

Public Document Pack

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Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



Contact Officer:
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To: Cllr Rosetta Dolphin (Chair)

Councillors: Sean Bibby, David Evans, George Hardcastle, Patrick Heesom, Cindy Hinds, Andy Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Joe Johnson, Vicky Perfect, Paul Shotton and Owen Thomas

5 January 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 11TH JANUARY, 2022 at 10.00 AM

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gareth Owens', enclosed in a rectangular box.

Gareth Owens
Chief Officer (Governance)

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 meeting held on the 7 December 2021.

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

Report of Environment Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

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

5 **COUNCIL PLAN 2022/23** (Pages 23 - 40)

Report of Chief Executive - Deputy Leader of the Council (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets

Purpose: To consult on Part 1 of the Council Plan 2022/23.

6 **LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND TWO** (Pages 41 - 62)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Purpose: To gain the views and support of the Committee on the proposals to submit bids into the forthcoming Round Two of the UK Government Levelling Up Fund.

7 **FLINTSHIRE ECONOMY UPDATE** (Pages 63 - 72)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Purpose: To provide members with an update on the state of the economy in Flintshire and on work programmes to assist recovery.

8 GRASS CUTTING PERFORMANCE REVIEW (Pages 73 - 80)

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

Purpose: To provide an update on the performance of grass cutting across the county throughout 2021 and re-approve the existing grass cutting policy.

9 VEHICLE PERMIT CRITERIA FOR HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (Pages 81 - 108)

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

Purpose: To seek Scrutiny approval to revise the Household Recycling Centre van permit application criteria

10 NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (Pages 109 - 134)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Purpose: To provide members with the Quarter 2 update on the North Wales Growth Deal.

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>

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **7 DECEMBER 2021**

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held remotely on Tuesday, 7 December 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Rosetta Dolphin (Chair)

Councillors: Sean Bibby, David Evans, George Hardcastle, Patrick Heesom, Cindy Hinds, Dennis Hutchinson, Joe Johnson, Vicky Perfect, Paul Shotton and Owen Thomas

APOLOGY: Councillor Andy Hughes

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: Helen Brown, Veronica Gay, Richard Jones, Mike Peers and Arnold Woolley (initiators of the call in)

Councillors: Christine Jones (Deputy Leader - Partnerships - and Cabinet Member for Social Services), Haydn Bateman, Richard Lloyd and David Wisinger (observers)

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Ian Roberts (Leader and Cabinet Member for Education), Councillor Chris Bithell (Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection), Councillor Derek Butler (Cabinet Member for Economic Development), Councillor Glyn Banks (Cabinet Member for Streetscene), Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) and Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)

For minute number 45
Transport Strategy Officer

For minute number 47
Rachel Perry (HyNet Project Manager) and Amy Bodey (Head of Communications) of Progressive Energy Ltd

For minute numbers 48 and 49
Service Manager (Enterprise & Regeneration) and Strategic Executive Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Democratic Services, Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

43. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2021 were approved, as moved and seconded by Councillors Paul Shotton and David Evans.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

44. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING**

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the latest Forward Work Programme for consideration where the following changes were agreed:

- Report on the Climate Change Strategy to be added for February.
- Member briefing on Flintshire's Integrated Transport network to be rescheduled for early in 2022.
- Report on the Council's policy on the release of balloons and the environmental impact to be scheduled for a future meeting, as requested by Councillor David Evans.
- Councillor Dennis Hutchinson to discuss separately with the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) his requirements for a future report on the Standard landfill site.

Following discussion at the June meeting on enforcement of litter caused by alcohol consumption, the Facilitator read out advice from the Legal department clarifying that such legislative powers available to the Police under the Public Spaces Protection Order did not currently apply to Local Authorities.

The recommendations were moved and seconded by Councillors Dave Evans and Paul Shotton.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme, as amended, 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.

45. **ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK MAP - OUTCOME OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATION**

The Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) presented a report on the outcomes of both informal and statutory consultation exercises to enable required updates to the Council's Active Travel Network Map (ATNP) as required by the Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013.

In presenting the report, the Chief Officer paid tribute to the team for their work in assessing and investigating Active Travel routes. A new mapping tool called 'Commonplace' developed by Welsh Government (WG) had helped to increase public engagement during the pandemic and the link remained open to review maps.

The Chief Officer would liaise separately with Councillor Joe Johnson regarding a particular route in Holywell.

Councillor Glyn Banks added his thanks to the team for their work and encouraged Members to use the web link to review information prior to the final map submission to Welsh Government by 31 December.

The recommendations were moved and seconded by Councillors Joe Johnson and David Evans.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the work undertaken to complete both the informal and statutory consultation processes be supported; and
- (b) That the validity of the process utilised to produce the Council's updated ATNM, to be submitted to Welsh Government by 31 December 2021, be formally recognised.

46. COUNCIL PLAN 2021-22 MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Chief Officers presented the mid-year monitoring report to review progress against their respective priorities set out in the Council's Reporting Measures 2020/21 under the remit of the Committee. This exception-based report focussed on areas of under-performance against in-year targets.

For Planning, Environment & Economy, there were three indicators with a red status for current performance against target. The main contributing factors were recruitment challenges and changes in working practices due to ongoing uncertainty on the pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic was also the main factor on the three red indicators within the Streetscene & Transportation portfolio. On recycling, performance had fallen short of the target, having been affected by an increase in residual waste.

Councillor Paul Shotton commended the Streetscene team for their work during the recent severe weather. He acknowledged the challenges in recruitment, particularly in social care, which were replicated nationwide.

On the last point, the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) said that work was underway across portfolios to identify areas experiencing difficulty recruiting to vacant positions.

On the recycling performance, Councillor Glyn Banks urged Members to encourage residents to play their part in helping to reach the 70% target.

Councillor Derek Butler commented on recent job fairs which had proved successful.

The recommendation was moved and seconded by Councillors Sean Bibby and Joe Johnson.

RESOLVED:

That the mid-year performance indicators for Recovery, Portfolio and Public Accountability Measures to monitor areas of under-performance be noted.

There was a brief adjournment prior to the next item.

47. A PRESENTATION ON THE HYNET HYDROGEN PRODUCTION AND CARBON STORAGE CROSS-BORDER PROJECT

The Committee welcomed Rachel Perry and Amy Bodey from Progressive Energy Ltd who were in attendance to give a presentation on the HyNet project, which covered:

- What is HyNet North West?
- Demand led Decarbonisation
- HyNet North West Infrastructure
- Hydrogen Production
- CO₂ Capture Plants
- Wider Benefits
- Momentum and Deliverability
- Positioning the UK as a world leader in clean energy

Councillor Paul Shotton commended progress with the project and its benefits for a lower carbon future for the region. In response to questions, Rachel Perry said that existing infrastructure was utilised where possible and she provided information on a similar project in the Humber and Tees region.

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation on this innovative project. Following questions, she was advised that the business model, with Government support, was currently in development and would be supported by the Carbon Capture Fund whilst the building infrastructure would be funded by the individual organisations.

In response to concerns from Councillor Patrick Heesom about the Point of Ayr colliery site, Rachel Perry provided assurance on the offshore storage of CO₂

and robust assessment of existing pipelines on which there were no current concerns. As requested, the presentation slides would be circulated to Members.

Following questions from Councillor Owen Thomas, information was shared on the building of new infrastructure for Co₂ and hydrogen at Stanlow, and for hydrogen only at the Cheshire salt mines.

In welcoming the decarbonisation target, Councillor Chris Bithell asked about potential risks. Whilst the safety risks were low, economic growth was reliant on Government support as was the scale of the hydrogen rollout.

In praising the Council's involvement in the project and as local Member for Ffynnongroyw, Councillor Glyn Banks offered assistance with early public engagement to reassure residents in the vicinity of the Point of Ayr site. His comments were noted by the HyNet colleagues including his suggestion for an on-site public engagement session, with appropriate safety measures.

Councillor Derek Butler spoke about links with the Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA) to access mutual benefits across the region. In response to comments, information was shared on the future role of hydrogen in domestic heating and plans for alternative storage of Co₂ for the Point of Ayr site, should additional capacity be required. Details were also given on future proofing of the hydrogen distribution network.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) confirmed that the North Wales Growth Deal project for a hydrogen hub in Deeside was based on green hydrogen as a long-term sustainable solution.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) said that HyNet was a key part of work of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board as well as the MDA.

The recommendation was moved by Councillor Paul Shotton and seconded by Councillor Owen Thomas.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the presentation be noted.

There was a brief adjournment prior to the next item.

48. CONSIDERATION OF A MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THE CALL IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Head of Democratic Services explained the procedure for the call in of a Cabinet decision as detailed in the supporting document. The Cabinet had considered a report on 'A Plan for Shotton' at its meeting on 16 November 2021. The decision (Record of Decision 3928) had been called in by Councillors Mike Allport, Helen Brown, Arnold Woolley, Veronica Gay, Richard Jones and

Mike Peers, the latter three of whom would be speaking on the item. Copies of the Cabinet report, the Record of Decision and Endorsement of Call in, which identified three reasons for the call in, were included in the agenda pack.

49. A PLAN FOR SHOTTON

Representations from call in signatories

Councillor Richard Jones was invited to address the Committee first. In recognising the challenges faced by all town centres and pressures on the Regeneration team, he said that investment of Council resources to support Shotton represented inequitable treatment of other towns across Flintshire. He questioned the key principles of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and environmental issues underpinning the decision by sharing comparison of ASB statistics across the whole of Flintshire and photographic evidence around Shotton town centre showing a good level of cleanliness and few shop closures. As such, he felt it was unclear why Shotton had been prioritised, particularly as it already benefitted from investment and good facilities in health provision, transport links, a range of banks and shops operating on the high street as well as plans for a green infrastructure project. He made the point that resources and investment should support all towns across Flintshire or that a plan for a specific town should be identified through assessing relevant criteria.

Councillor Veronica Gay's concerns were about the means of establishing Shotton as most in need of support when other towns were experiencing more anti-social behaviour issues and had fewer high street facilities, citing Saltney as one example.

Councillor Mike Peers said that the call in decision was not taken lightly and that there needed to be an assessment of need across Flintshire to fairly distribute resources. In pointing out that this was an 8-year evolving Plan, he drew attention to the high level of officer resources and working groups and the lack of detail on funding arrangements in the report. He said that the project should be used as a framework to develop a Plan for the whole of Flintshire with a shared vision to determine a hierarchy of need across all towns and divert resources appropriately.

Responses from the decision makers

As Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Roberts said that the photographs reflected progress to date to address issues that were evident at the start of the project and he thanked the local Members for their role on that. He commended initiatives in various communities across Flintshire to regenerate town centres and acknowledged that work would be replicated in other areas. In response to the retention of banks on high streets, he said that such decisions were not under the control of the Council and he questioned the timing of the call in, given that progress had been reported to Cabinet at each stage.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) gave a presentation in response to the call in, which covered:

- Background and Basis for a Plan in Shotton
- Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Average income levels by town (North Wales)
- Aims of the Plan for Shotton
- Impact of suspending/ceasing work on the Plan
- Future and next steps

It was explained that the Shotton Master Plan had originated in 2020 in response to an increase in ASB and environmental complaints in the town, and it was clarified that no additional funding or resources had been released. Further development into a Plan for Shotton was aimed at improving community resilience, pooling resources and linking to other independent projects to add value and ensure the safety and vibrancy of Shotton. Criteria such as deprivation levels and average income levels demonstrated the need to prioritise Shotton. There were a number of risks if work was stopped at this stage, including loss of momentum from stakeholder engagement and achievements to date, the impact on partner organisations and lost opportunities to link to other independent projects. The Chief Officer explained that the project could form a blueprint for similar initiatives in other towns and that further engagement with communities could help to secure funding to support those changes and encourage community ownership.

As Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Councillor Derek Butler reminded Members that early successes from the initial Streetscene project to tackle significant issues in Shotton had evolved over time and that the approach was proving effective through its co-ordinated multi-agency response.

As Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection, Councillor Chris Bithell spoke about Master Plans developed for other towns and the serious issues publicised in Shotton at the time which warranted more urgent specific action. Resources needed to be managed and prioritised effectively and the report noted that additional capacity created in the Regeneration team would support the work in Shotton and towns elsewhere.

As Cabinet Member for Streetscene, Councillor Glyn Banks thanked officers for the detailed presentation. In referring to the unique location of Shotton, he said that the Plan was partly aspirational and was intended to be used as a basis for projects in other towns.

Questions from Committee Members

Councillor Joe Johnson praised the Council for working with local Members to improve facilities in other areas such as Holywell.

Speaking in support of the call in, Councillor Patrick Heesom questioned why the item had not been submitted to Overview & Scrutiny and the mechanism

for prioritising Shotton. He recommended Option 4 to refer the matter to full Council.

As one of the Local Members, Councillor David Evans recalled the serious issues in Shotton and their detrimental impact on the town centre at the start of the project. He welcomed the improvements achieved to date involving a number of agencies, volunteer groups and Council teams. In response to the points raised, he suggested that the timing of the photographs may have coincided with a recent clean-up by the Streetscene team and that comparison of ASB statistics should take into account the size and population of towns.

Speaking in support of the Cabinet decision, Councillor Paul Shotton proposed Option 1 that the Committee be satisfied with the explanation and allow the decision to be implemented.

Councillor George Hardcastle welcomed town centre regeneration but called for greater transparency to demonstrate that all towns were being given the same opportunity.

The Chief Executive said that whilst the blueprint was to develop a cohesive Plan focused on regeneration across towns, the project in Shotton was unique in tackling significant environmental and crime and disorder issues that were prominent in the town at that time. This in turn would help inform regeneration activities ongoing in other areas, to further engage with communities in order to create sustainable outcomes.

The Chair invited the initiators of the call in to sum up.

Councillor Richard Jones thanked everyone for their contributions. In responding to points raised, he said that the call in was in response to the recommendation in November for Cabinet to endorse further work. Whilst supporting the Shotton Plan, his concerns were about the Council's response which he felt did not demonstrate evidence to identify Shotton as a special case. He acknowledged the homelessness problem, but disagreed that environmental and ASB statistics were also key factors in the town. He added that the report should have been considered by Overview & Scrutiny to compare criteria across all town centres and ensure the appropriate allocation of resources and finances according to need. On that basis, he proposed Option 4 which called for the decision to be put to all Members at full Council.

In confirming the reasons for the call in, Councillor Mike Peers pointed out that the Cabinet report did not reference information shared at this meeting including the statistical chart. On the points raised, he referred to the wider benefits of facilities such as Marleyfield care home and the difference between the Shotton and Buckley Master Plans. He reiterated his view that the Plan for Shotton was at the expense of other areas and that the blueprint informing work on other towns should also benefit communities.

The Chair invited the decision makers to sum up.

Councillor Ian Roberts reminded Members that there were opportunities to seek a discussion on the matter at an earlier stage. In urging Members to support continued progress on the project, he commended the outcomes achieved to date by officers and partners, particularly in dealing with some sensitive issues.

