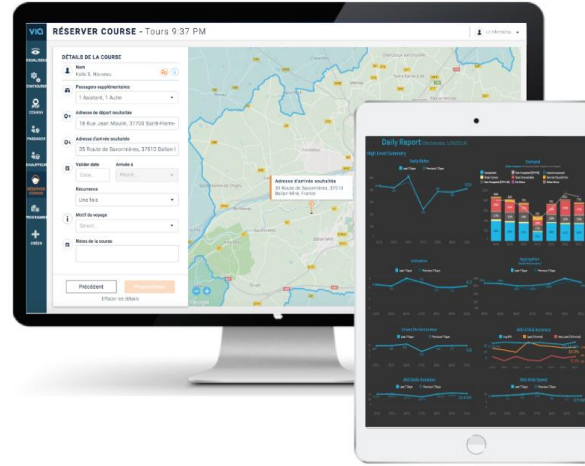
- Prompt pick-up and a quick journey, thanks to use of the A4042. The 'fflecsibility' of this system in giving drivers the optimum route is wonderful.
- Another great journey. I love this service!
- This tracking of the bus prior to pick-up is brilliant!
- An excellent driver who used his local knowledge to take the quickest route from A to B
- Word of this excellent service seems to be spreading. There were two other passengers in the bus for my journey home. One had used the Call Centre to book; the other used the App. Keep up the good work!
- Fabulous to (at last!) have a bus service which drops me off at the Railway Station. :- ) #IntegratedTransport
- Fflecsi is fantastic! No longer do I face a "hike" between the Railway Station and Friars Walk bus station. The service got me home \*far\* quicker than my normal method of travel. Will definitely use again!"
- Great communication regarding pick up time
- Another great ride!
- A 29 minute wait this time. There definitely needs to be more than one bus allocated to this service at certain times.



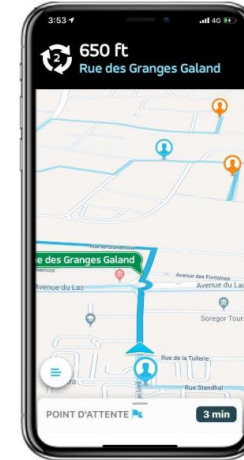
Passenger app



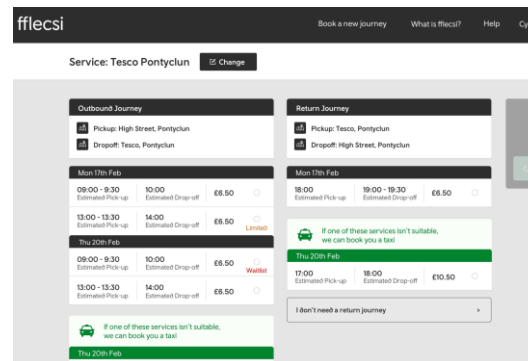
Administrator tools



Driver app



Fflecsi journey planner



Bus/Rail planner/real-time info



Ticketing/fares engine





Service: Tesco Pontyclun

[Change](#)

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**Outbound Journey**

- Pickup: High Street, Pontyclun
- Dropoff: Tesco, Pontyclun

**Mon 17th Feb**

09:00 - 9:30 Estimated Pick-up	10:00 Estimated Drop-off	£6.50	<input type="radio"/>
13:00 - 13:30 Estimated Pick-up	14:00 Estimated Drop-off	£6.50	<input type="radio"/> Limited

**Thu 20th Feb**

09:00 - 9:30 Estimated Pick-up	10:00 Estimated Drop-off	£6.50	<input type="radio"/> Waitlist
13:00 - 13:30 Estimated Pick-up	14:00 Estimated Drop-off	£6.50	<input type="radio"/>

**Thu 20th Feb**

08:00 Estimated Pick-up	08:30 Estimated Drop-off	£10.50	<input type="radio"/>
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If one of these services isn't suitable, we can book you a taxi

**Return Journey**

- Pickup: Tesco, Pontyclun
- Dropoff: High Street, Pontyclun

**Mon 17th Feb**

18:00 Estimated Pick-up	19:00 - 19:30 Estimated Drop-off	£6.50	<input type="radio"/>
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If one of these services isn't suitable, we can book you a taxi

