

Public Document Pack

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Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: Cllr Ian Dunbar (Chairman)

Councillors: Helen Brown, Geoff Collett, David Cox, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Mared Eastwood, Veronica Gay, Ray Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Brian Lloyd and Kevin Rush

13 May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 19TH MAY, 2021 at 11.00 AM

*** Please note that there will be a briefing session for the Committee Members, from 10am until 11am***

Yours faithfully

Robert Robins
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: This will be a remote meeting and 'attendance' will be restricted to Committee Members and those Members of Council who have asked the Head of Democratic Services for an invitation. Such attendees may only speak at the Chair's discretion.

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire-public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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 (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 14)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 23 February and 10 March 2021.

4 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING** (Pages 15 - 22)

Report of Community and Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

Purpose: To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.

5 **COMMENCEMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY** (Pages 23 - 28)

Report of Chief Executive - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets

Purpose: To update Overview & Scrutiny of our preparedness for the commencement of the socio-economic duty.

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 commercially sensitive information belonging to a third party and the public interest in not revealing the information outweighs the public interest in revealing the information.

6 **NEWYDD CLEANING AND CATERING** (Pages 29 - 66)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets

Purpose: To provide an update on the impact the emergency situation has had on the Business Plan for NEWydd Cleaning and Catering Services.

Please note that there may be a 10 minute adjournment of this meeting if it lasts longer than two hours

Procedural Note on the conduct of meetings

The Chair will open the meeting and introduce themselves.

The meeting will be attended by a number of Councillors. Officers will also be in attendance to present reports, with Democratic Services officers acting as hosts of the meeting.

All attendees are asked to ensure their mobile phones are switched off and that any background noise is kept to a minimum.

All microphones are to be kept muted during the meeting and should only be unmuted when invited to speak by the Chair. When invitees have finished speaking they should go back on mute.

To indicate to speak, Councillors will use the chat facility or use the electronic raise hand function. The chat function may also be used for questions, relevant comments and officer advice and updates.

The Chair will call the speakers, with elected Members addressed as 'Councillor' and officers addressed by their job title e.g. Chief Executive' or name. From time to time, the officer advising the Chair will explain procedural points or suggest alternative wording for proposals, to assist the Committee.

If and when a vote is taken, the Chair will explain that only those who oppose the proposal(s), or who wish to abstain will need to indicate, using the chat function. The officer advising the Chair will indicate whether the proposals are carried.

If a more formal vote is needed, this will be by roll call – where each Councillor will be asked in turn (alphabetically) how s/he wishes to vote

At County Council and Planning Committee meetings speaker's times are limited. A bell will be sounded to alert that the speaker has one minute remaining

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **23 FEBRUARY 2021**

Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a remote attendance meeting on Tuesday, 23 February 2021.

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Dunbar (Chairman)

Councillors: Helen Brown, Geoff Collett, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Mared Eastwood, Veronica Gay, Dennis Hutchinson, Brian Lloyd and Kevin Rush

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Haydn Bateman, Carolyn Thomas (Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside) and Patrick Heesom

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Dave Hughes (Cabinet Member for Housing); Councillor Billy Mullin (Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets), Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) and Housing and Assets Senior Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Support Officer

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

42. MINUTES

Councillor Ron Davies commented on the positive comments made to the Housing Programmes Manager at the last meeting and the thanks for his work over a number of years. He asked if these could be included in the minutes. The Facilitator responded that she would review the minutes to ensure they were included.

Councillor Ron Davies proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

43. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the latest Forward Work Programme and confirmed one amendments to the list of items scheduled to be presented to the next Committee meeting on 10th March. The Recovery Strategy update would be presented, which would provide the Committee with an update since consideration of the last update in December, 2020.

The Facilitator also confirmed that there had been no actions arising from the last meeting held on 20 January and all actions arising from previous meetings had been completed as previously reported to the Committee.

The recommendations outlined within the report were moved by Councillor Mared Eastwood and seconded by Councillor Ron Davies.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the progress made in completing the outstanding actions be noted.

44. 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) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

45. HOUSING REPAIRS SERVICE PROCUREMENT OF A DYNAMIC RESOURCE SCHEDULING SYSTEM AND REVIEW OF THE TEAM LEADER JOB PROFILE

The Chief Officer (Housing & Assets) presented the report which provided an overview of the business case and an indication of how investment in technology could deliver a more customer focussed housing repairs function.