Councillor David Evans seconded the proposal by Councillor Shotton, which then became the substantive Motion.

Councillor Heesom's proposal was subsequently seconded by Councillor Peers.

The Head of Democratic Services gave a reminder of the voting procedure and advised that having been moved and seconded, the substantive Motion would need to be put to the vote before an alternative option could be considered. He suggested that the vote be taken by roll call and the requisite number of Members indicated their support for a recorded vote.

On being put to the vote, the Motion for Option 1 was carried as follows:

For the proposal:

Councillors: Sean Bibby, David Evans, Cindy Hinds, Joe Johnson, Vicky Perfect and Paul Shotton

Against:

Councillors: Rosetta Dolphin, George Hardcastle, Patrick Heesom, Dennis Hutchinson and Owen Thomas

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

RESOLVED:

That having considered the decision, the Committee is satisfied with the explanations received and therefore the decision may now be implemented.

50. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 9.30am and ended at 12.50pm)

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Chair

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ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Date of Meeting | Tuesday, 11 January 2022 |
| Report Subject | Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking |
| Report Author | Environment & Economy 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 Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The report also shows actions arising from previous meetings of the Environment & Economy 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

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| 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

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| 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. |

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

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

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

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme Appendix 2 – Action Tracking for the Environment & Economy OSC. |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee as identified in Appendix 2. Contact Officer: Margaret Parry-Jones Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator Telephone: 01352 702427 E-mail: Margaret.parry-jones@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 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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Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021/22

| Date of Meeting | Subject | Purpose of Report/Presentation | Scrutiny Focus | Responsible/Contact Officer | Submission Deadline |
|------------------------|---|--|----------------|---|---------------------|
| 8 Feb 2022 10.00 am | Update on implementation of the AGILE software | Report requested at Committee on 14 September 2021 | Assurance | Lynne Fensome | |
| | Bulky Waste Collection | Report requested at Committee on 9 November 2021 | Assurance | Chief Office Streetscene & Transportation | |
| | Support for Grant Funding Application to Promote Repair and Reuse Initiatives | To advise Scrutiny of the intention to submit a grant application to deliver a pilot project to implement repair and reuse initiatives across Flintshire | | Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation | |
| | Grass Cutting Performance Review | To provide an update on the performance of grass cutting across the county throughout 2021 and re-approve the existing grass cutting policy. | | Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation | |
| | Climate Change Strategy | To consider the draft strategy. | | Chief Officer Planning, Environment & Economy | |
| | Dropped Crossings | Request from Cllr George Hardcastle | | Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation | |

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
APPENDIX 1

| Date of Meeting | Subject | Purpose of Report/Presentation | Scrutiny Focus | Responsible/Contact Officer | Submission Deadline |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 7 Jun 2022 10.00 am | Year-end Performance Indicators for Recovery, Portfolio and Public Accountability Measures | To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring. Members are required to review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities, performance levels and current risk levels as identified in the Council Plan. | Performance monitoring/ Assurance | Chief Officers | |
| 5 Jul 2022 10.00 am | To consider the Council's Policy on the release of balloons | To receive a report on the Council's policy on the release of balloons and the environmental impact | Assurance | Chief Officer, Planning, Environment & Economy | |

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Items to be added:

Climate Change updates as appropriate

Programme Manager for the Land and Property Programme of North Wales Growth Deal to be invited to report to a future meeting of the Committee.

Report on the Standard Landfill Site as requested by Cllr Hutchinson.

Action tracking from Environment & Economy OSC December 2021

| Item/Date | Discussion | Action | By whom | Status |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Performance Report 08/06/21 | The Chief Officer agreed to share results of the network review by Transport for Wales | Results to be shared when available. | Ruth Tulley | Ongoing |
| Town Centre Markets 06/07/21 | That consideration be given to starting a market at Flint & Buckley | Interim response provided. Outcome to be shared with the Committee when available | Niall Waller | Ongoing |
| Minutes 14/09/21 | Litter from food outlets | Update on Welsh Government initiative to be circulated when available | Gabby Povey | Ongoing – Awaiting on current position from WG |
| 07/12/21 Forward Work Programme | Report on the Standard Landfill Site requested by Cllr Hutchinson. | Cllr Hutchinson to inform Chief Officer Planning, Environment & Economy of requirements | Cllr Hutchinson/ Andrew Farrow | Added to Forward Work Programme |
| 07/12/21 Forward Work Programme | Request from Cllr David Evans to receive a report on the Council's policy on the release of balloons and the environmental impact | Add to Forward Work Programme | Facilitator | Completed |
| 07/12/21 Active Travel Network maps | Cllr Joe Johnson referred to a route in the Holywell area. The Chief Officer agreed to liaise with Councillor Joe Johnson outside the meeting. | Chief Officer & Cllr Joe Johnson to discuss further | Katie Wilby/ Cllr Joe Johnson | Ongoing |
| 7/12/21 Hynet Presentation | Presentation to be circulated. | Presentation circulated. | Facilitator | Completed |

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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Date of Meeting | Tuesday 11 th January 2022 |
| Report Subject | Council Plan 2022-23 |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation; Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection; and Cabinet Member for Economic Development |
| Report Author | Chief Executive |
| Type of Report | Strategic |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan for 2017-23 was adopted by County Council to show the key priorities of the Council for the five year term of the new administration. The Plan is subject to annual review.

The 2022/23 Draft Plan has been reviewed and refreshed for content following on from our response to the pandemic and our Recovery Strategy. The themes and priorities remain the same to 2021/22, however there are some developments with sub-priorities.

The 'super-structure' of the Plan continues to be aligned to a set of six Well-being Objectives. The six themes continue to take a long term view of recovery, ambition and work over the next two years.

The outline of the Council Plan for 2022/23 including the six themes, their priorities and actions is appended (as Part 1).

The six themes will be mapped out against the respective lead portfolios for reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Following Cabinet agreement the next stage of development for the Plan's outline content is for Scrutiny Committees to review and consider its contents. All comments and suggestions will then be collated and shared with Cabinet in advance of approval for adoption in June 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | To review and provide feedback on the refreshed content of the themes for Council Plan 2022-23 prior to sharing with Cabinet in June 2022. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL PLAN 2021/22 |
| 1.01 | It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (wales) Act 2021 for organisations to ‘set out any actions to increase the extent to which the Council is meeting the performance requirements.’ Plans for organisations should be robust; be clear on where it wants to go; and how it will get there. |
| 1.02 | <p>The Council Plan for 2022/23 continues to move towards a more rounded corporate plan, whilst still meeting the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>Changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poverty<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Digital Poverty – definition expanded• Green Society and Environment<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New sub-priority added - Climate Change Adaptation○ New sub-priority added – Green Access○ Green Environment – new definition• Economy<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Digital and Transport Infrastructure divided into two separate sub-priorities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Transport Connectivity▪ Digital Infrastructure• Education and Skills<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New-sub-priority added – Well-being |
| 1.03 | <p>The Council Plan for 2022-23 has a super structure of six themes and supporting priorities as follows:</p> <p>Theme: Poverty Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Income Poverty- Child Poverty- Food Poverty- Fuel Poverty- Digital Poverty <p>Theme: Affordable and Accessible housing Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Housing support and homeless prevention- Housing Needs and Housing Options- Social Housing- Private Rented Sector- Empty Properties |

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| | <p>Theme: Green Society and Environment Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon Neutrality - Climate Change Adaptation - Fleet Strategy - Green Environment - Green Access - Renewable Energy - Active and Sustainable Travel Options - Circular Economy <p>Theme: Economy Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town Centre Regeneration - Business - Transport Connectivity - Digital infrastructure - LDP Targets - Spending money for the benefit of Flintshire - Reducing Worklessness <p>Theme: Personal and Community Well-being Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent Living - Safeguarding - Direct Provision to support people closer to home - Local Dementia Strategy - A well-connected, safe and clean local environment. <p>Theme: Education and Skills Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational Engagement and Achievement - Digital Learning Opportunities - Learning Environments - Learning Community Networks - Specialist Educational Provision - Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) - Well-being |
| 1.04 | The work on the detail behind the priorities has progressed well and is attached at Appendix 1. Cabinet have agreed to the content. The next step is for all Scrutiny Committees to be consulted with over the next cycle. |
| 1.05 | Following this cycle of consultation, the Plan will be presented to Cabinet in its second stage prior to adoption by the County Council in July. The final Council Plan (both parts 1 and 2) will be available as a web-based document published on the website. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | Council planning and service portfolio business recovery planning is dovetailed with the periodic review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme. |

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| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 3.01 | <p>Consultation has been carried out with Chief Officers, Cabinet members and the wider internal senior management network on the framework of the Plan.</p> <p>All Scrutiny committees will have the opportunity to be engaged in the development of the Plan.</p> |

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| 4.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT |
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| 4.01 | <p>Impact Assessment</p> <p>An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is currently underway for Council Plan Part 1. This will be completed by March and outcomes shared with Chief Officer Team for consideration. Findings from the IIA could be included in Part 1 and inform Part 2 Council Plan as a better fit. Last year's IIA Summary is available as a background document.</p> <p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td rowspan="5">Throughout the 2022/23 Council Plan development we will ensure the five ways of working are embedded within our ambitions and easily reported on.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td rowspan="7">Throughout the 2022/23 Council Plan development we will be ensuring we capture our contributions to the seven well-being goals within our ambitions.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesive Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vibrant Wales</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Globally responsible Wales</td> </tr> </table> <p>Council's Well-being Objectives</p> <p>The Council undertook a review of its Well-being Objectives during the development of the 2021/22 Council Plan. The updated set of Well-being Objectives are a more focused set of six. The Well-being Objectives identified have associated themes for which they resonate. See the full list below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Theme</th> <th>Well-being Objective</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Poverty</td> <td>Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affordable and Accessible Housing</td> <td>Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Long-term | Throughout the 2022/23 Council Plan development we will ensure the five ways of working are embedded within our ambitions and easily reported on. | Prevention | Integration | Collaboration | Involvement | Prosperous Wales | Throughout the 2022/23 Council Plan development we will be ensuring we capture our contributions to the seven well-being goals within our ambitions. | Resilient Wales | Healthier Wales | More equal Wales | Cohesive Wales | Vibrant Wales | Globally responsible Wales | Theme | Well-being Objective | Poverty | Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs | Affordable and Accessible Housing | Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|---|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|---------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Long-term | Throughout the 2022/23 Council Plan development we will ensure the five ways of working are embedded within our ambitions and easily reported on. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prevention | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Integration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Collaboration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Involvement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prosperous Wales | Throughout the 2022/23 Council Plan development we will be ensuring we capture our contributions to the seven well-being goals within our ambitions. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Resilient Wales | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Healthier Wales | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| More equal Wales | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cohesive Wales | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vibrant Wales | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Globally responsible Wales | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Theme | Well-being Objective | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poverty | Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Affordable and Accessible Housing | Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | Green Society and Environment | Limiting the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint |
| | Economy | Enabling a sustainable economic recovery |
| | Personal and Community Well-being | Supporting people in need to live as well as they can |
| | Education and Skills | Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities |
| | <p>Risk Management</p> <p>The risks to the statutory requirements of the Plan include: not publishing the plan within statutory timescales and, not adhering to the prerequisite content.</p> <p>Both these risks are managed through adherence to well established procedures for publishing the Plan and ensuring that the content of the Plan reflects the statutory requirements.</p> <p>An additional risk is that the Plan is not endorsed by Members; consultation with Members both individually and as part of the Scrutiny invites engagement.</p> | |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1: Draft Council Plan (Part 1) 2022-23. |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | Summary Integrated Impact Assessment – Council Plan 2021/22 |

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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | <p>Contact Officer: Jay Davies, Strategic Performance Advisor Telephone: 01352 702744 E-mail: jay.davies@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 8.01 | <p>Council 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 objectives and publish a Plan.</p> <p>Medium Term Financial Strategy: a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given</p> |

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| | period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations. |
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Council Plan 2022/23 – Part 1

| Priority Name | Poverty |
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| Description/ Well-being Objective | Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs |
| <p>Income Poverty</p> <p>Definition: People on low income who are unable to meet day to day living costs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are supported to be financially resilient by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maximising the number of people signposted for support to facilitate longer term change - by March 2023 b) Ensuring that take-up to benefit entitlement is maximised in a timely way by processing claims efficiently - by March 2023 c) Maximising take-up of the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme and other financial support - by March 2023 d) Continuing to offer our community hub (Contact Centres) approach giving access to a range of programmes, services and agencies together in one place - by March 2023 |
| <p>Child Poverty</p> <p>Definition: Children who do not have access to adequate food, clothing, shelter and education to lead a healthy and active life</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of sending children to school is reduced by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Making the processes for claiming free school meals as simple and straightforward as possible to increase the percentage of take-up against entitlement - by March 2023 b) Encouraging take-up of free school breakfast for year seven pupils eligible for free school meals - by March 2023 c) Maximising take-up of the school uniform grant – by March 2023 d) Developing a network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion – by March 2023 • Free access to books, ICT networks, devices and library services are maintained by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintaining the network of seven libraries in partnership with Aura - by March 2023 b) Increasing usage of online resources for children and young people - by March 2023 • Children have access to play opportunities by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensuring children have access to staffed open-access playwork projects in local communities - by March 2023 b) Ensuring children have access to well-maintained outdoor play areas which offer a varied and rich play environment - by March 2023 • Working with partners to ensure children in areas of social deprivation have access to food, exercise and enrichment schemes during school holidays – by March 2023 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring children have the opportunity to access meaningful community sports programmes (which impact on a range of issues including anti-social behaviour, child sexual exploitation, drug and alcohol prevention and County Lines) – by March 2023 • Providing children with access to well-maintained outdoor play areas which offer a varied and rich play environment – by March 2023 • Maintaining access to Free Swimming to help tackle health inequalities – by March 2023 |
| <p>Food Poverty</p> <p>Definition: People who are not able to access food that meets their daily nutritional needs and requirements</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone in Flintshire has access to affordable, good fresh food by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Developing a “Well Fed at Home service” - by December 2022 b) Continuing to develop delivery of a “Hospital to Home” meals service - by March 2023 c) Introducing a transported and delivered food service “Mobile Meals” to those who are vulnerable - by March 2023 |
| <p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Definition: Households that have higher than average fuel costs and meeting those costs will cause them to experience poverty</p> <p>Affordable and accessible housing</p> <p>Personal and Community Well-being</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes - by March 2023 Linked to Affordable and accessible housing • Engaging, supporting and referring vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing - by March 2023 Linked to Personal and Community Well-being |
| <p>Digital Poverty</p> <p>Definition: Inability to interact fully in a digital world when, where and how an individual needs to.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to use digital technology through promotion of suitable training to develop digital skills and confidence in the communities we serve – by March 2023 • Provide free of charge public access to the internet and devices where necessary at Flintshire Connects Centres and Aura library services – by March 2023 • Increasing loans of devices through the Aura Digital Access Scheme - by March 2023 • Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura - by March 2023 |

| Priority Name | Affordable and Accessible Housing |
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| Description/ Well-being Objective | Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities |
| Housing support and homeless prevention Definition: Offering support to people to retain their housing and live well and avoiding homelessness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning a wide range of housing related support that meets the needs of the people of Flintshire - by March 2023 • Promoting housing support and homeless prevention services with our residents and partners - by March 2023 • Ensuring a multi-agency partnership approach to homeless prevention and develop a culture where homelessness is “everyone’s business” - by March 2023 • Ensuring when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief and non-recurring - by March 2023 • Developing and extending our Housing First and Rapid Rehousing approaches for those who do experience homelessness - by March 2023 • Remodelling the “emergency beds” Homeless Hub accommodation offer and service delivery - by March 2023 • Exploring opportunities to develop a young person’s homeless hub offering accommodation and support services - by March 2023 |
| Housing Needs and Housing Options Definition: Helping people to explore their housing options so they can access the right homes to meet their needs Poverty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH), Common Housing Register, Affordable Housing Register and Housing Support Gateway within the community and with professionals - by March 2023 • Developing self-service approaches that enable people to identify their own housing options through online support - by March 2023 • Piloting a risk assessment process to identify pre tenancy support needs to reduce risk of tenancy failure - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty • Reviewing our sheltered housing stock to ensure that it continues to meet the needs and aspirations of current and prospective tenants - by March 2023 |
| Social Housing Definition: Working with housing partners to develop and invest in affordable housing - with modern methods of construction, and a commitment towards carbon neutral Poverty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with housing association partners to build new social housing properties and additional affordable properties - by March 2023 • Increasing the Council’s housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North East Wales (NEW) Homes - by March 2023 • Ensuring that the Council’s housing stock meets the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and achieves a minimum SAP energy efficiency rating of 65 - by December 2022 Linked to Green and Environment • Developing plans for the de-carbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure their thermal efficiency is optimised and the cost of heating homes are minimised - by March 2023 Linked to Green and Environment, Linked to Poverty |