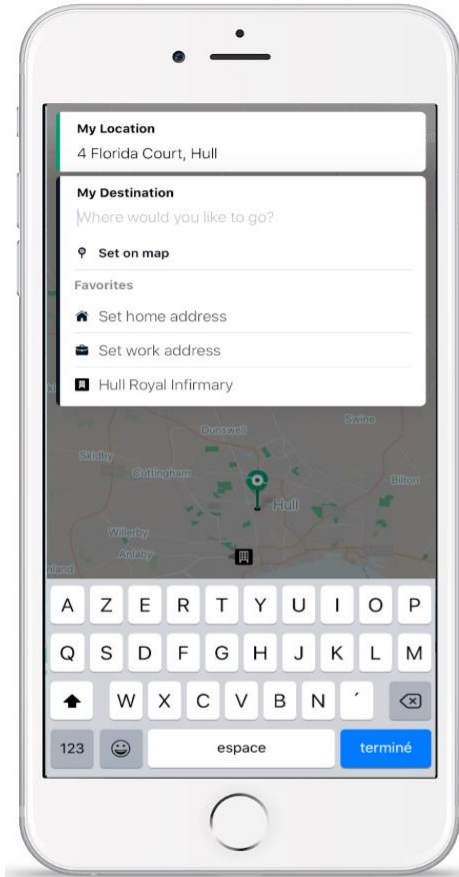
**Thu 20th Feb**

17:00 Estimated Pick-up	18:00 Estimated Drop-off	£10.50	<input type="radio"/>
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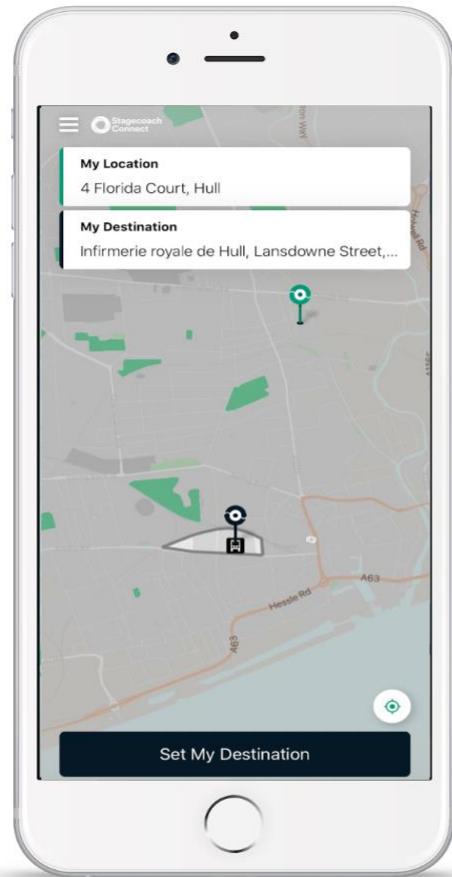
[I don't need a return journey >](#)

Journey Summary

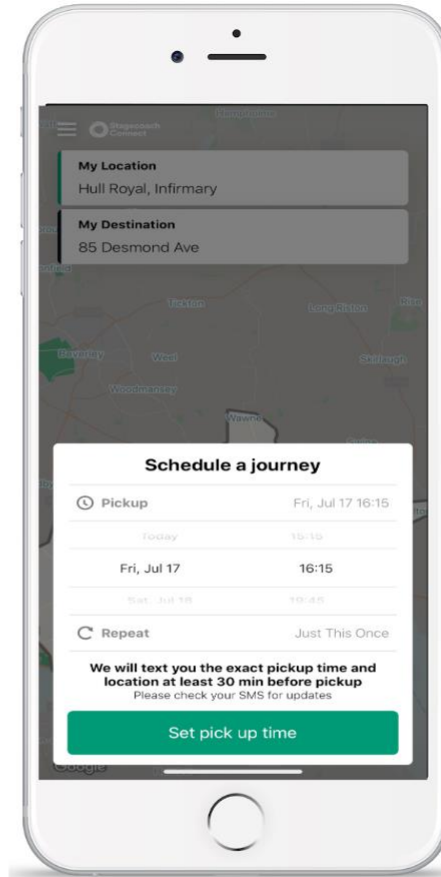
[Confirm request to book >](#)