The Housing and Assets Senior Manager provided a detailed presentation, which was shared on screen.

The Chair thanked the Chief Officer and Housing and Assets Senior Manager Service Manager for their presentation which had been informative.

In response to a question from Councillor Billy Mullin, the Housing and Assets Senior Manager advised that Unison and Unite Trade Unions had been consulted on the proposals outlined within the report and positive feedback had been provided.

In response to questions raised by Members around the recommendations outlined within the report, the Chief Officer explained the need for the required repairs module and associated licences to sit within the existing contract with Capita. He also suggested that the Committee receive an annual update report at future meetings to enable the Committee to be assured that achievements outlined within the business plan were being met.

In response to a question from Councillor Veronica Gay, the Housing and Assets Senior Manager advised that the proposed technology would not be used by Housing Officers and provided examples of the technology they currently use in assisting Council tenants. There was the potential for the proposed technology to be extended to Housing Officers in the future to assist with scheduling of appointments.

It was suggested that the Committee support the recommendations outlined within the report. This was moved by Councillor Ron Davies and seconded by Councillor Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee support the purchase and implementation of a mobile Housing Repairs solution incorporating a repairs module, associated licences and Dynamic Resource Scheduler (DRS);
- (b) That the Committee support the release of a maximum of £420k Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding for upfront implementation and ongoing support and maintenance costs in line with the awarding of a contract for the above solution;
- (c) That the Committee support the required module, and associated licences, within the existing contract with Capita;
- (d) That the Committee support the procurement of a DRS solution via the Data and Applications Solution (DAS) Framework Agreement for 5 years, with an optional extension of two further years; and
- (e) That the Committee support that delegation be granted to the Chief Officer (Housing & Assets) to extend the contract(s) +1 +1 at the end of the 5 year contract term.

46. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 11.26am)

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Chairman

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COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
10 MARCH 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a remote attendance meeting on Wednesday, 10 March 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Dunbar (Chairman)

Councillors: Geoff Collett, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Mared Eastwood, Veronica Gay, Dennis Hutchinson, Brian Lloyd and Kevin Rush

APOLOGY: Councillor Ray Hughes

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Haydn Bateman and Patrick Heesom (as observers)

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Dave Hughes (Cabinet Member for Housing); Councillor Billy Mullin (Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets), Chief Officer (Housing and Assets), Benefits Manager, Housing and Prevention Service Manager and Housing and Assets Senior Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator, Democratic Services Officers

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

47. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the current Forward Work Programme. She referred to the items scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 19 May 2021 and explained that the item on Community Asset Transfer which had been listed for consideration would be reported to the meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee instead. There were no further changes to the Forward Work Programme as reported at the last meeting. She advised that work was in progress on the scheduling of meetings from September 2021 onwards and a draft diary would be submitted to the annual meeting of County Council on 11 May for approval.

The Facilitator referred to the action tracking report which was appended to the report. She advised that the single action arising from the last meeting had been completed and an update on the Dynamic Resource Scheduler (DRS) System had been added to the Forward Work Programme as an item for future consideration by the Committee.

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson suggested that the Committee received a report to provide details on the housing allocation process to Members. Councillor Dave Hughes said he had requested a presentation on the SARTH

policy and the allocations policy to update all Members and gave an assurance this would be provided. The Housing and Prevention Service Manager agreed to provide a briefing session to the Committee prior to the start of a future meeting to give an overview on how the SARTH policy worked and further clarification on the allocations process.

The recommendations were moved and seconded by Councillors Ron Davies and Dennis Hutchinson

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the progress made in completing the outstanding actions be noted.

48. REGENERATION OF EXISTING STOCK

The Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) introduced a report to provide an update on the delivery of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) the Council was delivering through its Capital Investment Programme. The report focussed on the achievements and journey to date. He explained that the WHQS Programme of Works would have reached its final year (2020-2021) of the six year Capital Programme, however, it had been extended by a further year due to the impact of the Covid pandemic. The report provided an update on what had been delivered and was to be completed before the extended December 2021 deadline.

The Housing and Assets Senior Manager provided background information and presented the key considerations as detailed in the report. He said there were a number of properties where the Council was unable to deliver the WHQS because, for a variety of reasons, tenants did not give permission for the work to be undertaken, however, once the property was vacant the work was carried out to bring the property up to the required standard. From 23 March 2020 all WHQS works to council properties and communal areas ceased with resources being concentrated on properties being closed/completed safely and ensuring all tenants and works were left in a safe manner. On the Capital side of the work all responsive, urgent, emergency and compliance works continued. With the easing of lockdown restrictions and further guidance published on 14 June 2020 further action was undertaken. Discussions are ongoing with the Welsh Government (WG) on the impact of the pandemic on the WHQS programme.