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| <p>Green and Environment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with residents to ensure our communities are well managed, safe, and sustainable places to live - by March 2023 Linked to Green and Environment Supporting our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty Listening to our tenants and working with them to improve our services, homes and communities - by March 2023 |
| <p>Private Rented Sector</p> <p>Definition: Supporting the private sector to raise standards in the management and condition of housing and promote tenancy sustainment in our communities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with private sector tenants, giving them a voice and responding to their needs - by March 2023 Working in partnership with landlords and private sector agents to better understand their needs - by March 2023 Developing a “landlord offer” that encourages landlords to work with the Council to raise standards of property management and condition of homes where needed - by March 2023 Improving access to private sector properties for those who are homeless, at risk of homeless and in housing need - by March 2023 Mapping Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO’s) across Flintshire to ensure legal minimum housing standards are met and to improve residents’ quality of life - by March 2023 |
| <p>Empty Properties</p> <p>Definition: Bringing empty homes back into use to enhance the local housing market and improve our local communities</p> <p>Economy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing empty homes back into use through the Empty Homes Loan - by March 2023 Exploring opportunities to develop a project management service for non-commercial landlords to encourage take up of the Empty Home Loan Scheme - by March 2023 Targeting ‘problem’ empty homes in our communities and using enforcement powers where appropriate to improve our communities and increase housing supply - by March 2023 Exploring opportunities to maximise housing and revitalise our towns through the redevelopment of the High Street - by March 2023 Linked to Economy |
| <p>Priority Name</p> | <p>Green Society and Environment</p> |
| <p>Description/ Well-being Objective</p> | <p>Limiting the impact of the Council’s services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint.</p> |
| <p>Carbon Neutrality</p> <p>Definition: A net carbon zero Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering information on annual Council greenhouse gas emissions to submit to Welsh Government and the Carbon Programme Board - by June 2022 Reviewing the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers - by March 2023 Developing plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh government guidance’ – by March 2023 Working with Flintshire’s leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions – by March 2023 |

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| <p>Climate Change Adaptation</p> <p>Definition: Be more resilient to the changes that have happened due to climate change and prepare for predicted future change</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out flood investigation and alleviation – March 2023 • Assessing the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage – March 2023 |
| <p>Fleet Strategy</p> <p>Definition: Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converting the authority’s fleet to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen etc) - by March 2023 |
| <p>Green Environment</p> <p>Definition: Enhance and increase biodiversity and trees to deliver multiple benefits for people, wildlife and the environment.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan - by March 2023 • Enhancing the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment Act Wales biodiversity duty - by March 2023 |
| <p>Green Access</p> <p>Definition: The promotion, good management and protection of our green spaces to deliver multiple benefits to the environment and our residents and visitors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park – by March 2023 • Undertaking scoping work to look at the formal establishment of a Regional Park – by March 2023 |
| <p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>Definition: The promotion and support of renewable energy opportunities across the Council Estate and wider communities.</p> <p>Economy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the feasibility of renewable energy and land assets and link to wider carbon ambitions - by September 2022 • Agreeing appropriate investment strategy for future renewable energy developments - by September 2022 Linked to Economy |

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| <p>Active and Sustainable Travel Options</p> <p>Definition: Provide opportunities for increasing levels of walking and cycling (active travel) and enable access to other alternative and sustainable methods of travel</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Personal and Community Well-being</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the use of public transport through the further development of the Council's core bus network - by March 2023 Linked to Economy • Promoting active travel and further develop the Council's cycleway network - by March 2023 Linked to Personal and Community Well-being • Promoting multi modal transport journeys and the development of strategic transport hubs - by March 2023 Linked to Economy • Developing the County's electric car charging network - by March 2023 • Promoting active travel and further developing the County's walking and cycling network - by March 2023 Linked to Personal and Community Well-being |
| <p>Circular Economy</p> <p>Definition: Support and promote the Welsh Government's strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire</p> <p>Poverty</p> <p>Personal and Community Well-being</p> <p>Education and Skills</p> <p>Economy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets - by March 2023 • Developing and extending the Standard Yard Waste & Recycling Transfer Station - by March 2023 • Support and promote Re-Use and Repair initiatives in partnership with Refurbs Flintshire - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty, Linked to Personal and Community Well-being, Linked to Education and Skills • Promoting the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises- by March 2023 Linked to Poverty, Linked to Personal and Community Well-being, Linked to Education and Skills • Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing environmental and recycling initiatives - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty, Linked to Personal and Community Well-being, Linked to Education and Skills • Support local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient - by March 2023 Linked to Economy |
| <p>Priority Name</p> | <p>Economy</p> |
| <p>Description/ Well-being Objective</p> | <p>Enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth</p> |
| <p>Town Centre Regeneration</p> <p>Definition: Regenerate and re-invent our town centres</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions - by March 2023 • Encouraging and supporting investment in town centre properties to facilitate more sustainable uses - by March 2023 Linked to Affordable and accessible housing • Improving the environment in town centres - by March 2023 |

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| <p>Personal and Community Well-being</p> <p>Affordable and accessible housing</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the growth of community enterprises in town centre locations - by March 2023 |
| <p>Business</p> <p>Definition: Enable business continuity and encourage appropriate investment</p> <p>Green Society and Environment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging town centre small businesses and improve support packages available to them - by March 2023 Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities - by March 2023 Engaging small businesses and improve support packages available to them - by March 2023 Supporting recovery of the County's street and indoor markets - by March 2023 Supporting growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects - by March 2023 Supporting recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry - by March 2023 Increasing the scale and impact of the social business sector - by March 2023 Supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient - by March 2023 <p>Linked to Green Society and Environment</p> |
| <p>Transport Connectivity</p> <p>Definition: Develop and promote effective transport connectivity while supporting recovery and economic growth</p> <p>Poverty</p> <p>Green Society and Environment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and delivering transport infrastructure improvements as part of North Wales Metro programme and the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy - by March 2023 Linked to Green Society and Environment Ensuring Flintshire strategic transport priorities are well-represented in the Regional Transport Plan from the forthcoming Corporate Joint Committee development - by March 2023 Linked to Green Society and Environment |
| <p>Digital Infrastructure</p> <p>Definition: Ensure the digital networks facilitate and support recovery and growth</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting delivery of the local plans within North Wales Growth Deal for digital infrastructure – by March 2023 Connecting further rural communities to improved digital infrastructure - by March 2023 |
| <p>Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring timely adoption of the LDP once Inspector's Report received - by December 2022 |

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| <p>Definition: Achieve LDP policy objectives for growth, protection and enhancement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring overall Plan performance via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government - by March 2023 • Maintaining and updating the LDP housing trajectory in line with planning decisions made - by March 2023 • Making decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted LDP - by March 2023 • Referencing the LDP growth strategy in early work on a North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) - by March 2023 |
| <p>Spending money for the benefit of Flintshire</p> <p>Definition: Grow our local economic vitality through social value commitments and procurement strategy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to generate social value outcomes through the Council's procurement activities – By March 2023 • Supporting supply chain partners to convert their social value offerings through procurement commitments, into real and tangible benefits – By March 2023 • Reviewing the Social Value Strategy to ensure broader social value commitments can be achieved – By March 2023 • Generating local spend to support economic growth through the inclusion of social value measures in procurement activity – By March 2023 |
| <p>Reducing worklessness</p> <p>Definition: Work with our partners to support individuals to gain employment</p> <p>Poverty</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinating a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty • Delivering mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty |
| <p>Priority Name</p> | <p>Personal and Community Well-being</p> |
| <p>Description/ Well-being Objective</p> | <p>Supporting people in need to live as well as they can</p> |
| <p>Independent Living</p> <p>Definition: People will be supported to live as independently as possible through the right type of support, when they need it.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a plan to provide additional placements for step down care within our in house provision – by March 2023 • Continuing to grow the Microcare market, utilising one Development Officer post – by March 2023 • Developing an Early Years Strategy to ensure that all our children ages 0-7 have the best possible start in life and are able to reach their full potential –by March 2023 • Plan for the relocation of Tri Ffordd supported employment project to a central site in Mold by March 2023 |
| <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Definition: Implement and promote the new safeguarding procedures so our</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to promote the corporate e-learning package – by March 2023 • Preparing for the implantation of the new Liberty Protect Safeguard procedures – by March 2023 |

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| <p>employees understand how they can help safeguard people in the community</p> | |
| <p>Direct Provision to support people closer to home</p> <p>Definition: The services we provide so people can access the support they need in their local community</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up a registered Children’s Home to help avoid the need for residential placements outside Flintshire - by March 2023 • Continuing to growing our in-house homecare service to support more people to live at home - by March 2023 • Continuing to growing our in-house fostering service to support more looked after children - by March 2023 • Developing an action plan for the progression of the advocacy priority – by March 2023 |
| <p>Local Dementia Strategy</p> <p>Definition: Continuing to improve the lives of people living with dementia in Flintshire</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience – by March 2023 |
| <p>A well-connected, safe and clean local environment.</p> <p>Definition: Resilient communities where people feel connected and safe</p> <p>Green Society and Environment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting residents and our environment from pollution and other public health and safety hazards by achieving the Streetscene Standard - by March 2023 • Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing Local Environmental Quality initiatives - by March 2023 Linked to Green Society and Environment • Working with two local communities to inform a long term vision and delivery plan for using the Flexible Funding Grant programme to achieve positive outcomes for people – by March 2023 • Contributing to Public Health Wales’ priorities through partnership working with Aura by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving mental well-being and resilience – by March 2023 ○ Promoting healthy behaviours – by March 2023 ○ Securing a healthy future for the next generation – by March 2023 |
| <p>Priority Name</p> | <p>Education and Skills</p> |
| <p>Description/ Well-being Objective</p> | <p>Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities</p> |
| <p>Educational Engagement and Achievement</p> <p>Definition:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining support for settings and schools with rollout of the revised curriculum for pupils from 3-16 which better prepares them for their future lives and employment – by March 2023 • School employees continuing to access the GwE professional learning offer and engage in cluster working – by March 2023 |

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| <p>Providing diverse learning opportunities to support educational achievement in schools and communities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding the revised processes and procedures in relation to attendance and exclusion, using data to better inform and target interventions at both a pupil and school level – by March 2023 • Working with schools to support development and implementation of flexible and bespoke educational packages to improve attendance and engagement – by March 2023 |
| <p>Digital Learning Opportunities</p> <p>Definition: Supporting education engagement and achievement through proactive use of accessible digital media</p> <p>Poverty</p> <p>Personal and Community Well-being</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting schools and wider education services to increase their digital offer for children and young people - by March 2023 • Upskilling employees within the Education & Youth Portfolio through access to the GwE professional learning offer and other appropriate training opportunities – by March 2023 • Embedding the delivery plan for Integrated Youth Services by maintaining focus on increased digital engagement- by March 2023 • Continuing to increase the range of digital material hosted on the North East Wales Archive website and other digital services to encourage greater participation - by March 2023 • Continuing to monitor schools' provision for learners who are 'digitally disadvantaged' – by March 2023 • Supporting schools to maximise their available hardware via the national Hwb programme and to ensure sustainable funding plans in place – by March 2023 • Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura - by March 2023 Linked to Poverty • Providing community training for online learning platforms in a partnership with Aura and Adult Community Learning - by March 2023 |
| <p>Learning Environments</p> <p>Definition: Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting construction of the proposed 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa - by March 2023 • Consult on increasing capacity of Drury CP and Penyffordd CP schools through the School Organisation Code – by March 2023 • Commissioning a contractor and start design and development process for Drury CP and Penyffordd CP – by March 2023 • Seeking Council approval to progress Band B Wales Government 21st Century Schools Investment Programme - by March 2023 • Progressing the development of a new premises plan for the North East Wales Archive – by March 2023 |
| <p>Learning Community Networks</p> <p>Definition: Supporting our learning communities to engage and achieve through extensive partnership working unpinned by</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to consolidate the joint working between Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council through the North East Wales Archive to provide a sustainable and resilient service – by March 2023 • Developing the Delivery Plan for Adult Community Learning to increase engagement and improve skills within local communities – by March 2023 |

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| <p>common safeguarding practices</p> <p>Personal and Community Well-being</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Supporting Learners strategy to increase levels of engagement and provide appropriate progression routes to further engagement, study or employment – by March 2023 • Expanding the adult learning offer to reflect national, regional and local priorities in order to provide the skills required through partnership planning – by March 2023 • Working with Adult Community Learning and Flintshire Learning Recovery & Wellbeing Network Partners to share best practice and maximise opportunities for learning within the community with opportunities to be available in all Aura libraries - by March 2023 • Working in partnership with Open University Wales to support and signpost library users to Open Learn courses and subsequent learning pathways with Open Learn Champions in each library - by March 2023 • Working in partnership with Aura to provide Alternative Provision to young people excluded from school to help gain meaningful qualifications – by March 2023 |
| <p>Specialist Educational Provision</p> <p>Definition: Extending local capacity to support learners with additional learning needs (ALN)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Year two of the Transformation plan for children and young people with additional learning needs, in line with Welsh Government legislation and associated guidance – by March 2023 • Further defining and embedding the menu of outreach support and training to be offered to schools via Plas Derwen Pupil Referral Unit – by March 2023 • Developing a strategic proposal for the next phase of the Additional Learning Needs provision which increases the level of in-house provision and seeks to reduce the reliance on out of county provision – by March 2023 |
| <p>Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)</p> <p>Definition: Working with schools and partners to support the Welsh Government’s strategy to enable one million Welsh speakers by 2050</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to increase capacity and take up of Welsh medium education to achieve Welsh Government targets – by March 2023 • Continuing to improve Welsh language skills of employees in schools to more effectively support learners and the delivery of the curriculum – by March 2023 • Providing targeted support and intervention to schools to raise standards and promote bilingualism – by March 2023 • Extending the range of youth services delivered bilingually to encourage young people to retain and use their Welsh language skills into early adulthood – by March 2023 • Embedding the role of the Integrated Youth Provision Welsh language coordinator – by March 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring all digital and face to face youth and play provision has an increasing bilingual offer which supports the expansion of the Council’s Welsh Language immersion programme – by March 2023 |
| <p>Well-Being</p> <p>Definition: Working with schools and partners to provide</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling out the National Framework for Embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing in all Flintshire schools – by March 2023 • Supporting all secondary schools to complete the School Health Research Network survey in 2022 |

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| <p>opportunities for children, young people and the education workforce to engage in activities which support their emotional health and well-being</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Developing action plans based on the findings, particularly in relation to Emotional Health and Wellbeing – by March 2023● Meeting the requirements under Wellbeing Whole School Approach Development Fund for employee training and pupil engagement – by March 2023● Consolidating the Inspire Youth Work Hospital Project which provides support to young people at risk of self-harming behaviour – by March 2023● Improving awareness of trauma informed practice with schools and Education and Youth employees – by March 2023 |
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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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| Date of Meeting | 11 January 2022 |
| Report Subject | Levelling Up Fund – Round Two |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Countryside |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) |
| Type of Report | Operational. |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Announced at the Spending Review in 2020, the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) contributes to the UK Government levelling up agenda by investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. The £4.8 billion fund is designed to realise a visible and tangible impact on people and places and support economic recovery.