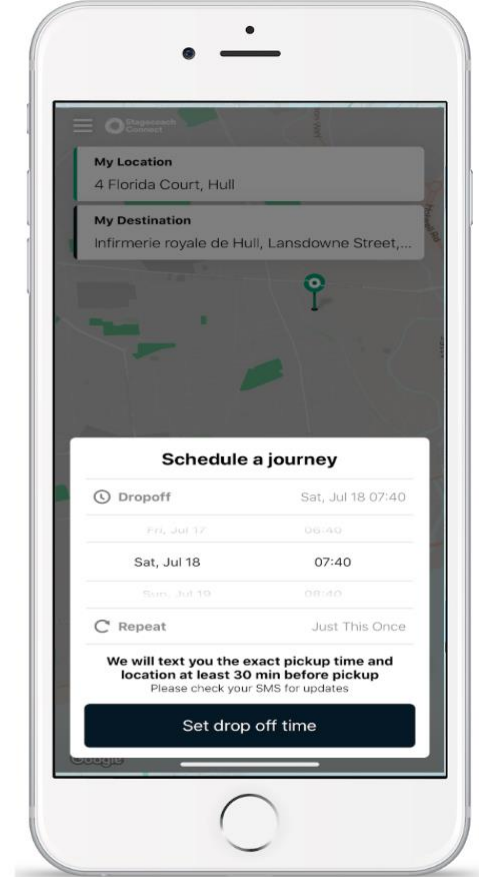
Select origin



Destination constrained



Select pick up time from allowed buckets



Select drop off time from allowed buckets







Area	Route Information	Current utilisation (3 months up to suspension)	Operator	Proposal	Timescale
Holywell	LT1 H'well Hub, Hosp, Calcoed , Ysceifiog, Lixwm Garage, Rhes Y Cae (Mon/Thurs & Sat)	245 Passengers	P & O Lloyd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove LT3</li> <li>Introduce TfW D.R.T service with the use of app, call centre and website.( email sent to Gethin to chase up)</li> <li>Meeting Arranged with David Lloyd 28<sup>th</sup> July to discuss all Bus services in Holywell area</li> <li>Arrange meeting with Holywell T.C and also community councillors to discuss proposals for amended services.</li> <li>Retain LT1 &amp; LT2 as scheduled service. Review frequency of service to offer twice weekly twice daily scheduled service with D.R.T overlaying services 6 days a week</li> <li>Introduce school route &amp; re-procure with vehicle completing DRT journeys in between LT's and Commercial Services.</li> </ul>	October 2020
	LT2 H'well Hub, Carmel P.O, Carmel Hill, Pantasaph, Gorsedd, Lloc, Caerwys Square (Mon/Thurs & Sat)	300 Passengers			
	LT3 H'well Hub, H'well Hosp, Greenfield School Lane, Greenfield Rayon Rd (Mon/Thurs & Sat)	32 Passengers			
Buckley	LT4 Buckley Railway St, Spon Green, Princess Ave, Bryn Aswelon, Langford Mews, Southdown, Buckley cross, Buckley Medical Cent, Buckley Precinct Way (Mon/Weds & Fri)	745 Passengers	D Hutchinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain LT4 Buckley Circular</li> <li>Tuesday, Thursday:- Introduce a Morning and Afternoon scheduled services from Buckley to Broughton Shopping Centre via Warren Hall Court.</li> <li>Tuesday, Thursday:- Introduce Morning scheduled service from Saltney Ferry directly to Broughton Shopping centre.</li> <li>D.R.T service to continue on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, overlaying the scheduled timetables.</li> <li>D.R.T to be promoted to younger passengers on Saturdays ( promotion with local community councils) Consult with De Hutchinson to confirm changes (does he want to continue ?)</li> </ul>	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
	LT5 Penyffordd, Penymynydd Rd, Buckley Railway, Buckley Medical Cent, Buckley Cross, Buckley Precinct Way (Tues/Thurs & Sat) ENDED 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	73 Passengers			
	LT6 Penyffordd Vounog Hill, Penymynydd Rd, Broughton Retail Park (Tues/Thurs & Sat) ENDED 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2020	42 Passengers			

Treuddyn	LT7 Hope, Caegwrie, Cymau, Ffrith, Treuddyn, Nercwys, Mold Bus Hub. <b>(Monday – Saturday</b>	3,837 Passengers	P & O Lloyd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider keeping 2 separate timetables to maximise passenger numbers.</li> <li>Electric Bus to be allocated to this route.</li> </ul>	
Deeside Shuttle	D1 C.Q Boathouse, Shotton, Q'Ferry, Garden City, D.I.P Z3 Tenth Ave, D.I.P Z1 & 2 Parkway	11,232 Passengers	P & O Lloyd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ian Bushell to provide route &amp; timetable information.</li> <li>Ian Bushel to keep Sarah Blake informed of progress of D.I.P bus interchange and joint partnerships.</li> <li>Sarah Blake to assist with procurement of revised D.I.P services.</li> <li>Sarah Blake and Emma Stevens to review Arriva school route.( due for annual contract review)</li> </ul>	TBC
	D2 C.Q, D.I.P Z3 Tenth Ave, D.I.P Z1 & 2 Parkway	5,624 Passengers			
	D3 Flint, Cornist, Flint Ship, Jones Motors, D.I.P Z3 Tenth Ave, D.I.P Z 1 & 2 Parkway	7,438 Passengers			
Northop / Connah's Quay Page 234	CT3 Northop Hall, Ewloe, C.Q Civic Cent, Wepre Pk, C.Q Health Cent, Morrisons <b>(Monday – Friday)</b>	619 Passengers	R Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah Blake to discuss with David Lloyd the inclusion of CT3 early morning journey on service 8 timetable.</li> <li>Serve notice on CT3 service.</li> </ul>	End of Aug 2020
Saltney Ferry  (New Service) Buckley to Broughton ( New Service)	Saltney Ferry to Broughton (Serving Community on other side of Railway Bridge only) Buckley to Broughton via Warren Old Court	New service to be implemented	To Be Procured? speak to Andy Argyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saltney Ferry to Broughton twice daily service with the support of the £10k grant funding secured from The Welsh Procurement Alliance and match funded by Saltney Ferry</li> <li>Scheduled Service to pick up residents on other side of Railway Bridge who are unable to access existing commercial services and isolated from retail and recreational services.</li> <li>D.R.T service to be promoted for out of scheduled timetable .</li> </ul>	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2020
Service 5	Ellesmere Port Bus Station:Cheshire Oaks:Zone 2&1 DIP:Q'Ferry Asda:Ewloe:Buckley:New Brighton:Mold Bus Station: Mold Campus	Served notice to end 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Stagecoach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for this to be a Pilot in house operation with the use of an F.C.C vehicle (Optare)</li> <li>Eligible pupil numbers low (18 existing and new Mold campus)</li> <li>Used by non-eligible pupils to Castell Alun High and Mold Campus. Decision needed on how to manage this.</li> <li>Procure separate school runs</li> </ul>	Out for procurement by 21 <sup>st</sup> August. (6 weeks before service ends)