The Housing and Assets Senior Manager advised that the Service had been subject to audits and reviews on the Council's performance in delivering the WHQS. He gave reassurance that the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) and Internal Audit had found the Council was making good progress towards achieving the

WHQS and no major issues had been raised. He also reported that the audits had identified that the Council's tenants were satisfied with the quality of work carried out in their homes and said the WHQS Tenant Satisfaction Survey was at 96%.(highest to date).

The Housing and Assets Senior Manager reported that the WG had committed to achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030 and to coordinating action to help other areas of the economy to make a decisive shift away from fossil fuels. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 required the WG to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in Wales by at least 80% for the year 2050 with a system of interim emissions targets and carbon budgets. The Council would be required to ensure its homes meet the highest possible thermal efficiency and energy performance (EPC level A) by 2030. As part of the WHQS the Council's properties are currently required to meet a minimum of SAP 65 (EPC Level D). Discussions with WG were continuing on the requirement to procure and deliver a large retrofit programme. During the next 12 months officers will provide plans as part of the wider asset management and decarbonisation programme to Members for consideration which will encapsulate the investment challenges and options.

Members were informed that in addition to the work detailed in the report there was a need to consider the wider issue of the potential to undertake regeneration schemes on some of the Council's estates rather than committing funding to assets that will be expensive to maintain, have a high number of voids, and are expensive to heat and run for the tenant.

The Chair spoke in support of the progress made in delivering the WHQS programme. He expressed concerns around the requirement for the Council to ensure its housing stock meet a thermal efficiency and energy performance (EPC level A) by 2030. He also commented on Tenant Refusals or No Access (Acceptable Fails) and asked how this problem was progressed. The Housing and Assets Senior Manager explained that refusals arose for a number of reasons and if the tenant changed their mind the work could be done at a later date. If the property became vacant he reiterated that the work to bring the property up to WHQS requirement would then be carried out. Referring to the concerns raised around EPC level A, he advised that the Council's in-house Stock Condition Surveys gave a good understanding of the thermal efficiency of each property and the most cost effective way of bringing housing stock up to the required EPC rating.

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson said the improvements carried out on the Council's housing stock were commendable. He sought assurance that the Service would achieve the targets set by the WG for the WHQS and asked if penalties would be imposed if not. The Chief Officer advised that the WG had been flexible in allowing a 12 month extension to local authorities who had requested such in recognition of the impact of the pandemic on implementing the WHQS programme. He said officers were in regular contact with the WG which was not proposing to apply penalties and gave reassurance that the Council was making good progress towards completing the Programme. The Chief Officer

also commented on the possibility of future funding streams which would continue the work and seek different objectives to the WHQS.

The Housing and Assets Senior Manager advised that the main works outstanding on council properties were external and cited extensions, footpaths, and gardens as examples. He said external work could be progressed more quickly as it did not require the same level of access to a property as internal works and therefore was less likely to be refused by the tenant. He said all major internal works were almost completed.

The Chief Officer responded to the comments and concerns expressed by Councillor Geoff Collett regarding the cost and direction of the WG decarbonisation programme. Councillor Collett suggested that a workshop be held to enable Members to better understand the De-carbonisation Strategy when appropriate. The Housing and Assets Senior Manager agreed to provide a seminar for Members once the Strategy had been developed to share the range of measures proposed and how they would be applied.

Councillor Brian Lloyd expressed concerns around the environment some tenants experienced outside their home and cited the unacceptable issue of rubbish left in front and back gardens, broken fencing, and litter as examples. He asked what enforcement action could be taken against tenants who did not adhere to the conditions of their tenancy agreement and had disregard for their neighbours and local community. The Housing and Assets Senior Manager said repairs to fencing, footpaths, gardens etc. would be identified and undertaken in the last phase of works to complete the WHQS. The Service was improving the reporting process of breaches of tenancy to ensure that people could live in a good and pleasant environment. The Chief Officer said it was not acceptable that local communities were blighted by the behaviour of a small number of individuals and also commented on the WG initiative 'Beautiful Homes' which focussed on the creation of greener spaces, off-street parking etc. He referred to the impact of the pandemic and a delay in the legal processing of tenancy enforcement issues, but said that nevertheless tenants who refused to comply with their tenancy conditions would face enforcement action in due course.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Ron Davies and seconded by Councillor Kevin Rush.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made in delivering the WHQS programme be noted and the Capital Investment Programme in its final year be supported.