This report proposes the development of two bids to be submitted to the UK Government as part of the (still to be announced) round two of the programme expected early in 2022. It is proposed that bids are focussed on the coastal communities of Flintshire to: improve conditions for businesses, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour; bring heritage assets back into use; and encourage local people and visitors to use the coastal area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That Members review and discuss the proposed approach to developing proposals to be submitted to round two of the UK Government Levelling Up Fund. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE LEVELLING UP FUND AND PROPOSALS FOR ROUND TWO |
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| 1.01 | Announced at the Spending Review in 2020, the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) contributes to the levelling up agenda by investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the United Kingdom (UK), including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. The £4.8 billion fund is designed to realise a visible and tangible impact on people and places and support economic recovery. The LUF provides a new approach to tackling health, social and economic inequalities and driving prosperity across communities that have been left behind. |
| 1.02 | <p>The current LUF intervention framework for round 1 (which may potentially change for round 2) consists of three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) regeneration and town centre investment; (ii) cultural investment; and (iii) transport. <p>Interventions included within LUF bids submitted by local authorities during round 1 were required to align with one (or more) of the intervention categories, outputs and outcomes identified within the framework.</p> |
| 1.03 | <p>Whilst every local authority can bid for LUF funding, the fund is especially intended to support investment in places where it can make the biggest difference to everyday life, including ex-industrial areas, deprived towns, and coastal communities. The UK Government has placed local authorities into categories 1, 2 or 3, depending on their identified level of need, with category 1 representing places deemed in most need of investment. Flintshire County Council ('the Council') has been identified as a 'category 2' local authority.</p> |
| 1.04 | <p>The LUF enables local authorities to apply for up to £20 million per parliamentary constituency. Bids above £20m and below £50m will be accepted for transport projects only (separate and in addition to the one bid per parliamentary constituency allocation). The LUF guidance encourages bids to include a local financial contribution representing at least 10% of total costs. A contribution is expected from private sector stakeholders, such as developers, if they stand to benefit from a specific project.</p> |
| 1.05 | <p>The first round of the LUF opened in April 2021 and closed in June 2021 (a ten-week application window). Round two is expected to commence in 'Spring 2022'. The programme is currently due to end in March 2024 which provides a very constrained period in which to deliver capital projects.</p> |
| | <p><u>LUF Round One outcomes</u></p> |
| 1.06 | <p>Bidding for Round One opened in March 2022 with bids due by 18 May 2021. The Council, together with Transport for Wales, submitted a regionally strategic bid for investment in the Wrexham to Liverpool railway line infrastructure. UK Government have confirmed that the bid had been unsuccessful and detailed feedback is awaited to clarify the reasons for this.</p> |

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| 1.07 | The projects selected to receive funding for the first round of the LUF were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the 2021 Spending Review in late October 2021. A total of 305 Levelling Up Fund bids were received on or before the 18 June 2021. A total of 94 bids (30.8% success rate) were provisionally selected for funding. Of these, 76 projects are in England (79.8% of allocated funding), 10 in Wales (7.2%) and 8 in Scotland (10.1%). |
| | <u>LUF Round Two</u> |
| 1.08 | The intention is to submit two bids for Round Two; one for each parliamentary constituency within the County. Bids will focus on the £20m fund (per bid) involving regeneration, culture and heritage. The Council has appointed a company, Mutual Ventures, to project manage the process and contribute to the preparation of the bids working as part of an integrated team with Council officers. Mutual Ventures had an 80% success rate in supporting local authorities to secure LUF funding during Round One. |
| 1.09 | The timescale for the submission of Round Two bids remains unclear with the UK Government web site referring only to "Spring 2022." Development work is underway on the overall vision to inform the bids. Work has also been undertaken to identify an initial shortlist of interventions to be included within both of the Council bids for Round Two. |
| 1.10 | Significant work is required to develop each shortlisted intervention into a tangible and compelling proposition, including designs and costings. A wide variety of specialist and technical support has been engaged to support the Council in developing each intervention in readiness. |
| 1.11 | The intention is for the Council to submit two LUF bids during the round 2 application window (one per constituency; i.e. Delyn and Alyn & Deeside). Work undertaken to this point has included the development of a strategic narrative to inform the structure and focus of both bids. In summary, the intention is for the LUF funded interventions to assist in establishing the physical, economic, social and environmental conditions required to address the economic decline, disconnections and acute deprivation experienced by coastal communities. To achieve this aim, the focus of both bids will be to implement interventions that establish linkages and balance between the area's communities, businesses, industrial heritage and natural environment. |
| 1.12 | As such, both bids will be informed by a single vision for our coastal communities; each bid will demonstrate how the vision will be delivered separately across each constituency, involving different (place specific) interventions. The vision for coastal communities (currently in draft) includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retaining existing businesses based in the area; • Encouraging further external investment (e.g. clean manufacturing) and promoting traditional industries; • Strengthening the entrepreneurial and business start-up culture amongst residents, providing 'stepping stone' employment for people with low skills; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting pockets of deprivation with world class economic assets and jobs. Emphasis on skills and employability; ensuring local residents have the skills that employers require; Partnerships involving the Council, university, colleges, adult education, employers etc. will be established or strengthened. • Increasing civic pride, led by improved perception of place and celebration of local heritage, natural assets and traditional industries; • Reducing deprivation, anti-social behaviour ('ASB') and crime levels. <p>Further detail on the bid strategy is included in Appendix 1.</p> |
| 1.13 | Each bid will focus on ensuring alignment between capital investment, inclusive economic growth and the creation of social capital. The LUF funding will be viewed as a catalyst that enables social, economic and health inequalities to be addressed in coastal community wards where communities are experiencing acute deprivation. Proposals within both LUF bids will align with existing ambitions, strategies and investments designed to improve the infrastructure and outcomes for the identified communities. Delivering the LUF interventions should therefore be seen as a continuation of existing work to improve outcomes for our communities. |
| 1.14 | A detailed analysis of data was undertaken to scope the precise issues and challenges that our coastal communities face and feed into the development of the bid. More detail is provided in Appendix 1. |
| 1.15 | The intention is to develop two LUF bids that demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting our coastal communities, and, in particular, those wards identified as experiencing acute deprivation. The LUF bids will demonstrate how the proposed interventions align with existing strategies and priorities associated with supporting coastal communities, while also demonstrating how the funding will be spent by April 2024 (as per LUF requirements). Through the LUF interventions detailed within our 'Connecting Coastal Communities 2024' LUF bids, we will demonstrate that these investments form one element of a wider and longer-term programme designed to address the experience of social, economic and health inequalities in these communities. |
| 1.16 | <p>The intention is that the interventions funded through LUF establish the physical, economic, social and environmental conditions required to address the economic decline, disconnections and acute deprivation experienced by coastal communities. This will be achieved by implementing interventions that establish linkages and balance between the area's communities, businesses, industrial heritage and natural environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging inclusive economic growth that realises social capital for communities (skills & employability, employment, wage levels, health & wellbeing, quality of life); establishing a sustainable relationship between local SMEs, traditional industries, large anchor employers and local communities. • Establishing the conditions and infrastructure to encourage net-zero commercial growth. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating the area’s heritage, traditional industries and natural assets through a modern, accessible and sustainable offer to residents and tourists. • Creating and maintaining a public realm that provides the physical linkages between communities, businesses, heritage and the natural environment. <p>Further details on the potential interventions are provided in Appendix 1.</p> |
| 1.17 | <p>Further work is required to develop the interventions for each constituency, creating a final list to be included within the respective LUF bids. This refinement will reflect the following LUF framework requirements (relating to round 1, although requirements are anticipated to be the same for round 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement for all LUF funding to be spent by 31st March 2024; other sources of funding (i.e. match funding) can be spent after that date, meaning that each capital project does not necessarily need to be completed by March 2024. • The total required for LUF funding for each bid is not to exceed £20 million; as such we are required to assess the total cost of the identified LUF interventions, which must not exceed £20 million per bid once the total value of identified match funding is accounted for. |
| 1.18 | <p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>The current assumption is that round two of the LUF will open on 1st March 2022 and close on 10th May 2022. This has yet to be confirmed, with the only guidance provided by government indicating that the window will open in ‘Spring 2022’. The project plans for the development of both bids include the following main stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 - confirm designs and costings for all shortlisted interventions (December 2021-January 2022) • Stage 2 - undertake consultation exercises for shortlisted interventions (January 2022) • Stage 3 - confirm final list of interventions to be included within both bids (max £20m LUF ask x2) - (by end of January 2022) • Stage 4 - develop financial and economic models for both bids (February 2022) • Stage 5 - develop two LUF bids, one for each constituency (by end of March 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FCC to gather letters of support from stakeholders (including MPs) - (early April 2022) • Stage 6 - Council review and approvals (by end of April 2022) • Stage 7 - Submission of bids and letters of support (early May 2022) |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | <p>Regeneration core budget and reserves are being deployed to develop each of the interventions to a stage where they can be considered for inclusion in the bids. It is estimated that this will cost in the region of</p> |

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| | £100,000. In addition, UK Government has provided £125,000 to each Welsh local authority to support bid preparation. This will be fully utilised. |
| 2.02 | Interventions in the LUF bids will require match funding. This is currently being identified as part of the development of each intervention. Many of the interventions relate to Council owned assets where investment is required and where LUF provides an opportunity to significantly invest in Council assets for the benefit of the economy and local communities. As the interventions are developed further any future Council capital or borrowing requirements will be identified and will be subject to normal Council approval processes. |

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| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT | |
| 3.01 | Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact | |
| | Long-term | These proposals form part of a long term strategic approach to manage the coastal area of Flintshire for the benefit of the economy, Flintshire residents and the environment. |
| | Prevention | The market failures identified in this report will have long term social, economic and environmental impacts if left unaddressed. |
| | Integration | The proposed approach outlined in this report integrates activities by the private sector, voluntary sector and public bodies. |
| | Collaboration | The proposed approach involves a wide range of stakeholder in each locality working together towards a shared vision. |
| | Involvement | There has been and will be further consultation with stakeholders in each locality. |
| | Well-being Goals Impact | |
| | Prosperous Wales | The proposals in this report focus strongly on improving the economic assets in coastal Flintshire. |
| | Resilient Wales | There are a number of community-led interventions included in this report which help to address the market failures highlighted. |
| | Healthier Wales | The proposals in this report focus on improving access to green space in coastal Flintshire for residents. |

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| More equal Wales | The proposals in this report target the most deprived communities in Flintshire and seek to improve the physical environment and economic opportunities they rely upon. |
| Cohesive Wales | No impact. |
| Vibrant Wales | No impact. |
| Globally responsible Wales | There are a number of interventions in this report which will renovate or replace commercial properties and improve their environmental performance. |
| Risk management | |
| Risk | Mitigation |
| Match funding availability | Each bid requires a minimum of 10% match funding. Match funding will need to be identified from private and public sources and may not be secured at the point of bid submission. Work will continue on securing match funding after bids have been submitted. |
| Intervention deliverability | The short timescale for the development of the interventions means that not all information about every intervention will be available at the point of bid submission. Assessment work will take place before bid submission to identify, as far as possible, how risks to deliverability can be mitigated. Interventions where this cannot be satisfactorily demonstrated will not be included in the bids |
| Consents | Few interventions will have consents in place before the bids are submitted. The timelines for securing consents will be included in the plans for each intervention and work will take place before bid submission to assess the risk to deliverability. Residual risk will remain that consents cannot be achieved within the timescale for the programme, without creating costs beyond the budgets secured or at all. |
| Cost over-run | The interventions in this report will not be at final design stage at the point of bid submission so there will be considerable cost fluidity. All interventions will include a larger contingency budget than normal to mitigate this risk. In addition, at the point of delivery, excess cost at the procurement stage may lead to interventions |

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| | | being terminated or redesigned rather than incur additional financial pressures. |
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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT |
| 4.01 | Ward members in the target areas have been consulted. A wider consultation with the community will take place early in 2022 as well as detailed consultation with the businesses and communities directly impacted by the proposals. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1 – LUF bid strategy |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | None. |

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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | Contact Officer: Niall Waller (Enterprise and Regeneration Manager) Telephone: 01352 702137 E-mail: niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| | Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) – small geographic areas used for statistical purposes. Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 – the Welsh Government index that analyses a range of indicators to provide a relative assessment of deprivation for LSOAs. |

Flintshire County Council - Levelling Up Fund Bid Strategy

1. LUF bid strategy: One vision, two bids; a focus on coastal communities

The intention is for the Council to submit two LUF bids during the round 2 application window (one per constituency; Delyn and Alyn & Deeside). Work undertaken to this point has included the development of a strategic narrative to inform the structure and focus of both bids.