				<p>given small pupil numbers on FCC vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opportunity to utilise Arriva vehicles currently contracted on school runs B509A/B</li> </ul>	
Inhouse Operation				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ F.C.C staff to operate as drivers on routes where we have FCC vehicles.</li> <li>▪ Proposal to be directly managed within I.C.U team.</li> <li>▪ Proposal to provide School, LTA and Private Hire transport services.</li> </ul>	Oct/Nov 2020
Electric Buses Page 235				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding acquired for 2 Electric Optare size buses to be put in service in Treuddyn in place of the existing vehicle which will be returned to the DIP fleet and Buckley Town Circular. + 1 Optare.</li> </ul>	

Bus Timetables	F.C.C Hubs: Buckley, Holywell, Mold Broughton ( DIP once nearing completion)	N/A	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Fleet Systems	£14 K per summary Screen + 50% installation costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital H Frame Summary Screen at each Bus Hub</li> <li>▪ Offers real time Timetable updates.</li> <li>▪ Facility to offer maps and other local information.</li> <li>▪ To be discussed as a wider T.f.W project across Wales.</li> </ul>
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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Childcare Capital Grant Update
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth), and Chief Officer (Social Services)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides Cabinet with an overview of progress in delivering the Council's Childcare Capital programme.

A co-ordinated approach is being taken to bring together a range of capital funding packages into a single programme to maximise investment.

Projects have been prioritised to align with the funding allocation from Welsh Government, using locally developed criteria as there is insufficient funding in the programme to undertake the full number of projects initially identified.

The Council welcomes the investment from Welsh Government in these capital projects that will positively support children and their families by ensuring there is increased access to high quality early years provision.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet consider the contents of the report and confirm their support for the criteria used to prioritise projects within the programme.
2	Cabinet endorse a programme-based approach which aligns funding streams to co-ordinate and maximise funding opportunities.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	<p>The Welsh Government made available capital grants to councils for the purposes of childcare provision across Wales.</p> <p>The objectives of the programme is to provide 30 hours of government-funded early education and childcare for up to 48 weeks of the year to all three and four year olds of eligible working parents. The 30 hours will be made up of the existing minimum 10 hours of Foundation Phase Early Education (Early Entitlement) and up to 20 hours of childcare with a registered provider.</p> <p>A key policy driver for the Welsh Government is that the 30 hours offer is as clear and easy as possible for working parents to understand and children to access. Feedback from parents is that ideally, they want to be able to drop their children off and pick them up from the same site and access a seamless package of childcare, although wrap around provision between schools and non-maintained providers will continue to be an important part of the answer for some children and parents.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the capital programme is therefore to facilitate and support the co-location of the Foundation Phase and childcare provision wherever possible. This is in line with our Prosperity for All commitment to “introduce a new model of Community Learning Centres, providing extended services with childcare, parenting support, family learning and community access to facilities built around the school day”.</p>
1.02	<p>Social Services lead on the Childcare Strategy and the production of a comprehensive Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) that looks at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the supply of childcare in Flintshire including: type, quantity of provisions, location, costs, places available, choice and</li> <li>ii) the gaps in childcare including: location choice, barriers to take up provision, places unavailable.</li> </ul> <p>The CSA was the basis of the successful bid to Welsh Government for early years’ capital.</p>
1.03	<p>When Welsh Government made this capital grant stream public, the deadline for submitting expressions of interests was insufficient to commission effective site surveys and detailed cost analysis for individual projects and to consult with settings.</p>
1.04	<p>The Council’s expression of interest was submitted to Welsh Government within the short timeframe allocated. Subsequently, more detailed work was undertaken to calculate the associated costs to deliver projects. This work identified that the total costings for all projects exceed the funding allocation.</p>
1.05	<p>Consequently, given the financial shortfall there is a requirement to revise</p>

