

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                      **13 JULY 2021**                      **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

**REPORT OF:**                              **Chief Officer (Governance)**

**SUBJECT:**                                 **DIGITAL FLINTSHIRE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

- (1) That the progress made in delivering Digital Flintshire 2017/2022 is welcomed;
- (2) That the refreshed Digital Strategy for 2021/2026 is approved pending consultation with user groups; and
- (3) That the Chief Officer (Governance) has authority to finalise the policy in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets.

**DECISION:**                                 As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**             As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**             A Member briefing took place on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and the strategy has been considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It is proposed to consult user groups on the strategy especially the proposed theme on digital inclusion.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**             Work is currently underway to ensure that the projects and ambitions within the strategy also have accurate costings assigned. This will create a funding plan and that any potential funding gaps are identified as early as possible. It is already clear that the level of ambition outstrips the available funding and the

capacity of the IT Service to support new projects alongside day to day delivery and necessary renewals of software/hardware (so called “keeping the lights on”). Only those projects which are a clear priority can be taken forward.

The revised strategy contains the digital standards which to ensure that only those projects which advance our strategic aims are progressed. Also, part of the role of the Digital Strategy Board is to assess the priority to be allocated to projects within available finance and IT capacity.

Digital projects are also very demanding of transformation capacity within the services themselves so that existing work practices are amended to maximise the benefit that can be derived from any new software. Such projects need to be carefully dovetailed into the existing commitments of services to ensure that sufficient capacity exists and to minimise disruption to service users.

An action plan showing the start and end dates for projects is included within the revised strategy. This is a live document and is constantly adjusted in light of changing demands (such as emergencies or the previously unannounced termination of a piece of software). Portfolios are closely involved in ranking the importance of projects to help develop that sequencing plan.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                      **13 JULY 2021**                      **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

**REPORT OF:**                              **Chief Officer (Social Services)**

**SUBJECT:**                                 **CARE INSPECTORATE WALES – ASSURANCE  
VISIT OUTCOMES**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**      To approve the executive response and  
action plan.

**DECISION:**                                 As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**                Regular meetings between managers and  
CIW representative.

Information and feedback from the  
Assurance Check has been shared with  
the workforce and regular update are  
provided on any feedback received from  
CIW.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**                Resources necessary to implement  
improvements identified by CIW are within  
existing resources.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**            None.

**DISPENSATIONS**                              None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**                        14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                      **13 JULY 2021**                      **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

**REPORT OF:**                              **Chief Officer (Social Services)**

**SUBJECT:**                                **SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**      Members to approve the final report, taking into account the feedback received following Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the report includes the key developments of the past year and our priorities for next year.

**DECISION:**                                As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**                Work began with Social Services Managers in September 2020 to identify the emerging priorities from their areas of work.

The views of Scrutiny Members has been sought where the proposed content of the report was discussed.

The draft Social Services Annual Report has been discussed at Social Services Programme Board.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**                The priorities identified within the report are aimed at delivering service improvements, improving outcomes and meeting local needs within the context of achieving challenging financial efficiencies and value for money. The improvement priorities contained within the report have been identified for delivery within existing resources.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**                None.

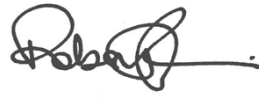
**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**



**SIGNED**

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**(Proper Officer)**

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 13 JULY 2021 AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager

SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT  
(OUTTURN)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: To note the overall report and the Council Fund contingency sum as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

To note the final level of balances on the Housing Revenue Account.

To approve the carry forward requests.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: None.


RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

SIGNED



(Proper Officer)

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                      **13 JULY 2021**                      **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12**

**REPORT OF:**                                      **Chief Executive**

**SUBJECT:**                                      **ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2021**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**

- (1) The Cabinet approves the schedule of fees and charges documented in Appendix A for implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021;
- (2) That Cabinet requests that a customer friendly version of the schedule of fees and charges, documented in Appendix A, to be produced and published; and
- (3) That Cabinet notes the requirements of the annual review of fees and charges for 2022 and requests that the detail of the extent of the achievement of these requirements is captured in the annual review of fees and charges report for 2022, to be brought to Cabinet in July 2022.