In summary, the intention is for the LUF funded interventions *to assist in establishing the physical, economic, social and environmental conditions required to address the economic decline, disconnections and acute deprivation experienced by coastal communities.*

To achieve these required conditions, the focus of both bids will be *to implement interventions that establish linkages and balance between the area's communities, businesses, industrial heritage and natural environment.*

As such, both bids will be informed by a single vision for coastal communities; each bid will demonstrate how the vision will be delivered separately across each constituency, involving different (place specific) interventions. The vision for coastal communities (currently in draft) includes the following:

- Retaining existing businesses based in the area.
- Encouraging further external investment (e.g. clean manufacturing) and promoting traditional industries.
- Strengthening the entrepreneurial and business start-up culture amongst residents, providing 'stepping stone' employment for people with low skills.
- Connecting pockets of deprivation with world class economic assets and jobs. Emphasis on skills and employability; ensuring local residents have the skills that employers require. Partnerships involving the Council, university, colleges, adult education, employers etc. will be established or strengthened.
- Increasing civic pride, led by improved perception of place and celebration of local heritage, natural assets and traditional industries.
- Reducing deprivation, anti-social behaviour ('ASB') and crime levels.

Each bid will focus on ensuring alignment between capital investment, inclusive economic growth and the creation of social capital. The LUF funding will be viewed as a catalyst that enables social, economic and health inequalities to be addressed in coastal community wards where communities are experiencing acute deprivation.

Proposals within both LUF bids will align with existing ambitions, strategies and investments designed to improve the infrastructure and outcomes for the identified communities. Delivering the LUF interventions should therefore be seen as a continuation of existing work to improve outcomes for coastal communities.

2. The problem we are trying to solve

2.1 Defining the challenge

A detailed data analysis was undertaken to scope the precise issues and challenges that coastal communities face and feed into the development of the bid strategy. The following paragraphs provide a high-level summary of the picture that emerges. More detail is provided in Appendix 1.

Socio-economic deprivation: Compared to the UK as a whole, income levels in Flintshire are below the national average and a greater number of households are in poverty with high levels of child poverty too. WIMD 2019 data highlights that coastal communities in Flintshire experience high levels of deprivation (4% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in 10% most deprived; 14% in 20% most deprived in Wales), particularly when it comes to the employment, income, education and community safety dimensions. In spite of a strong economy in the area, these communities do not partake in the benefits. Retaining existing employment and generating new 'stepping stone' employment that helps enhance skills and employability is a key levelling up opportunity in Flintshire.

Health: A review of health-related data, including on health deprivation (15% of Flintshire LSOAs in top 20% most deprived; concentrated in coastal strip), comparative life expectancy figures (gap of 11.6 years for men and 13.7 years for women between most and least deprived areas) and substance misuse, again suggests that health and wellbeing is an area that would benefit from a particular focus for the same deprived coastal communities in Flintshire. A focus on the accessibility of the coastal strip and physical activity to maximise the benefits from the Dee Estuary's visitor and outdoor appeal can help address these challenges.

Crime: Data specifically on 'acquisitive crime' linked to substance misuse illustrates that opening up the coastal strip in this way needs to be complemented by investments in positive uses of the natural beauty, heritage assets and an improved public realm.

Commercial constraints (industry): A lack of investment in commercial premises in town centres and industrial parks, particularly Greenfield Business Park and Flint Castle Park, acts as a challenge to the retention of existing businesses (with a total rateable value of £2,517,950) and the creation or attraction of new ones. Many units are not fit for purpose any longer or even beyond economic repair. In the face of renewed high demand following the pandemic (occupancy rates ranging from 78% in Greenfield to 95% in Deeside and particularly demand for industrial space having increased considerably compared to January 2019) this creates a risk that important local employers could be unable to secure the desired size of appropriate space and will look further afield into Wrexham, Cheshire and the Wirral.

Commercial opportunity (tourism): With a large potential catchment for the visitor economy (of 4.7m people living within a 60-minute drive) (prior to Covid 19) the economic impact of the sector has experienced a steady growth and strong employment performance since 2009. As highlighted in commitments in the Destination Management Strategy, the area's commercial potential for tourism in the widest sense (including leisure, recreation and tourism uses) remains largely untapped. Levelling Up investment can be a catalyst to access this market for the benefit of coastal communities in Deeside.

Place based issues (heritage): The built heritage across the coastline and town centres is under threat and a lack of ownership and civic pride means that a lot more could be done to realise the ample opportunities to secure greater benefits from place-building through targeted investment in the natural and built environment.

Place based issues (public realm): The public realm in the coastal communities is shaped by the legacy created by heavy industry activities (34.8% of Flintshire LSOAs in 10% most deprived for physical environment in 2014, prior to inclusion of the green space sub-domain prompting a considerable improvement in Flintshire's position in the 2019 index). Reconciling industrial spaces with the natural environment, ensuring better connectivity and reducing inequality and inequity of access to heritage and natural assets can help equip coastal communities to take advantage of the promise key assets hold for the area.

2.2 Market failures and their impact

The LUF application process requires applicants to identify market failures that are creating the challenges as outlined above and are negatively impacting communities and local stakeholders. The purpose of the interventions proposed within an applicant's LUF bid should be designed to correct these failures, and in doing so realise benefits to communities.

Informed by the above, a visioning and Theory of Change exercise has been undertaken to identify the market failures and their impact, as well as identifying the intended long-term impact and outcomes that would be realised (to inform the economic analysis of both bids).

A summary of the market failures and their impact on coastal communities is provided below:

Market failure 1 - A lack of investment in commercial premises (town and industrial parks) along the coastline.

- These premises are in need of investment or they will not be fit for purpose and may soon be vacated by current business occupants, risking current jobs and local supply chains.
- The areas in which these commercial premises are located are in need of upgrade, with their current condition negatively impacting perceptions (residents, communities, visitors and businesses).
- Given their age and current condition, the energy inefficiency of these buildings.
- A lack of suitable premises for local SMEs and incubator businesses; this may restrict their growth and/or result in them relocating out of area.

Market failure 2 - The built heritage across coastline and town centres is falling into disrepair and disappearing

- ASB and criminality in certain locations (e.g. Shotton).
- Lack of ownership and civic pride, given the cycle of decline.
- Built heritage is potentially a detractor from the area, rather than people having any awareness of the heritage and these buildings/structures being seen as relevant. This adds to the disconnect between communities and their heritage assets.
- Voids and vacant buildings suppressing economic activity, as interest and footfall/spend is reduced.

Market failure 3 - Decline of traditional industries linked to the area's maritime heritage (i.e. cockle fishing & processing/dock management).

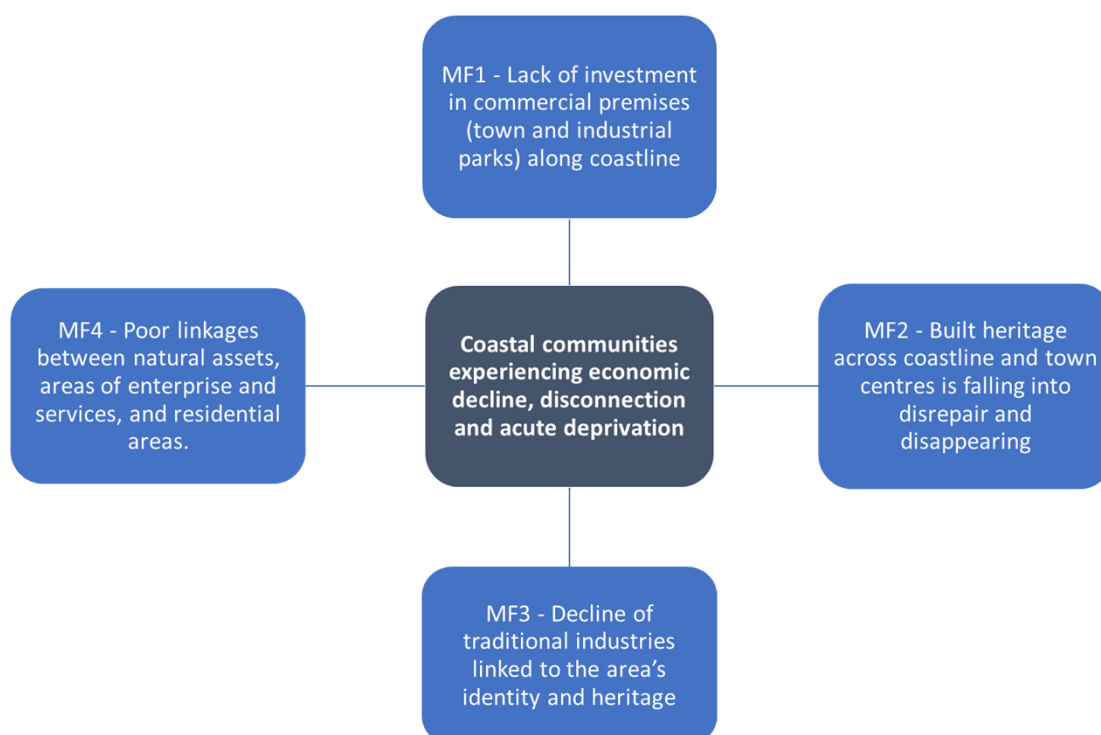
- Lost commercial and employment opportunities, threatening the future sustainability of industries (and associated jobs) currently struggling with the impact of Brexit.
- Loss of skills associated with these traditional industries.
- Disconnect between communities and their local heritage/natural environment; industries seen as dirty and local resources contaminated. Low level of awareness of the quality of water and fishing stock etc.
- This disconnect and misconception impacts on ability to promote heritage and natural environment to visitors.

Market failure 4 - Poor linkages between natural assets, areas of enterprise and services, and residential areas. Residents and visitors making limited use of linkages (paths etc.) due to poor condition, fear of crime and negative perceptions of the areas connected by said linkages.

- Adding to the disconnect between communities, their heritage assets and natural environment.
- ASB, criminality and fear of crime reducing use of public spaces and linkages, contributing to social isolation and/or increased use of private transport.

In summary, these market failures can be linked to the economic decline, disconnection and acute deprivation experienced by coastal communities:

- Visible decline of the area (physical).
- High levels of deprivation and decline in social outcomes, linked to unemployment, low skills and poor-quality housing.
- Negative perceptions held by residents, potential investors and visitors, resulting in lost opportunities for inclusive wealth building.
- Disconnect between local communities and their natural environment, heritage and local employers (exception: Greenfield - 400 local employees).
- Rise in anti-social behaviour and crime.



3. LUF bids - 'Connecting Coastal Communities 2024'

The intention is to develop two LUF bids that demonstrate the Council's commitment to supporting coastal communities, and in particular those wards identified as experiencing acute deprivation. The LUF bids will demonstrate how the proposed interventions align with existing strategies and priorities associated with supporting coastal communities, while also demonstrating how the funding will be spent by April 2024 (as per LUF requirements). Through the LUF interventions detailed within our 'Connecting Coastal Communities 2024' LUF bids, we will demonstrate that these investments form one element of a wider and longer-term programme designed to address the experience of social, economic and health inequalities in these communities.

The intention is that the interventions funded through LUF establish the physical, economic, social and environmental conditions required to address the economic decline, disconnections and acute deprivation experienced by coastal communities.

This will be achieved by implementing interventions that establish linkages and balance between the area's communities, businesses, industrial heritage and natural environment:

- Encouraging inclusive economic growth that realises social capital for communities (skills & employability, employment, wage levels, health & wellbeing, quality of life); establishing a

sustainable relationship between local SMEs, traditional industries, large anchor employers and local communities.

- Establishing the conditions and infrastructure to encourage net-zero commercial growth.
- Celebrating the area’s heritage, traditional industries and natural assets through a modern, accessible and sustainable offer to residents and tourists.
- Creating and maintaining a public realm that provides the physical linkages between communities, businesses, heritage and the natural environment.

In summary, our long-term ambitions for coastal communities rely on the successful implementation of ‘Connecting Coastal Communities 2024’.

4. LUF interventions - current shortlists

The following shortlisted options have been identified for each bid/constituency:

Delyn constituency

| LUF intervention | Market failure | Rationale for inclusion |
|---|----------------|--|
| Business unit regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flint Castle Park • Greenfield Business Park | MF 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current units are left from heavy industry uses that have disappeared • Current units to some extent accommodate business expansion & reduction flexibly – important to retain to avoid businesses/ employers locating elsewhere • Additional diversity in size of units will improve business productivity (because no longer need to spread over several units with associated time management issues) • Offer of modern, light units will help reduce HGV traffic in the area • Investment required in underutilised/ underused land and some empty (because uninhabitable units) – development of modern business units offers good returns • Refurb/ redevelopment will deliver carbon reduction • First impressions count for tourism (in adjacent area along coastal strip) |
| Greenfield Valley Heritage Park | MF 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCC working with GV Trust on two zones highlighted in their strategy: Basingwerk and Heritage ad Museum • Investment in Heritage Museum (within paid for boundary of Park) would strengthen commercial viability • Investment in listed buildings vital to sustain viability of Park operations (precise need/ opportunity to be established in current feasibility study) • Connectivity with coast is being considered, but otherwise not relevant for focus on public realm to improve linkages |
| Flint and Bagillt track and docks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flint and Bagillt cycle track and trails • Flint Dock Enhancements | MF 2 MF 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section of coastal path is one of most attractive parts of the area with viewpoints over Estuary, but currently not accessible (narrow path) • Coherent package offer important for tourism – linkages quite good already and could be completed with additional investment (including facilities linked to cycle track) • Good fit with existing activities/ investments (e.g. Flint Visitor Centre as active piece of work funded by RNLI & WG) • Physical environment more generally incl. public realm, green infrastructure, parking provision (rather than purely buildings) shapes visitor experience - opportunity to: |

| | | |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide access to the natural environment in urban area ○ capitalise on landscape to create recreational use for local community (who rediscovered area in lockdown) ○ renovate an important heritage asset for the long-term future ○ incorporate 'backwater land' into overall impression ○ address current generational gap in usage i.e. de facto use as cycle path etc. by younger generation with (more formalised) positive use ○ Use supporting signage, seating etc. to enhance attractiveness of the area and encourage linger and dwell • Walking/ cycling will deliver carbon reduction |
|--|--|---|

Alyn & Deeside Constituency

| LUF intervention | Market failure | Rationale for inclusion |
|--|----------------|--|
| Connah's Quay Dock: Modern Dock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Dock Slipways • Introduction of CCTV to Connah's Quay Docks - Modern and Historic | MF 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used by boat community for recreational uses • Improved access for boats would support recreational/ tourism use - business consultation re additional uses/ benefits and potential catalyst role of modern dock & slipways (incl. public realm) ongoing (but dock integrity yet to be confirmed) • Better linkages, security and H&S on the water (CCTV), improved public realm needed to enable recreational use to full potential |
| Connah's Quay: Historic Dock & public realm | MF 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrinsic part of visitor offer (e.g. adjacent to heritage centre) • Improved footpath and signage will help pull visitors to coast path (and address current barrier created by train line and unattractive terraced housing) |
| John Summer Clocktower John Summers (former Corus) sports and social club site | MF 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derelict buildings attract ASB and crime. Enbarr Foundation wish to restore the site and bring a historic building back to use in order to reduce crime and to create a community facility. • Former Social Club site managed by Care & Repair; proposals designed to reduce crime and ASB and increase access to, and provide facilities for, the nearby coastal path. |
| Sea Cadets | MF 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a purpose built centre for the Sea Cadets at Connah's Quay Docks to increase positive uses of the Docks and enable greater use of the marine infrastructure. |
| Business Premises Grant | MF1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To incentivise businesses to invest in commercial property in the target area to: improve the appearance of the built environment; bring vacant commercial space back into use; and to renovate commercial units to make them fit for long term future use in accommodating employment. • The grant will operate in all communities adjacent to the coast from Connah's Quay to Saltney. |
| Saltney Coast Path Gateway | MF4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access and visitor facilities, |

Further work is required to refine the shortlist for each constituency, creating a final list of interventions to be included within the respective LUF bids. This refinement will reflect the following

LUF framework requirements (relating to round 1, although requirements are anticipated to be the same for round 2):

- The requirement for all LUF funding to be spent by 31st March 2024; as such we are required to assess the likelihood of LUF funds being spent by that point.
- The total required for LUF funding for each bid is not to exceed £20 million; as such we are required to assess the total cost of the identified LUF interventions, which must not exceed £20 million per bid once the total value of identified match funding is accounted for.