	<p>the programme accordingly and this means making a decision about which projects will not be able to proceed. In order to make this process transparent, criteria have been developed to inform the prioritisation of projects against key domains, each with a scoring criteria. The first 2 domains are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The extent to which the provision supports <b>Childcare Sufficiency</b></li> <li>2. The robustness of the <b>Sustainability Plan</b> for the provision</li> </ol> <p>If a provision fails to achieve an adequate score for either of these 2 domains then the project automatically fails the prioritisation process and is removed from the programme. This is on the basis that the project must demonstrate it is needed and can be self-financing once delivered. Projects meeting thresholds are then further graded against the domains of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Value</b> which takes into account the cost of the provision and maximum number of children that it can support.</li> <li>4. <b>Land ownership risk</b></li> </ol> <p>The detail of these scoring criteria are included at Appendix 1.</p>
1.06	<p>These criteria were applied which resulted in the following outcomes</p> <p><b>Projects Approved:</b>  Ysgol Derwen, Higher Kinnerton  Ysgol Bro Carmel  Ysgol Maes y Felin, Holywell  Cylch Meithrin, Shotton  Ysgol Merllyn, Bagillt  Sychdyn CP School  Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt</p> <p><b>Reserve List:</b>  Ysgol y Llan VA School, Whitford</p> <p><b>Projects removed:</b>  Trelawnyd VA School  Ysgol yr Esgob, Caerwys</p> <p>The full project scoring outcome can be seen at Appendix 2.</p>
1.07	<p>The appointed contractors, Wynne Construction, have since reviewed the programme cost and it looks likely that from a financial perspective, that Ysgol y Llan Whitford can be added from the reserve list to be included on the programme. There are some legal matters pertaining to the particular land ownership arrangements at the school which are currently being clarified.</p>
1.08	<p>The proposed project at Trelawnyd VA School has significant abortive costs pertaining to the creation of access and locating a modular build. This is as a result of the steep topography of site and the main school building being listed. Consequently, construction would be difficult to complete without causing major disruption to the site and the cost of</p>

	providing a modular build in this location is in excess of £500k which does not represent good value. The school does already provide childcare within its current building.
1.09	The business case from Ysgol yr Esgob, Caerwys to support the essential revenue costs involved in running a childcare provision was not deemed sustainable as it reflected a revenue deficit in year one of circa £3.5K rising to £5k by year three. For this reason, this project was judged to be unviable and removed from the capital programme.
1.10	As a Council we made a strategic decision at the outset to package up the projects within the Childcare programme for purposes of efficiency, for effective programme management, use of resources, best value (economies of scale) and procurement. To support this approach the Client/operational role for the delivery of the Childcare Grant schemes was transferred from Social Services to the School Modernisation Team within Education and Youth. The Chief Officer for Education and Youth assumed the role of Senior Responsible Officer for the programme in June 2020.
1.11	The programme also includes different capital funding packages to maximise investment in a number of school sites and is formed from the following funding streams, WG Childcare Grant, WG Welsh Medium Grant, 21st Century schools, Flying Start and Flintshire County Council's own Capital funding.
1.12	Packaging up the projects within a programme is the most efficient, way of managing the programme. .However, it is challenging to work with micro funding streams/balances on individual projects within the programme and senior managers are regularly liaising with Welsh Government officials to maintain local flexibility.
1.13	Wynne Construction have tendered and been commissioned by the Council for the Ysgol Glanafon project, the Flying Start project at Aston Family Centre and the Childcare programme on two stage design & build contracts.
1.14	To aid effective management of the programme and to enable the prioritised projects to proceed, a formal variation request has-been sent to Welsh Government summarised by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That funding for childcare projects which have opted out of the Childcare programme, Ysgol Estyn Hope (£450K) and Ysgol Brynford (£500k) totalling £950K be retained to be recycled back into the Childcare Programme to bridge the affordability gap.</li> <li>• That funding allocated to the proposed project at Ysgol Esgob Caerwys be redirected to the project at Ysgol Glanrafon, Mold, which has an affordability gap.</li> <li>• That funding allocated to the proposed project at Trelawnyd VA be redirected back into to the overall Childcare programme to bridge the affordability gap.</li> <li>• That the Council be given approval to reallocate capital resources for the Ysgol Croes Atti project to bridge a funding gap at Ysgol Brynford.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A request that WG have a pragmatic and flexible holistic approach be agreed regarding retention funding and virement of monies between projects within the programme to avoid unnecessary and repeated variation requests, with the caveat that the Council are able to report cash flows monthly and work within the agreed funding envelope/s.</li> </ul>
1.15	Welsh Government are currently considering the variation request. Approving the request would allow the Council to proceed with all projects with the exception of proposed projects at Ysgol Esgob, Caerwys and Trelawnyd VA school.
1.16	The Council welcomes the investment from Welsh Government in these capital projects that will positively support children and their families by ensuring there is increased access to high quality early years provision.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The funding Childcare Capital funding envelope has been agreed by Welsh Government and is 100% funded by WG.
2.02	Revenue implications have been tested through submission of school business case and only projects that have demonstrated that they are viable and sustainable have been chosen to proceed.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
3.01	All projects are managed using a risk register. Risks are managed accordingly, and financial risks are managed through a project contingency. Any high level risk which cannot be managed with the projects/programme will be incorporated into the risk register for the Education and Youth Portfolio.	
3.02	Under the five delivery principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act this report will have the following impacts:	
	<b>Ways of Working Principle</b>	<b>Impact</b>
	Long-term	Positive – assists in securing the future of schools in their local communities
	Prevention	Positive – appropriate capital investment provide better facilities and elongates the life of the building/s
	Integration	No Change
	Collaboration	No change- effective collaboration is already in existence
	Involvement	Positive – The proposed projects will help promote greater community