**DECISION:**                                      As detailed in the recommendations.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                      As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**                      The principles and process for the annual review of fees and charges were considered and endorsed by Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in July 2019. These were included within the Council's Income Generation Policy (version two), which was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2020.

The annual review of fees and charges, and introduction of any new fees or

charges, is overseen and monitored by Portfolio Programme Boards.

New discretionary fees and charges are approved under Delegated Powers / Authority processes, prior to which an IIA should have been completed considering the Sustainable Development Principles, Wellbeing Goals and Council's Wellbeing Objectives, along with any potential equality and/or diversity issues.

For the purposes of transparency it is recommended that Cabinet request a customer friendly version of the schedule of fees and charges, which shows the frequency of charging (one-off, weekly, monthly etc) is produced and published for 2021.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The generation of income from fees and charges is part of the strategy of options to meet the challenge of the MTFS.

Estimations of income generated through the application of fees and charges, and any increases to them, is monitored and factored into budget setting and the MTFS. The 2021/22 budget for income generated through fees and charges is circa. £17m.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

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required for the introduction of a designated role to deliver environmental awareness and engagement campaigns within the local communities.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:**                      **13 JULY 2021**                      **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14**

**REPORT OF:**                              **Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)**

**SUBJECT:**                                 **WELFARE REFORM UPDATE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**      Cabinet support the report and the ongoing work to manage the impacts that Welfare Reform has and will continue to have upon Flintshire's most vulnerable households.

**DECISION:**                                 As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:**                As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**                The report was discussed in the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and was supported.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**              Due to the changes in funding arrangements by DWP for 2021/22, the initial funding for Flintshire for 2021/22 is £205,444. Currently, Flintshire are unaware of how much funding will be received in September 2021.

Delivery of Personal Budgeting Support is no longer funded by DWP. However, Welfare and budgeting support will continue to be provided by the Welfare Reform Team due to the extra resources that have been secured for the next two years and a further financial pressure has been highlighted for year three.

Since April 2020 to help meet the demands of new and existing customer needs support has been adapted. There has been a significant increase in the volumes of customers requiring support comparing 2019/20 referrals to 2020/21



that had been an approximate increase of 13%.

The approach of the team has been really clear in terms of support being focused on the customer and their needs to move forward into a better position both financially and in terms of their general well-being.

Our understanding is that there are long lead times to access debt advice which can exacerbate and already challenging financial situation. Additional resources are currently being considered to fund a specialist debt advisor within the Housing Benefits Service and a business case is being developed to secure funding resource for this much needed position.

The team have a good understanding of any emerging trends which could potentially put a customer at risk of losing their home or reaching crisis point and are able to share any such observations amongst other organisations both internally and externally.

Since April 2019, the DWP have not provided funding for the Council to provide support to Universal Credit customers with Personal Budgeting Support and Assisted Digital Support. The team have continued to deliver this and during 2020/21 429 residents were provided with budgeting support alone.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:** **13 JULY 2021** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 15**

**REPORT OF:** **Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)**

**SUBJECT:** **HOUSING RENT INCOME**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** Cabinet support the report noting the £1.854m year-end position for rent arrears in 2020/21.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS  
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** This report was discussed in the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and was supported.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** The continued deployment of the Mobysoft 'Rent Sense' software, funded by the HRA, is necessary to control rent arrears and to ensure resources are targeted effectively.

Resource levels are also under review in the Housing Rent Income service and may need to be increased to support the improvement of rent collections as part of the Covid recovery strategy. The HRA business plan for 2021/22 takes account of an additional resource for a temporary period of up to two years.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**



**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECORD OF DECISION**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 13 JULY 2021 **AGENDA ITEM NO. 18**

**REPORT OF:** Chief Officer (Education and Youth)

**SUBJECT:** FAMILIES FIRST – CONTRACT 2022-2024 FUNDING

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:** Approve a re-procurement of the Families First Programme (funded by the Welsh Government) for a period of two years (April 2022 – March 2024) with an option to extend for a further year should this be required.

**DECISION:** As detailed in the recommendation.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** The Flintshire Prevention and Support Leadership Operational Group which oversees the CCG and related prevention and support programmes and supports the procurement of contracts for the Families First Programme.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** As detailed in the report.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**DISPENSATIONS** None.

**DATE PUBLISHED:** 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**SIGNED**



**(Proper Officer)**

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