5. Next steps

The current planning assumption is that round 2 of the LUF will open on 1st March 2022 and close on 10th May 2022. This has yet to be confirmed, with the only guidance provided by government indicating that the window will open in 'Spring 2022'.

Informed by the above assumption, the project plans for the development of both bids include the following main stages:

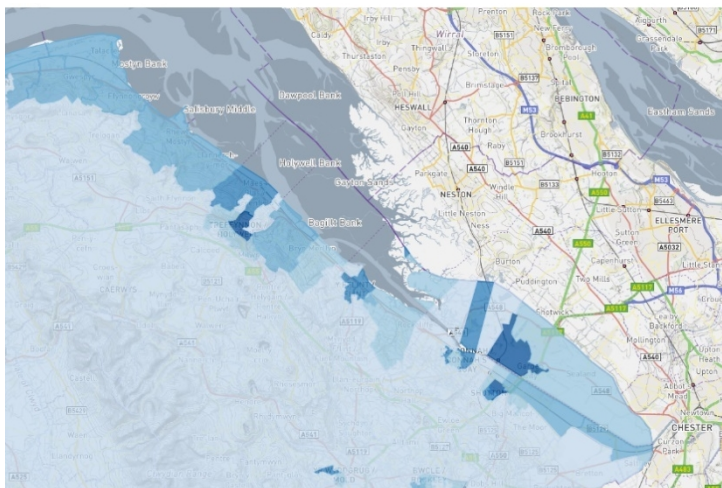
- **Stage 1** - confirm shortlist of propositions to be included within both bids (December 2021-January 2022)
- **Stage 2** - confirm designs and costings for all interventions to be included within both bids (December 2021-January 2022)
- **Stage 3** - undertake consultation exercises in relation to shortlisted interventions (January 2022)
- **Stage 4** - develop financial and economic models for both bids (January-February 2022)
- **Stage 5** - develop two LUF bids, one for each constituency, including gathering letters of support from stakeholders (including MPs) - (March-April 2022)
- **Stage 6** - Council review and approvals (end of April 2022)
- **Stage 7** - Submission of bids and letters of support (early May 2022)

Appendix 1 - Defining the Challenge

Socio-economic deprivation

Compared to the UK as a whole, income levels in Flintshire are below the national average, a greater number of households is in poverty and 2015 data suggests that 17.7% of all children in families which are eligible for child benefit were living in povertyⁱ.

In comparison to other Welsh counties Flintshire as a whole performs relatively well. In September 2019 at 79.7% it had the highest employment rate and at 2.3 the lowest unemployment rate as well as at £17,064 the third highest disposable income (after Monmouthshire and Newport) and at £23,086 the fourth highest GVA per head (after Cardiff, Newport and Wrexham) of all Welsh authoritiesⁱⁱ. In other words, Flintshire has a strong economic base. And yet, some parts of Flintshire suffer from high levels of socio-economic deprivation.



Source: Welsh Government, [DataMap Wales](#)

An analysis of WIMD 2019 dataⁱⁱⁱ shows that 3 LSOAs (or 4%) in Flintshire are in the 10% most deprived in Wales, rising to 10 (or 14%) for the 20% most deprived. As illustrated in the map (the darker the shade of blue the higher the deprivation), these are strongly concentrated in Deeside.

A total of 7 LSOAs (or 10%) in the county are in the top 20% most deprived in terms of employment and 11 LSOAs (or 15%) feature in this group in terms of income deprivation. This leads to the conclusion that in spite of a strong economy and high quality employment being available, some communities do not partake in the benefits from this.

Education and community safety are particular areas of concern in an otherwise relatively affluent county, with 9 LSOAs (or 13%) for education and 8 LSOAs (or 11%) for community safety being in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales (rising to 17 or 24% and 12 or 17% for the 20% most deprived respectively). This would suggest that considerable barriers to accessing good employment exist for these communities that are again strongly concentrated in Deeside with LSOAs in Shotton, Flint, Connah's Quay, Sealand and Mostyn all featuring strongly in the 10% most deprived groups for education (Shotton Higher 2 is even in the top 1% most deprived in this respect) and/ or community safety.

The Levelling Up funding can therefore play an important role in enabling investment that can retain existing employment and help create new 'stepping stone' employment opportunities (i.e. relatively low skill roles) in sectors such as tourism and heritage in close proximity to these communities experiencing high levels of income and employment deprivation.

Health

Considering health, the overall picture is less stark, with 5 LSOAs (or 7%) in the top 10% most deprived and 11 LSOAs (or 15%) in the 20% most deprived. However, as the 2019 WIMD results report points out, the only area to move from outside the 30% most deprived into the 10% most deprived group was Flint Coleshill 2 in Flintshire^{iv} and the same Deeside LSOAs again feature strongly in this group.

This would suggest that health and wellbeing is an area that would benefit from a particular focus for deprived communities in Flintshire.

This picture is borne out by a look at the inequality gap in life expectancy as measured by the Slope Index of Inequality. This suggests that the absolute gap in years of healthy life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas in Flintshire amounted to 11.6 for men and 13.7 for women for the most recent period for which data is available (2010-14)^v. Taking data for 2001-05 and 2005-09 into account, it appears that the trend is for this gap to narrow for men, but grow wider for women^{vi}.

Finally, the 2017 Well-being Assessment^{vii} identifies psychoactive substances and new novel drugs as well as addiction to prescription drugs as concerns for health and wider community well-being in the county. It also points out that 25.5% of 4-5 year old children and 57.5% of adults in Flintshire were found to be obese or over weight. A focus on higher physical activity levels therefore appears appropriate.

A focus on physical activity through encouraging and enabling active travel options and making the coastal strip with its outdoor appeal more accessible and safer for Deeside communities therefore responds directly to the concerns raised by this data analysis.

Crime

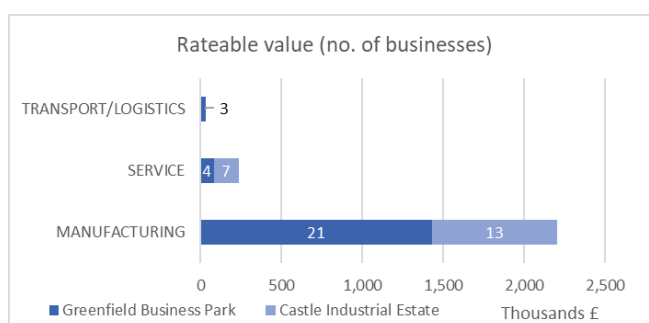
The 2017 Well-being Assessment for Flintshire stated that “Drug abuse is sometimes very visible in public places and is of concern to the public, and has an impact on reported acquisitive crime”, even though the actual “number of crimes committed and the people involved is quite small”^{viii}.

While a focus on enabling physical activity will go some way in opening up the coastal strip to local communities, an emphasis on ‘crowding out’ negative uses by investing in positive uses drawing on the natural beauty, heritage assets and an improved public realm will be key to delivering levelling up results.

Commercial constraints (industry)

In view of these socio-economic issues, it is desirable for vibrant economic activity to create new opportunities in the area, the Flintshire coastal strip. However, commercial constraints act as an obstacle in this respect. A lack of investment in commercial premises in town centres and industrial parks acts as a challenge to the retention of existing businesses and the creation or attraction of new ones.

A number of industrial estates/ business parks is located in the area, including the Greenfield Business Park and Flint Castle Park. Many of the existing units in both business parks are beyond economic repair at the end of their life and in many instances not fit for purpose any longer. However, adding up to a total rateable value of £2,517,950, the businesses accommodated in the units are important to the local economy.

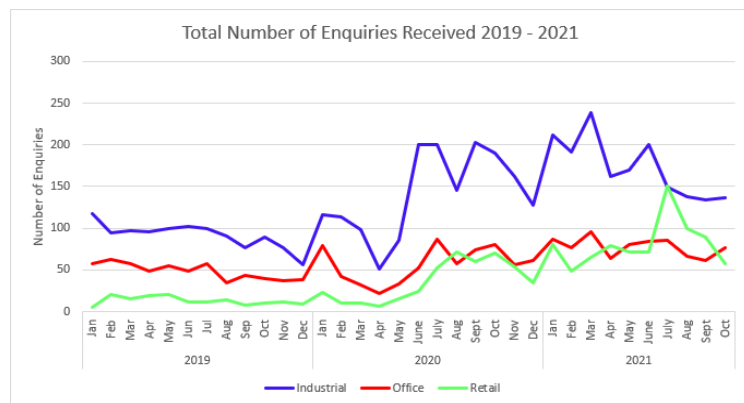


Source: own analysis of FCC data

While detailed Condition survey information is not available, the Greenfield feasibility study^{ix}, for instance, concluded from a visual review that many units were “legacy buildings” from previous uses and that “improvements have appeared to have been made within the last 20 years to many of the units but on an ad hoc basis”. It further states that “a number of units are coming to the end of their

life and will require significant investment within the next 5 years” and identified issues arising from key employers having outgrown their units and resorting to the (highly disruptive) use of shipping containers; issues arising from a lack of space for articulated HGVs. The Castle Park feasibility study echoes these findings, including stating that the current light weight structures may not be suited for “Building Regulation compliant overcladding or offer sufficient fire protection for future uses”^x.

Moreover, in the face of high demand, supply of suitable business premises is low. According to Council-collated data, as of October 2019 (reflecting pre-Corona levels) Council-managed business



Source: Data obtained from commercial agent

centres catering for start-ups and small businesses, had high occupancy rates ranging from 78% in Greenfield to 95% in Deeside. Following a drop in activity during the pandemic period, demand is now building again as evidenced by data from a local commercial agent, Legat Owen, regarding business accommodation enquiries. This suggests that the number of enquiries for commercial accommodation across all sectors

(industrial, office and retail) has increased significantly since April 2020, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Increased take up of vacant space is leading to companies within Flintshire being unable to secure the desired size of space and having to look further afield into Wrexham, Cheshire and the Wirral.

It is therefore essential for the employment and prosperity prospects of local communities in Deeside to invest in business premises designed to retain and attract small local employers.

Commercial opportunity (tourism)

A total of 4.7m people live within a 60-minute drive time of Flintshire giving a large potential catchment for the visitor economy^{xi}. Considering income from tourism, a trend of steady growth in the economic impact from day visitors to the area was recorded from £63.93 million 2009 to £112.06 million in 2019^{xii}. Following a decreasing trend from 2009 to 2014, since 2015 employment has also displayed an increasing trend (from 2,920 FTEs in 2014 to 3,418 in 2019)^{xiii}. Read in conjunction with the Flintshire Destination Management Strategy^{xiv} it is clear that the area’s commercial potential of tourism in the widest sense (including leisure, recreation and tourism uses) remains largely untapped. Under the heading of ‘product development’ the strategy has a strong focus on supporting the development of a Flintshire Coast Park including the creation of small scale visitor infrastructure along the Dee coastline, and plans for wider place building activities (e.g. enhancing linkages between Greenfield Valley, Greenfield Docks and the coast or maximising the potential of Flint Castle). Similarly, the dockside area of Connah’s Quay has been identified as “a key hidden asset” and “a strategic investment opportunity”^{xv}.

And yet, a decline of traditional industries and a poor tourism infrastructure constrain the extent to which coastal communities can benefit from these opportunities. Levelling Up funding can enable the investment required to maximise the benefits from Deeside’s natural beauty, heritage assets and good opportunities to tap into a sizeable visitor economy market for these communities.

Place based issues (heritage)

As a result of limited benefits and investment from the high value-added economic activity clustered elsewhere in Deeside (e.g. advanced manufacturing, energy generation) reaching coastal communities in Deeside, the built heritage across the coastline and town centres too is falling into disrepair and disappearing. A lack of ownership and civic pride in both natural and heritage assets and a lack of positive engagement means that negative connotations and uses of these spaces prevail: the historic dock in Connah's Quay and leisure provision at Flint Dock don't receive the attention they deserve; the catch from the Dee is seen as contaminated, leading to limited engagement with fishery as a key traditional industry; and the coastal path and industrial heritage assets are disconnected from town centres; This multi-faceted disconnect and misconception impacts on the county's ability to promote its heritage and natural environment to visitors.

The conclusion that there is scope to achieve more in Flintshire is borne out by data from the RSA Heritage index, which maps and monitors the extent to which heritage assets contribute to the prosperity and wellbeing of residents throughout the UK. The '2016' Opportunity Index provided as part of this initiative identified Flintshire as one of three places in Wales with "the largest gap when comparing heritage activities to assets"^{xvi} (the others being Cardiff and Newport). In the 2020 ranking, Flintshire still features as number seven in the top ten ranking for heritage potential (no. 17/22 for its overall performance). The strongest movement in Flintshire's ranking between 2016 and 2020 is evident for the domain of parks and open space, which saw a 12 point improvement in the county's heritage index ranking.

While the Index is a relative measure, it provides a useful quantitative dimension to Flintshire's potential to maximise the benefits from investment in place. Of particular interest is that, while Flintshire ranks at number 3 for assets in the domain of landscape and natural environment, the overall ranking is brought down by a rank of 16 when it comes to activities in this domain. When it comes to industrial heritage, at rank 22 for assets and 20 for activities, both dimensions would benefit from additional investment. In other words, for both of these domains, there is considerable scope to capitalise better on the natural and built environment.

Place based issues (public realm)

Beyond specific assets themselves, the nature, quality and connectivity of the physical environment more generally is a key determinant of the success of places.