		integration/use/involvement.
3.03	Against the seven well-being goals of the Act, the potential impact of the report and its recommendations would be evaluated as follows:-	
	<b>Well-being Principle</b>	<b>Impact</b>
	Prosperous Wales	Positive impact - Capital investment directly benefits local supply chain/economy. A percentage of local expenditure is a requirement of the grant funding.
	Resilient Wales	Positive impact - Use of sustainable and recycled materials during construction, more energy efficient, potential reduction in carbon emissions.
	Healthier Wales	Positive Impact – Improved physical infrastructure and facilities which positively impact on the wellbeing of the school and its community.
	More Equal Wales	Neutral Impact – Equalities Impact Assessments are already embedded in school culture.
	Cohesive Wales	Positive Impact – Potential that the school could become a community hub through its better accommodation offer.
	Vibrant Wales	Positive Impact – Enables new facilities to improve, both curricular, extra-curricular and community use of school buildings.
	Globally Responsible Wales	Positive - Capital investment, delivers a more sustainable product, local spend and added benefits for apprenticeships, work experience in construction.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	A report to Cabinet in June 2019 provided Members an overview of the Council's strategic response to securing sufficient, sustainable, and high quality, childcare within the county. The report included an overview of progress in responding to the childcare sufficient assessment and confirmed the allocation of the childcare capital grant to the authority.

4.02	In order to gather the information required to achieve and deliver a successful Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan, consultation took place with a wide range of stakeholders. Under schedule 2 of the Statutory Guidance appropriate stakeholders were identified and involved in the undertaking of the Assessment and the development of the Action plan.
4.03	Meetings and conversations have taken place with Settings to provide information and guidance on the development of business cases which have formed an integral part of assessing the sustainability of proposals.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Prioritisation Scoring Framework for Childcare Capital Programme  Appendix 2 – Project Scoring Outcome

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	N/A

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Craig Macleod / Damian Hughes <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 701313 01352 704135 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:craig.macleod@flintshire.gov.uk">craig.macleod@flintshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk">damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Capital Funding</b> - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.</p> <p><b>Revenue Funding</b> - Is linked to items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment. Routine repairs are revenue expenditures and can include significant repairs that do not extend the life of the asset or do not improve the asset (the repairs merely return the asset to its previous condition).</p> <p><b>Childcare Sufficiency Assessments:</b> A report that brings together a range of different data and information to develop a picture of the current childcare market and to identify whether there are any gaps in supply.</p> <p><b>The Childcare Offer:</b> 30 hours of funded childcare and education for 3 and 4 year olds, in working families for 48 weeks a year.</p>

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## Appendix 1 – Prioritisation Scoring Framework for Childcare Capital Programme

	Category			
Domain	1 30 points	2 20 points	3 10 points	4 0 points
<b>1. Supporting Childcare Sufficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level of provision</li> <li>• Unable to meet demand in area</li> <li>• Enhances Welsh language provision</li> <li>• Current provision is within the school premises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium level of provision</li> <li>• Able to meet most demand but not all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of provision</li> <li>• Able to fully meet demand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surplus availability</li> <li>• Exceeds demand</li> </ul> <p><b>Automatic removal</b></p>
<b>2. Sustainability of provision</b>	Robust full and comprehensive self-funding arrangements	Good level of sustainable demonstrated	Sufficient evidence of self-sufficiency demonstrated	Not able to demonstrate sustainability  <b>Automatic removal</b>
<b>3. Value cost v beneficiaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost ratio</li> <li>• Top quartile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate cost ratio</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Above median cost ratio</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High cost ratio</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> quartile</li> </ul>
<b>4. Land ownership risk</b>	Land to be built on is owned by Governing Body of respective school	Land to be built on is owned by FCC	Land to be built on is owned by a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party or other owner who can be confirmed by appropriate legal documents	Land to be built on is owned by a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party or the owner cannot be confirmed by appropriate legal documents

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## Appendix 2 – Project Scoring Outcome

<b>Childcare Offer Capital Grants Project Scoring Outcome</b>						
<b>Area</b>	<b>Setting</b>	<b>Childcare Sufficiency</b>	<b>Sustainability Plan</b>	<b>Value Cost v beneficiaries</b>	<b>Land ownership risk</b>	<b>Total score</b>
<b>Higher Kinnerton</b>	<b>Derwen School</b>	1 (30)	1 (30)	1 (30)	1 (30)	120
<b>Carmel</b>	<b>Ysgol Bro Carmel</b>	1 (30)	1 (30)	1 (30)	2 (20)	110
<b>Holywell</b>	<b>Maes Y Felin</b>	1 (30)	2 (20)	2 (20)	2 (20)	90
<b>Shotton</b>	<b>Cylch Meithrin</b>	1 (30)	2 (20)	3 (10)	2 (20)	80
<b>Bagillt</b>	<b>Ysgol Merllyn</b>	2 (20)	3 (10)	2 (20)	2 (20)	70
<b>Buckley</b>	<b>The Westwood Centre/ School</b>	3 (10)	2 (20)	2 (20)	2 (20)	70
<b>Sychdyn</b>	<b>Sychdyn School</b>	2 (20)	3 (10)	3 (10) Ranked 7th	2 (20)	60
<b>Bagillt</b>	<b>Glan Aber</b>	2	3	3	2	60