49. HOMELESSNESS UPDATE REPORT

The Service Manager – Housing and Prevention introduced a report to provide an update on the work undertaken to prevent homelessness across Flintshire. He provided background information and referred to the impact of the Covid pandemic. He said there were three phases to the homelessness response

and the Council was currently in phase 3 which was the move to 'New Normal' and commented that there were some positives and challenges ahead. The Service Manager gave a presentation which covered the following main points:

- Phase 1 response
- Phase 2 Planning
- Phase 2 capital funding
- Phase 3 the New Normal
- Demand for services
- out of hours response
- emergency housing
- rough sleepers
- housing support
- housing register
- all social housing lettings
- 50% Covid nominations
- peoples journeys
- the homeless hub
- new support services
- looking to the future

The Chair thanked the Service Manager for his informative report and presentation and spoke in support of the enthusiastic commitment and success of the work undertaken to address the problem of homelessness in the County.

In response to a question from Councillor Kevin Rush the Service Manager agreed to circulate the out of hour's homeless telephone number to Members following the meeting.

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson asked if there were plans to extend facilities and housing for homeless people into other areas of the County in addition to the areas already reported on. The Service Manager said there was a need to increase the supply of social housing and intermediate rental accommodation. The Chief Officer commented on the longer term strategy and on work with the SHARP programme to build in capacity and also reduce housing waiting lists.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Ron Davies and seconded by Councillor Mared Eastwood.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the work being undertaken by the service continue to be supported.

50. RECOVERY STRATEGY UPDATE

The Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) introduced a report to provide an oversight on the recovery planning for the Committee’s respective portfolios. He referred to the portfolio risk register and risk mitigation actions which were appended to the report and reported on the following red risks: CF14, HA04, HA06, CP03, HA27, HA30, and HA33.

The Chair referred to risk CP11 (costs and complexities with the return and reinstatement of Deeside Leisure Centre due to an extended period of use as an emergency hospital) and asked if the cost of reinstatement was to be funded by the Council or the Health Service. The Chief Officer explained that the Rainbow Hospital was moving into a phase of planning for reinstatement as the regional vaccination programme diminished. As part of the reinstatement programme the Council would explore the options available for the provision of its leisure and other services in the future on site.

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson asked if consideration might be given to joint use of the site by the County Council and BCUHB if provision of a leisure centre and hospital services continued to be needed in the future. The Chief Officer advised that the intention was to reinstate Deeside Leisure Centre to the same position and provision of leisure services as before the Rainbow Hospital was created on site.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Dennis Hutchinson and seconded by Councillor Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Risk Register and Risk Mitigation Actions, as outlined within the report, be noted.

51. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10am and ended at 11.20am)

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Chairman



COMMUNITY HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 19 th May 2021
Report Subject	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking
Report Author	Community Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Community Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The report also shows actions arising from previous meetings of the Community Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the progress made in completing them. Any outstanding actions will be continued to be reported to the Committee as shown in Appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION

1	That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme and approve/amend as necessary.
2	That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises.
3	That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING
1.01	Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council or Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Improvement Plan.
1.02	<p>In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?2. Is it an area of major change or risk?3. Are there issues of concern in performance?4. Is there new Government guidance of legislation?5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit?6. Is the issue of public or Member concern?
1.03	In previous meetings, requests for information, reports or actions have been made. These have been summarised as action points. Following a meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee in July 2018, it was recognised that there was a need to formalise such reporting back to Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as 'Matters Arising' was not an item which can feature on an agenda.
1.04	It was suggested that the 'Action tracking' approach be trialled for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Following a successful trial, it was agreed to extend the approach to all Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
1.05	The Action Tracking details including an update on progress is attached at Appendix 2.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	In some cases, action owners have been contacted to provide an update on their actions.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme Appendix 2 – Action Tracking for the Community Housing & Assets OSC.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee as identified in Appendix 2. Contact Officer: Ceri Shotton Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator Telephone: 01352 702305 E-mail: ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.