WIMD 2019 data again provides a useful starting point for a more detailed consideration of the issues arising with regard to the physical environment in Flintshire, particularly as they relate to the Deeside coastal communities. In the 2014 WIMD analysis, Flintshire had the highest proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales for the physical environment domain (34.8%) and Queensferry was the most deprived LSOA in this domain in Wales^{xvii}. In the 2019 assessment nearly a third of the 99 areas that had moved out of the 10% most deprived group for this domain between 2014 and 2019 were located in Flintshire. The report explains this movement with reference to the inclusion of the green space sub-domain in the WIMD indicator and the exclusion of the proximity to waste disposal and industrial site sub-domain^{xviii}. The improved position of LSOAs in Flintshire therefore suggests that green space is an asset in the county while industrial sites affect the attractiveness and economic and health benefits that can be derived from it.

And yet, a 2020 Natural Resources Wales report assessing the state of natural resources in Wales suggests that "in the more deprived communities of Wales particularly, more still needs to be done to reduce inequality and inequity of access to, and benefit from, natural resources"^{xix}. Places to focus on are identified as: Coast and rivers; Woodlands; Urban areas and Other green and blue spaces, including coastal and marine areas.

In this context the Master Plan for Connah’s Quay Waterfront^{xx} identifies a number of commercial lessons from successful waterfront developments elsewhere that provide pointers for investments to create a destination in Deeside. These include “Creating strong pedestrian and cycling circuits along the waterfront linking a large number of attractions of different type and interest points; Enabling people to get near to the water; Providing opportunities for people to eat and drink overlooking the water; Animating the water and the docksides; Using both events of many types, small scale and large scale, to attract visits and enhance awareness of the destination.”

Improving connectivity is therefore a priority for the public realm. In this context, green infrastructure with a particular focus on the coastal strip itself and its linkages with the town centres of Flint, Connah’s Quay and Shotton has been identified as a key opportunity for Flintshire. The Flintshire Active Travel Integrated Network Map was developed to increase the currently limited levels of walking and cycling in Flint for everyday journeys and to encourage the use of Green Infrastructure and open space for leisure and Active Travel^{xxi}.

In line with this, the 2015 Flintshire Coast Park Prospectus developed a vision for “an accessible coast park which celebrates the natural environment and heritage of the Welsh coast”. It identified the “huge potential for tourism, recreation and wildlife appreciation”^{xxii} along the 25 mile stretch of coast with over half of the county’s population living within 2 miles of the coast and the Wales Coastal Path connecting into the North West of England. The same study suggests, however, that “access to the shore remains constrained and poorly presented in places”.

Addressing the current lack of services (from public toilets to a tourism or visitor offer) and providing much better connectivity between natural and heritage assets on the coast and in town centres is therefore essential to create a strong public realm in the coastal communities that are the subject of the Levelling Up bids and ensure that they are equipped to take advantage of the promise these assets hold.

ⁱ Flintshire Public Services Board (2017), Assessment of Local Well-being for Flintshire

ⁱⁱ Welsh Government (2020), Regional economic and labour market profiles, January 2020 URL: <https://gov.wales/regional-economic-and-labour-market-profiles-january-2020>

ⁱⁱⁱ Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 by rank, decile and quintile, Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA), <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Community-Safety-and-Social-Inclusion/Welsh-Index-of-Multiple-Deprivation/WIMD-2019/welshindexofmultipledeprivation2019-by-rank-decileandquintile-lowerlayersuperoutputarea> [accessed 16/11/2021]

^{iv} Welsh Government (2019), Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, (WIMD) 2019, Results report, URL: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-11/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-2019-results-report-024.pdf>

^v Welsh Government, Inequality gap in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth (Slope Index of Inequality) in years by Local Health Board and Local Authority, URL: <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Life-Expectancy/inequalitygapinlifeexpectancyandhealthylifeexpectancyatbirthslopeindexofinequalityinyears-by-localhealthboard-localauthority>, [accessed 16/11/2021]

^{vi} Public Health Wales (2011), Measuring inequalities, Trends in mortality and life expectancy in Flintshire

^{vii} Flintshire Public Services Board (2017), Assessment of Local Well-being for Flintshire

^{viii} Flintshire Public Services Board (2017), Assessment of Local Well-being for Flintshire

^{ix} Flintshire County Council (2021), Greenfield Feasibility Study

^x Flintshire County Council (2021), Castle Park Feasibility Study

^{xi} Flintshire County Council (2020), Recovery Theme Plan 2020/21 | Tourism & Hospitality Sector (internal document)

^{xii} Flintshire County Borough Council (2019), Steam Final Trend Report for 2009-2019

^{xiii} Flintshire County Borough Council (2019), Steam Final Trend Report for 2009-2019

^{xiv} Flintshire County Council (2017), Flintshire Destination Management Strategy Plan 2017-2020

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- ^{xv} Flintshire County Council (2016), Connah’s Quay Waterfront Development Framework
- ^{xvi} RSA Heritage Index (2016), <https://www.thersa.org/reports/seven-themes-from-the-heritage-index/interactive#opportunityindex> [accessed 16/11/2021]
- ^{xvii} Natural Resources Wales (2014), The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR): Assessment of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. Technical Report. Chapter 5. Well-being in Wales.
- ^{xviii} Welsh Government (2019), Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, (WIMD) 2019, Results report, URL: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-11/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-2019-results-report-024.pdf>
- ^{xix} Natural Resources Wales (2020), The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020) Assessment of the Achievement of SMNR Aim 3: Wales has Healthy Places for People, Protected from Environmental Risks.
- ^{xx} Colliers International (2015), Draft Connah’s Quay, Waterfront Masterplan Baseline
- ^{xxi} Flintshire County Council (no date), Draft Flint Green Infrastructure Plan
- ^{xxii} Flintshire County Council (no date), Flintshire Coast Park Prospectus

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Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting | 11 January 2022 |
| Report Subject | Flintshire Economy Update |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Economy and Countryside |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Planning Environment and Economy) |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Kingdom (UK) economy is undergoing a major transition as a result of two unprecedented events, the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK departure from the European Union (EU). The impacts of these events are still evolving not least because neither event is over; the pandemic is still active and discussions with the European Commission still continue and have the potential to dramatically change conditions for businesses.

This report provides a summary of current economic conditions in the region and the County drawing from a number of sources. The report provides a summary of the governance structures in place to respond to economic recovery and the work programmes currently underway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That the contents and conclusions of the report are considered and supported. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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|-------------|--|
| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND AND UPDATING ON THE ECONOMIC POSITION AND IMPACTS WITHIN FLINTSHIRE |
| | <u>Brexit</u> |
| 1.01 | On 31 December 2020 the transition period for the departure of the UK from the EU came to an end. The UK Government negotiated the European Union UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement with the European Commission which provided a framework for the future relations |

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| | between the EU and the UK. It should be stressed, though, that the Agreement is not a completed process and there are many areas where negotiations will continue over future years to resolve outstanding matters. |
| 1.02 | This is an unprecedented situation as no major economy has ever left a closely integrated trading bloc previously. Due to the unique nature of the situation, predicting the likely impacts with any degree of certainty is not possible. With virtually no exceptions, all modelling produced prior to the end of the transition period projected reduced economic growth for the UK in future years compared to what would have been the case had it not left the EU. |
| 1.03 | The Trade and Co-operation Agreement with the EU does not apply tariff barriers to trade that would add extra costs to UK products being sold in Europe. However, the decision by the UK Government to allow the UK to diverge from EU standards and regulation will create additional regulatory burdens for UK businesses wishing to export goods which have the potential to reduce their competitiveness. |
| 1.04 | It is important to separate the short term disruption arising from the UK leaving the EU with a limited period for businesses to adjust from the longer term impacts which may take several years to appear, if at all. |
| | <u>Covid-19</u> |
| 1.05 | The Covid-19 pandemic has had severe economic impacts due to the restrictions needed to control the spread of the virus. The full impact of the pandemic on the economy cannot yet be fully predicted, not least because some restrictions are still in place and the picture is becoming distorted due the new variant of concern, Omicron. It is expected that the economy make take several years to bounce back to its pre-pandemic activity levels. |
| | <u>Economic update</u> |
| 1.06 | Cardiff University and Nottingham Business School produce an annual UK Competitiveness Index Link . This year's report, released in November 2021, compares indicators for a range of geographies across the country and creates an index to compare them. It defines competitiveness as "the capability of an economy to attract and maintain firms with stable or rising market shares in an activity, while maintaining stable or increasing standards of living for those who participate in it." |
| 1.07 | Flintshire now ranks 149th out of 362 counties, a relative fall of 7 places since 2020. As with all indices, this may represent an improvement in the placings of other counties, not necessarily a worsening of conditions in Flintshire. Flintshire has consistently ranked the third highest in Wales after Cardiff and Monmouthshire. |
| 1.08 | North Wales as a whole was ranked the 39th most competitive region of the UK (out of 47); a marginally improved position since 2018, but reflective of the historically weaker economic position of Wales as a whole compared to the UK. The report finds that forecasted economic growth is likely to be slow across the UK and that all regions have localities that are |

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| | being left behind although this is more prevalent in the North East, Yorkshire and Wales. |
| 1.09 | The Office for National Statistics issued a bulletin Link in November 2021 which highlights that most economic sectors in the UK have around 1 in 5 businesses that have either stopped trading permanently or temporarily or are operating at a reduced trading level compared to pre-pandemic levels. For the transportation and storage sector this stands at 32% or 1 in 3 businesses. |
| 1.10 | The bulletin also highlights that around 1 in 4 businesses report reduced turnover compared to normal expectations for the time of year. This isn't evenly felt, though, with service activities, arts, entertainment and recreation and accommodation and food services most likely to report declined turnover and real estate and transportation and storage least likely to. |
| 1.11 | Business confidence in their short-term survival has declined in recent months and is particularly low in the service sector which was highly reliant upon the Government furlough programme which ended in September 2021. |
| 1.12 | An increasing proportion of businesses were experiencing challenges with exporting or importing (75%), especially the latter. The main challenges listed tended to be additional bureaucracy and changes to transportation arrangements. |
| 1.13 | <p>The October 2021 labour market intelligence report produced by the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership Link provides a snapshot based on employer feedback and a variety of data sources. A summary of the findings are included below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been fewer large-scale redundancies announced following Covid than many feared. Most redundancies were notified in the manufacturing, accommodation and food services sectors in North Wales with Flintshire and Wrexham the most severely affected. • The Government furlough scheme, which was supporting 26,000 jobs in Flintshire as of July 2020 and 2,500 in August 2021, ended in September so Covid impacts may still arise and could potentially increase again due to Omicron. Smaller businesses, with less resilience to adverse economic conditions, are more likely to be impacted but their redundancies are usually too small in scale to be registered so may pass unrecorded. • There has been a slight fall since May 2021 in the number of Universal Credit claimants across North Wales after a significant increase to that point. Almost half of all claimants are located in Flintshire and Wrexham (13,211 in Flintshire September 2021). • Unemployment has fallen over the last year in North Wales, unlike the rest of Wales. The proportion of people who are unemployed in Flintshire in October 2021 was 3.9% compared to a Wales figure of 4.3%. In October 2020 this stood at 5.2% and 5.7% respectively and in October 2019 at 2.8% and 3.0%. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a significant and sustained decrease in the availability of candidates for employment with employers citing Covid, Brexit and candidate uncertainty as the main factors. 81% of employers are facing recruitment challenges. • The numbers of jobs posted has almost doubled since March 2020 with vacancies for nursing, personal care, care workers, kitchen and catering assistants, cleaners and van drivers all proving hard to fill. • Positively, there has been a significant increase in employers considering recruiting an apprentice (97% increase in Flintshire since 2020). However employers, especially in the hospitality, food manufacturing, retail and customer service sectors struggle to fill opportunities. • The mismatch between the aspirations and skills of young people and the needs of the labour market was an issue pre-Covid and remains a major long-term problem. • Business confidence is low due to recruitment challenges, uncertainty and Government changes to the tax regime. • The top four challenges that are currently facing businesses across North Wales as a result of the pandemic are: • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of skilled staff (39%) • Training plans have been delayed (18%) • Supply chain issues (15%) • Financial challenges (11%) |
| 1.14 | A summary of the situation in different business sectors is provided below, largely drawing upon the Regional Skills Partnership survey, but supplemented by local intelligence gathering. |
| 1.15 | <p>Manufacturing (14% of North Wales employment, 28.2% of Flintshire employment)</p> <p>The sector, the most critical in Flintshire by scale, appears to be recovering strongly from the impacts of Covid notwithstanding issues with supply chains and recruitment. Locally, there remains strong business interest in investing in the County and in business expansions. The availability of candidates with the right skills remains a significant constraint to recovery and longer-term growth as does the availability of suitable sites and premises for investment. The increased cost of operating supply chains may cause a long-term competitive disadvantage to plants in Flintshire.</p> |
| 1.16 | <p>Construction (5.6% of North Wales employment, 6.3% of Flintshire employment)</p> <p>The sector was severely impacted by Covid but few further redundancies are expected regionally. Supply chain and recruitment issues remain a major challenge. The sector struggled to recruit before the pandemic and the supply of a suitably skilled workforce may constrain growth.</p> |
| 1.17 | <p>Energy and Environment (8.9% of North Wales employment)</p> <p>The sector appears to have been largely resilient to the impacts of Covid and retains significant growth potential. Direct recruitment seems less</p> |

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| | problematic than for other sectors although supply chain companies can struggle. |
| 1.18 | <p>Food and Farming (6.6% of North Wales employment)</p> <p>The sector was severely impacted by Covid and by Brexit challenges. The sector is showing signs of recovery although supply chain challenges remain. The sector has traditionally struggled to fill vacancies and this has escalated post-pandemic.</p> |
| 1.19 | <p>Health and Social Care (16.1% of North Wales employment, 7% of Flintshire employment)</p> <p>The sector was severely impacted by Covid and Brexit. The sector has traditionally struggled to fill vacancies and this has reached severe levels, combined with growing demands upon the sector. The sector cannot operate competitively to increase wages and improve terms and conditions due to the constraints of public sector funding levels. Locally, this has included severe impacts upon the Council and its care providers.</p> |
| 1.20 | <p>Tourism and Hospitality (11.8% of North Wales employment, 6.3% of Flintshire employment)</p> <p>The sector was severely impacted by Covid disruption. It struggled with recruitment pre-pandemic and this has escalated subsequently and may be a major long-term constraint upon the sector.</p> |
| | <u>Commercial estate</u> |
| 1.21 | <p>The Council has commercial units in a number of locations across the County as well as business centres in Greenfield and Deeside. The proportion of void units has declined significantly between February 2020 and August 2021 when analysis took place. For commercial units the level of void units fell from 12% to 7% and for smaller units from 28% (Dock Road), 13% (Pinfold Industrial Estate) and 10% (Garden City) to 0% across all sites. The picture is different for the business centres with Greenfield void levels remaining broadly stable at around 38% but voids in Deeside Enterprise Centre rising from 5% to 16% due to a large occupant leaving.</p> <p>Feedback from commercial agents is that commercial property stock is extremely scarce in Flintshire. The Business Development team and Welsh Government support businesses to find suitable land and premises for investment and find that businesses are struggling to locate in the County.</p> |
| | <u>Business rates</u> |
| 1.22 | <p>As of September 2021 there were 5,485 premises in Flintshire registered for Business Rates. Approximately 656 (14%) had been notified as vacant. The table below shows the distribution of vacant units across the County and by the main planning use classes.</p> |

| | A1 Shops and retail | A2 Professional services | A3 Food and drink | B Offices, industrial and storage | Overall |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Flintshire | 9.4% | 26.5% | 9.7% | 9.2% | 14% |
| Buckley | 12.2% | 22.2% | 0 | 37.5% | 16% |
| Connah's Quay | 4.8% | 0 | 11.1% | 20% | 8% |
| Holywell | 12.5% | 35.3% | 11.1% | 41.7% | 21% |
| Mold | 8.1% | 23.4% | 12% | 21.4% | 17% |
| Flint | 8.9% | 42.2% | 0 | 10.7% | 17% |
| Saltney | 6.7% | 50% | 0 | 0 | 3% |
| Shotton | 8% | 12.5% | 0 | 27.3% | 11% |
| Queensferry | 9.4% | 14.3% | 0 | 25% | 15% |

There are a number of uses that appear particularly likely to be vacant and which will need further monitoring as the Covid recovery process continues.