## Appendix 2 – Project Scoring Outcome

		(20)	(10)	(10) Ranked 9th	(20)	
<b>Whitford</b>	<b>Ysgol y Llan</b>	1 (30)	2 (20)	4 (0) Ranked 10th	3 (10)	60
<b>Trelawnyd</b>	<b>Trelawnyd School</b>	1 (30)	2 (20)	4 (0) Ranked 11th	3 (10)	60
<b>Caerwys</b>	<b>Ysgol yr Esgob</b>	1 (30)	4 (0)	/	/	Automatic removal
<b>Withdrawn:A Ysgol Estyn, Ysgol Brynford.</b>						



## **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN** **REPORTED TO CABINET – 22.09.20**

### **Streetscene and Transportation**

- **The Flintshire County Council – Carmel Road, Allt-Y-Golch and Carmel Hill, Carmel. Proposed Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time**

To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time and Limited Waiting on Carmel Road, Allt-Y-Golch and Carmel Hill, Carmel.

### **Housing and Assets**

- **Council Rent – Application to Write Off Tenancy Arrears**

Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) stipulates that individual bad and irrecoverable debts in excess of £5,000 are considered for write off in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member. The decision to write off is in respect of one tenant who is subject to a Debt Relief Order. Rent arrears of £5,361.56 are included in the DRO which are now irrecoverable as a result of the award of the DRO.

### **Chief Executives**

- **Introduction of a New Charge**

A new charge, set on a cost recovery basis, is to be introduced for external graphic design services.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are retained by the Team Leader – Committee Services.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS  
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY  
1 September 2020 TO 31 January 2021**