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COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

CURRENT FWP

Date of meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Report Author	Submission Deadline
Wednesday 16th June 2021 Page 19	Housing Rent Income - Year end outturn and latest position for 2021/22	To provide the Year end outturn for 2020/21 and an operational update on rent collection and current arrear levels for 2021/22.	Monitoring Assurance	Revenues Manager	
	Welfare Reform Update	To provide an update on the impact of Welfare Reform on Flintshire Residents.	Monitoring Assurance	Benefits Manager	
	Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) External Works	To provide an update on WHQS specific to external works	Assurance Monitoring	Capital Works Team Manager	

Items to be scheduled

- **Sheltered Housing Review** – Reports to be submitted to Committee meetings as appropriate and agreed at the Committee meeting held on 4th November, 2020.
- **Dynamic Resource Scheduler (DRS) System Update** – Update reports to be submitted annually to the Committee starting September 2022 following implementation on the new system, as agreed at the Committee meeting held on 23rd February, 2021
- **De-carbonisation Strategy** – Briefing session to be arranged for Members to enable a better understanding of the De-Carbonisation Strategy, when appropriate.
- **Empty Homes** – Report to be submitted following its consideration by the Environment & Economy OSC in October, 2021
- **Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)** – Report to be submitted in September, 2021
- **Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016** – Report to be submitted in September/October, 2021

COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
Quarterly / Annual	Performance Reporting	To consider performance outturns for improvement targets against directorate indicators.	Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)
Six monthly	Welfare Reform Update – including Universal Credit	To update Members on the impact of Welfare Reform and the cost to the Council.	Benefits Manager
Six monthly	Update on North East Wales Homes & Property Management	To update Members on the work of the North East Wales Homes & Property Management	Housing Strategy Manager
Annually – September 2020	WHQS Capital Programme – Delivery review update	To provide an update on progress of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS), that the Council is delivering through its Capital Investment Programme. Report to include information around the use of local labour and number of apprentices and school leavers.	Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)
Quarterly	Update on Housing Rent Income	To provide an update on rent collection and current arrear levels	Revenues Manager

ACTION TRACKING FOR THE COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda item	Action Required	Action Officer(s)	Action taken	Timescale
10.03.2021	3. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	Cllr Dennis Hutchinson suggested that the Committee receive a report to outline to Members in detail the housing allocation process. Martin Cooil agreed to provide a briefing session to the Committee prior to the start of a future meeting, to provide details of how the SARTH policy worked and details on the allocations process.	Martin Cooil / Ceri Shotton	Briefing session has been arranged for 9am prior to the start of the Committee meeting on 19.05.21	Completed
10.03.2021	4. Regeneration of Existing Stock	Following a request from Cllr Geoff Collett, Peter McHugh agreed that a Member workshop be held to enable Members to better understand the De-carbonisation Strategy when appropriate.	Peter McHugh / Ceri Shotton	Briefing session added to the Forward Work Programme under 'items to be scheduled'.	Completed
10.03.2021	5. Homelessness Update Report	It was agreed that the Out of Hours telephone number be circulated to Members following the meeting.	Martin Cooil	Information e-mailed to Members of the Committee on 24.03.21	Completed

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COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Wednesday, 19 th May 2021
Report Subject	Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welsh Government has commenced the Socio-economic Duty in Wales. The statutory requirement of the duty places a legal responsibility on relevant bodies, when they are taking strategic decisions, to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. The new duty will be a key mechanism for supporting the most vulnerable in our society.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the new duty and update Overview and Scrutiny of our preparedness for the commencement of the socio-economic duty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Scrutiny note the requirements of the Socio-economic Duty.
2	Scrutiny is assured of our preparedness in meeting the new duty.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY
1.01	Sections 1-3 of the Equality Act 2010, the Socio-economic Duty, requires relevant public bodies, when taking strategic decisions, to have due regard