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
September					
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Finance	<b>Statement of Accounts 2019/20</b> To present the final audited version of the Statement of Accounts 2019/20 for approval.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Internal Audit Strategic Plan</b> To present the proposed Internal Audit Plan for the three year period 2020/21 to 2022/23 for Members' consideration.	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Internal Audit Annual Report</b> To inform members of the outcome of all audit work carried out during 2019/20 and to give the annual Internal Audit opinion on the standard of internal control, risk management and governance within the Council.	Operational	
Page 252 Audit Committee	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Public Sector Internal Audit Standards</b> To inform the Committee of the results of the annual internal assessment of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).	All Report Types	
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Certification of Grants and Returns 2018/19</b> To inform Members of the grant claim certification by Wales Audit Office for the year ended 31 March 2019.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Wales Audit Office (WAO) Audit Plan 2020</b> To review the Wales Audit Plan for 2020 for the Council and the Clwyd Pension Fund which sets out the proposed audit work for the year along with timescales, costs and the audit teams responsible for carrying out the work.	Operational	
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>External Regulation Assurance</b> To endorse the summary of all external regulatory reports received during 2018/19 along with the Council's responses.	Operational	
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Quarterly Update on the Response to the Pandemic</b> To keep Members informed of the evolving response to the pandemic.	All Report Types	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Action Tracking</b> To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Audit Committee meetings.	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Audit Committee	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	
Flintshire County Council	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Schedule of Meetings 2020/21</b> To approve the draft schedule of meetings for 2020/21.		
Flintshire County Council	9/09/20	Governance	<b>Constitutional Matters: Committees</b> To deal with those matters which require decisions at the Annual Meeting of the County Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 1.1 (vii)-(xiii).		
Cabinet	15/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Recovery Strategy</b> That Cabinet approve the structure, objectives and core content of the corporate Recovery Strategy for the pandemic emergency situation as overseen by a cross-party Member Recovery Board, ahead of its review by Overview and Scrutiny Committees in September.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21/09/20	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Terms of Reference of the Committee</b> To receive the terms of reference of the new Committee as agreed by Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Recovery Strategy (Planning, Environment &amp; Economy Portfolio)</b> To provide oversight on the recovery planning for the Committee's respective portfolio(s) and to rebuild the forward work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 Council year with a specific focus on recovery planning.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Recovery Strategy (Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio)</b> To provide oversight on the recovery planning for the Committee's respective portfolio(s) and to rebuild the forward work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 Council year with a specific focus on recovery planning.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20</b> To present the draft Annual Treasury Management Report for 2019/20 for recommendation to Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	22/09/20	Education and Youth	<b>Childcare Capital Grant Update</b> To advise Cabinet of progress in delivering the Council's Childcare Capital programme, including the rationale used to prioritise projects.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Social Services, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet	22/09/20	Education and Youth	<b>Queensferry Campus – Capital investment Project</b> To seek approval to bridge a funding gap through additional Council capital allocation and to enter into a construction contract with Kier Construction for the capital investment project at the campus, subject to Welsh Government approval of the full business case.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/09/20	Education and Youth	<b>Ysgol Castell Alun - Capital Investment Project</b> To seek approval to enter into a construction contract with Wilmott Dixon construction for the capital investment project at the school funded through the Council's capital programme.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet	22/09/20	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Bus Network Review Update</b> To provide an update on the progress for reintroducing Local Transport Arrangements.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
Cabinet	22/09/20	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Revised Consultation Process for the Progression of Traffic Regulation Orders and Welsh Government Grant Funded Schemes</b> To seek approval for the revised consultation process associated with local transport schemes as a result of the restrictions due to the current emergency.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/09/20	Housing and Assets	<p><b>Private Sector Disabled Facilities (DFG) Grant Policy - Authority to apply variation to policy</b></p> <p>To approve the proposed approach to facilitate Private Sector Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) in excess of the Welsh statutory limit of £36K.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet	22/09/20	Streetscene and Transportation	<p><b>Suspension of Town Centre Car Parking Charges</b></p> <p>To seek Cabinet approval to extend the suspension of town centre car parking charges until 31 December 2020</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/09/20	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Flintshire Local Development Plan – Consideration of Deposit Consultation Representations and Responses and Submission for Public Examination</b></p> <p>To consider and agree the responses to the representations received to the Deposit LDP consultation exercise and recommend these to be reported to Council for agreement and submission of the Plan to the Welsh Government and Planning Inspectorate for Public Examination, by an independent Planning Inspector.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
Cabinet	22/09/20	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Capital Programme Monitoring 2020/21 (Month 4)</b></p> <p>To present the Month 4 capital programme information for 2020/21.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/09/20	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 (Month 4)</b>            This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2020/21 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 4, and projects forward to year-end.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance
Cabinet	22/09/20	Social Services	<p><b>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Annual Performance Letter</b>            To present the content of the recent Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Annual Performance Letter published on the 2nd July 2020.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	22/09/20	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Terms of Reference of the Committee</b>            To receive the terms of reference of the new Committee as agreed by Council.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	22/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Recovery Strategy</b> To provide oversight on the recovery planning for the Committee's respective portfolio(s) and to rebuild the forward work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 Council year with a specific focus on recovery planning.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Social Services, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 261	22/09/20	Social Services	<b>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Annual Performance Review Letter 2019/20</b> This report is brought to inform of the content of the recent Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Annual Performance Letter published on the 2nd July 2020.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24/09/20	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Terms of Reference of the Committee</b> To receive the terms of reference of the new Committee as agreed by Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	24/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Recovery Strategy</b> To provide oversight on the recovery planning for the Committee's respective portfolio(s) and to rebuild the forward work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 Council year with a specific focus on recovery planning.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1890 262	25/09/20	Governance	<b>Terms of Reference of the Committee</b> To receive the terms of reference of the new Committee as agreed by Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Recovery Strategy</b> To provide oversight on the recovery planning for the Committee's respective portfolio(s) and to rebuild the forward work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 Council year with a specific focus on recovery planning.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Cabinet Member for Housing

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	28/09/20	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Terms of Reference of the Committee</b> To receive the terms of reference of the new Committee as agreed by Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	28/09/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Recovery Strategy</b> To provide oversight on the recovery planning for the Committee's respective portfolio(s) and to rebuild the forward work programme for the remainder of the 2020/21 Council year with a specific focus on recovery planning.	Strategic	Senior Manager, Human Resources & Organisational Development, Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Corporate Finance Manager
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	28/09/20	Finance	<b>Capital Programme Monitoring 2020/21 (Month 4)</b> To provide Members with the latest monitoring position of 2020/21 on the Capital Programme as at Month 4.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	28/09/20	Finance	<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 (Month 4)</b> To provide Members with the latest budget monitoring position for 2020/21 on the Revenue Budget as at Month 4.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance
Flintshire County Council Page 264	29/09/20	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Flintshire Local Development Plan – Consideration of Deposit Consultation Representations and Responses and Submission for Public Examination</b> That Members consider and agree the responses to the representations received to the Deposit LDP consultation exercise and agree to the submission of the Plan to the Welsh Government and Planning Inspectorate for Public Examination, by an independent Planning Inspector.		
October					



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/10/20	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)</b> To seek a Scrutiny recommendation to Cabinet to approve the renewal of arrangements for dog control and on street alcohol controls (PSPOs) following the recent public consultation process.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
Flintshire County Council	20/10/20	Chief Executive's	<b>Updated Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21</b> All local authorities are required to publish their Pay Policy Statement by April annually. The Pay Policy Statement presented within this report is the eighth annual Statement published by Flintshire County Council.		
Flintshire County Council	20/10/20	Finance	<b>Financial Procedure Rules</b> To approve the Financial Procedure Rules		

November

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Audit Committee	18/11/20	Governance	<b>Internal Audit Progress Report</b> To present to the Committee an update on the progress of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	
December					
January					
February					

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