	to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome that result from socio-economic disadvantage. This section of the Act was not enacted when the Equality Act came into force in 2012, and has lay dormant on the statute books. Welsh Ministers commenced the Socio-economic Duty on 31 March 2021.
1.02	<p>The Socio-economic Duty intends to ensure that those taking strategic decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take account of evidence and potential impact on people who experience socio-economic disadvantage. • through consultation and engagement, understand the views and needs of those impacted by the decision, particularly those who suffer socio-economic disadvantage. • welcome challenge and scrutiny. • drive a change in the way that decisions are made and the way decision makers operate.
1.03	Welsh Government (WG) has advised that “the duty is a key mechanism in supporting the most vulnerable in our society and something which will be extremely important in our continued response to Covid-19”.
1.04	WG has published non- statutory guidance, “A More Equal Wales, Preparing for the Socio-economic Duty” and a fact sheet to support organisations who are required to meet the duty. Guidance for decision makers “Socio-economic Duty: scrutiny framework” has also been published to support decision makers meet their duty to show “due regard”. This includes a checklist with examples of evidence to confirm “due regard” has been given.
1.05	<p>Key terms explained in the guidance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due regard - will require the named authorities to consider the issues and to give weight to such considerations proportionate to their relevance. • Inequalities of outcome – any measurable difference in outcome between those who experience socio- economic disadvantage and the rest of the population – lower healthy life expectation, lower paid work, poorer skills and attainment. • Reporting - there will be no statutory reporting but organisations should be able to demonstrate how they have discharged their statutory duty and have a clear audit trail of evidence. An individual or group who feel that their interests are adversely affected by a decision or feel that an organisation is not complying with the duty may bring a judicial review claim against that organisation. • Strategic decisions - Strategic decisions are defined as “those decisions which affect how the organisation fulfils its statutory purpose over a significant period of time”. These do not include routine, day to day decisions.

1.06	<p>Some examples of strategic decisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium to long term plans; • Setting objectives; • Changes to and developing public services; • Strategic financial planning; • Major procurement and commissioning decisions.
1.07	<p>WG has set out four steps within the guidance to support organisations to prepare to meet the duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1 - identifying strategic decisions • Step 2 - identifying those involved with strategic decisions. • Step 3 - ensure that those involved with strategic decision making process understand the requirements of the duty. • Step 4 - integrate consideration of inequality of outcome caused by socio-economic decisions within existing processes to understand and start evidencing, for example, Integrated Impact Assessments, engagement processes.
1.08	<p>We are already undertaking a number of these steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic decisions are identified in formal committee reports; • Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA) include potential impacts on poverty and these are included within committee reports for decision makers to consider; • Impacts on the well-being goals, including the goal “An Equal Wales”, and the future ways of working are also reported within committee reports; and • Poverty is included as a priority within the Council Plan.
1.09	<p>The new duty provides an opportunity to review and update what we do, including IIAs, procurement and committee reports. This will ensure that we can evidence we are meeting the new duty and are considering how our decisions might help reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage. We are updating our IIA tool to ensure the new duty is fully considered and are amending the commissioning form to ensure commissioning officers complete relevant impact assessments before procuring new services.</p>
1.10	<p>Further information about this new duty is provided as part of a presentation to this committee.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue/Capital: there are no implications for the approved revenue and capital budgets for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p>

	Human Resources: there are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required as this report provides an overview of legislation requirements. Strategic reports to formal committees, from 31 March 2021, will require evidence of demonstrating due regard to the Socio-economic Duty.
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Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact

Long-term	No change.
Prevention	Positive. The new duty aims to ensure that potential impacts on socio-economic disadvantage are considered
Integration	Positive. The new duty aims to build on existing legislation, such as the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
Collaboration	No change
Involvement	Positive. Demonstrating due regard to socio-economic disadvantage requires public bodies to listen to the voices of people and communities who experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Well-being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	Positive. The purpose of the new duty is to reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.
Resilient Wales	No change
Healthier Wales	Positive. The purpose of the new duty is to reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, including health inequalities.
More equal Wales	Positive. The purpose of the new duty is to reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.
Cohesive Wales	No change
Vibrant Wales	No change
Globally responsible Wales	No change

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
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4.01	No consultation required as this reports on a new duty.
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>A More Equal Wales: Preparing for the commencement of the Socio-economic Duty. Non- statutory Guidance .</p> <p>Commencing The Socio-economic Duty Fact Sheet</p> <p>Socio-economic Duty: Scrutiny Framework</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Fiona Mocko, Strategic Policy Advisor Telephone: 01352 702122 E-mail: fiona.mocko@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Integrated Impact Assessments: An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is a way to look at how a proposal could affect communities and if different groups within the community will be affected differently. It takes into consideration impacts on the environment, equality (people with protected characteristics), health, poverty and Welsh language.</p> <p>Socio-economic disadvantage: Living in less favourable social and economic circumstances than others in the same society. This includes both communities of interest and communities of place. Communities of interest includes people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 and groups of people who share an experience, for example, people who are homeless. Communities of place include people who are linked together because of where they reside or work.</p>

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