Town centres

1.23

The Council undertakes periodic informal counts of ground floor vacant units in the core of the town centres. As of September 2021 the number of vacant units in each town stood at:

| Town | September 2021 | | 2017 | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | No. units | % vacancy | No. units | % vacancy |
| Buckley | 7 | 7.1% | 10 | 10.2% |
| Connah's Quay | 4 | 7.1% | 9 | 16.1% |
| Holywell | 10 | 8.8% | 13 | 11.5% |
| Mold | 10 | 4.2% | 15 | 6.3% |
| Flint | 4 | 3.2% | 12 | 9.6% |
| Saltney | 1 | 7.7% | 1 | 7.7% |
| Shotton | 5 | 5.4% | 13 | 14.0% |
| Queensferry | 3 | 4.6% | 7 | 10.8% |

The numbers above do not match those in paragraph 1.22 due to different sampling boundaries being used.

This is an extremely low level of vacancy and is expected to have improved further since the time the count was made. Anecdotally, there appears to be a resurgence of interest by small companies in acquiring town centre floor space for retail. Investment by larger companies and retail developers remains very limited in most smaller towns.

1.24

Where there are still vacancies, though, they appear to persist longer in Flintshire towns than is the average for Wales. Analysis by the Local Data Company in 2021 found that persistently vacant units were declining in Flintshire as a whole they remained higher than the Wales average in all towns except Buckley and Queensferry.

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The Council has, to date, had insufficient sources of data to monitor town centre health. In response, it is currently commissioning electronic footfall monitoring equipment for all town centres. In addition, it has appointed

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| | extra staff capacity to engage and support town centre businesses and gather first hand intelligence about trading conditions. |
| | <u>Regional and local responses</u> |
| 1.26 | The public sector and its partners have taken action at every spatial scale to respond to the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Both UK and Welsh Governments have released a wide range of financial support packages for businesses which continue to be vital to helping businesses to survive the disruption to their operations. The Council has been heavily involved in delivering Welsh Government funded grants to local businesses. |
| 1.27 | Regionally, a new governance structure has been established, building upon existing regional working relationships. This is led by the regional Economic Recovery Group which brings together Welsh Government, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, local government, other public sector bodies and the private sector. A package of short term economic stimulus actions has been developed and has been submitted to Welsh Government for consideration. The package includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urgent action to co-ordinate support for unemployed people, help businesses to recruit and respond to future skills needs; • measures to help the tourism and hospitality sector to recover; • short term actions to help with town centre recovery; and • actions to better understand North Wales business needs, support town centre businesses and attract new investors in North Wales. |
| 1.28 | Also at the regional level, the Mersey Dee Alliance is working with UK and Welsh Governments to identify a package of support for the cross-border area to complement the work in on each side of the border. This package will include work streams on town centres, digital infrastructure, the energy sector and sustainable transport. |
| 1.29 | Locally, a multi-agency Economic Recovery Group for Flintshire has been established to ensure that workstreams are effectively co-ordinated and complement the work of partners and of regional programmes. The Group oversees workstreams including town centre places, tourism and destination management, business development, employment and promotion. |
| 1.30 | The economic recovery workstreams are still evolving as the situation on the ground is still subject to change with the EU exit having only recently taken place and the Covid pandemic still underway. The priorities set out below are therefore likely to change to meet local needs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribute to regional work streams for economic recovery and, in particular, ensure that regional investment packages adequately meet the needs of Flintshire. 2. Work both regionally and locally to connect key employment sectors more effectively to young people and parents to reduce the mismatch between labour market opportunities and aspirations. |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ensure that development work is undertaken so that Flintshire is able to take advantage of regional programme funding as it becomes available. 4. Reshape business development programmes to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase emphasis in 1-1 and group support on helping business to adapt, diversify and build their resilience. b. Increase emphasis on online channels of support. c. Increase engagement with, and support for, High Street businesses. d. Continue to promote the town centre, tourism and hospitality sectors to assist with their recovery. e. Increase engagement with, and monitoring of, sectors at highest risk. f. Work with Welsh Government to improve the availability of sites and premises to facilitate business investment. 5. Maximise the local economic and social benefits from Council expenditure <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase the number of Council contracts that include social value clauses and increase the scale of benefits realised. b. Provide targeted support to help local companies to supply the public sector. 6. Increase the scale and ambition of the town centre regeneration programmes to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improvements to the appearance of the towns including properties, green infrastructure and the street environment. b. Targeted redevelopment of sites and properties for a more diverse range of uses to reduce retail reliance. c. Encourage new enterprises into town centres including social businesses and circular economy businesses. d. Develop digital infrastructure in towns to enable better monitoring of their vitality as well as business. e. Improve access to the towns through sustainable and active travel. 7. Improve the digital infrastructure of the County to support business adoption and access by household. 8. Respond collaboratively to redundancy announcements to support companies and staff. 9. Provide a flexible mentoring service to unemployed individuals to help them to re-engage with the labour market. |
| 1.31 | <p>The Council will continue to bid for external funding to support these work programmes wherever resources become available. In summary, these currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Government Levelling Up Fund – next round not yet launched. • UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund – not yet launched. • Mersey Dee Alliance – the Council has played an active part in submitting a programme of proposals to UK and Welsh Governments to promote short to medium term economic recovery. Further discussions with the two Governments are underway. • North Wales Growth Deal – the Council has played an active part in securing this funding and continues to contribute to the programmes to ensure effective delivery and benefits realisation across North Wales. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has worked with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to submit proposals to Welsh Government for short term actions to kick start economic recovery. A decision is awaited. • Welsh Government – Transforming Towns programme – the Council can bid for funding for capital projects including property investment. All towns are eligible. • Welsh Government Covid recovery grant programmes – the Council has delivered Welsh Government funded grants to businesses in the County. Further grants rounds are expected. • Welsh Government – repayable funding programmes – the Council is currently issuing loans to town centre businesses to support property investment. • Welsh Government – Town Centre Entrepreneurship Loans to businesses delivered by the Development Bank for Wales. Currently only four towns in North Wales are eligible. Welsh Government are due to review the programme in early 2022 and eligibility may expand. • Business Wales and Development Bank for Wales – a wide range of support is available to businesses. The Council promotes these programmes to local businesses. |
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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | None arising directly from this report. |

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| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 3.01 | None arising directly from this report. |

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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT |
| 4.01 | None. |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | None. |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | Links included within the text above. |

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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | <p>Contact Officer: Niall Waller (Enterprise and Regeneration Manager) Telephone: 01352 702137 E-mail: niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| | <p>Business Wales – Welsh Government’s business support team.</p> <p>Development Bank for Wales - set up by the Welsh Government to support the economy of Wales by making it easier for businesses to access finance.</p> <p>Mersey Dee Alliance – partnership that supports strategic economic growth across North East Wales, Wirral and West Cheshire.</p> <p>North Wales Economic Ambition Board - a joint committee comprising the six local authorities for North Wales together with representation from the business community and higher education.</p> <p>North Wales Growth Deal – a programme of capital projects funded by both UK and Welsh Governments to boost the economy of North Wales.</p> <p>North Wales Regional Skills Partnership – body established by Welsh Government to steer post 16 skills provision in North Wales.</p> <p>Tariff barriers - These are taxes on certain imports. They raise the price of imported goods making imports less competitive. (www.economicshelp.org)</p> <p>Universal Credit – a social security payment announced in 2010 and replacing a range of previously separate benefits. The phased roll-out of the benefit to recipients is still underway.</p> |



ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

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| Date of Meeting | Tuesday, 11th January 2022 |
| Report Subject | Review of Grass Cutting |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Streetscene |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Grass Cutting Policy has been reviewed regularly since 2012 with the latest version being approved in January 2020, which included further details on the pilot areas for planting wild flowers and information relating to the collection of grass cuttings following a request from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Council provides a grass cutting service at a number locations and at key facilities around the county. It is good practice to review the performance of our grass cutting operations at regular intervals in order to determine whether any policy changes may be required for service delivery.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the performance of grass cutting operations across the county throughout the 2021 season.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | Scrutiny welcomes the report, supports the work undertaken and confirms that it is satisfied that no changes are required to the policy. |
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REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND |
| 1.01 | The Council has a legal responsibility for managing the highway network in terms of keeping the routes available and safe for the passage of the highway user. It undertakes this duty in its role as the Highway Authority and grass cutting takes place on highway verges in areas that are key to maintaining visibility, such as at junctions, laybys, and the inside of bends. The aim of grass cutting is to keep the highway safe and to maintain visibility for all road users. |

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| | <p>Grass cutting and grounds maintenance standards are set out in our Grass Cutting Policy. We also employ Streetscene Standards, which are reviewed typically every three years (the next review date is planned in November 2022). The Grass Cutting Policy was last revised in January 2018 and subsequently reviewed in January 2020 with no amendments made (see Appendix 1).</p> |
| 1.02 | <p>We have a range of grass cutting and grounds maintenance operations in place, which vary from external contracted services on highway verges, roundabouts and central reservations, weed spraying, tenant gardens and school grounds to our own in-house service delivery for amenity areas and public open spaces, such as car parks, cemeteries, leisure centres, libraries, council offices, housing estates, town centres, sheltered housing, bus stops, play areas and playing fields and nature conservation areas. We do not maintain private land or land owned by bodies other than the Council.</p> |
| 1.03 | <p>Grass cutting across the county was initially affected by the initial 'lockdown' in March 2020 as a number of services were suspended due to the restrictions in place at the time; however as the restrictions began to be lifted over the summer of 2020, grass cutting services resumed and we began to recover and achieve the standards set out in the policy.</p> |
| 1.04 | <p>Our own in-house grass cutting operations were impacted heavily during the Spring of 2020, due to the lack of available workforce owing to high sickness absence levels, self-isolation and deployment to other key services, such as waste and recycling operations; consequently, grass cutting and grounds maintenance operations were reduced or scaled back during this period.</p> <p>As a result, we started to observe increased growth in vegetation to unmanageable lengths, as well as a decrease in environmental cleanliness and increased customer complaints as the season progressed. As the restrictions were lifted, grass cutting and grounds maintenance operations were reintroduced in most areas of the County during the Summer of 2020; however, there was a backlog of work and operations were not fully resumed in some amenity areas.</p> |
| 1.05 | <p>There is no doubt that the last 18 months has been an extremely challenging time for the Council and the entire authority has had to manage unprecedented levels of uncertainty, react to multiple and different pressures and maintain services that are critical to the residents of Flintshire. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen restrictions placed upon individuals and organisations. These restrictions have significantly impacted on the operations undertaken and how these were carried out during this time.</p> <p>In Streetscene & Transportation, overall, the service has shown a good level of resilience, although it should be recognised that certain services have and will continue to experience significant disruption. The emergency situation as a result of the pandemic and Brexit is far from over and the summary that follows provides an overview of what continues to be a fluid and uncertain situation.</p> <p>However, notwithstanding this, complaints relating to the overall standard of grass cutting have been limited, with only a small number of complaints received, which relate to localised issues of quality or due to equipment failure.</p> |

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| 1.06 | In March 2021, the grass cutting season recommenced with all areas of the county receiving the full service provision, albeit with convoy vehicle working in place in order to maintain social distancing and crews working as “bubble” groups. The bubble working principle divided the grass cutting crews into independent teams or “bubbles,” which enabled them to carry out critical functions without the need to interact with other colleagues. The purpose of doing this was to mitigate the risk of the whole service needing to self-isolate under the Test and Trace system and protect this critical frontline service. |
| 1.07 | The grass cutting teams are area based and consist of seven teams, with one additional team dedicated to grounds maintenance at Council owned cemeteries. The first cut of the season took place in the second week of March 2021 and the teams achieved between 11 and 12 full cuts by the end of the season, which ran late into October 2021 due to the unusually warm autumn (see Appendix 2 for the grass cutting performance dashboard). It is also important to bear in mind that the 2021 season also recorded exceptionally wet periods of heavy rainfall in June and again in September, which impacted on vegetation growth and service delivery. |
| 1.08 | The in-house service has performed well throughout the season and the Covid-safe measures put in place have ensured that grass cutting operations have continued uninterrupted throughout the season and in line with the current policy. Contracted grass cutting services have also performed well with highway verges maintained to the required policy standards. |
| 1.09 | It is noted, however, that the level of service provided in relation to weed spraying has not met the standard expected. Weed spraying across the county is normally provided through external contractors. Unfortunately, when the season commenced, the incumbent contractors notified us, at short notice, that they were unable to fulfil the contract this year, due to their own ongoing issues with the pandemic and resourcing. In response, we procured a second contractor, who although was ready to commence the weed spraying in July, also advised at short notice that they could not deliver as service. Following this, we procured another, third contractor, who has had limited availability to deliver the weed spraying programme since August 2021, which has meant that the programme has fallen behind. In recent weeks, we have been attempting to engage with a fourth contractor; however, this is also proving challenging with limited availability. |
| 1.10 | The new weed spraying contract will be re-procured in time for the 2022 season with alternative options to the ‘lotting’ process to build in resilience and access to additional contractors in light of the issues faced this year. |
| 1.11 | Given that grass cutting performance has been delivered to the required standards, is not proposed to change the existing policy at this time and service delivery standards appear to be set at the appropriate level. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | The service has had to adapt to new ways of working during the pandemic, which has impacted resource levels e.g. increased requirement for agency staff, increase in PPE/hygiene measures, convoy vehicles. All additional costs due to |

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| | the pandemic have been funded through the COVID hardship funding provided by the Welsh Government. |
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| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT |
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| 3.01 | Any changes to service provision during the pandemic were progressed through the relevant Tactical Groups and EMRT for decision making and approval, and were tracked through daily Business Contingency Plans. |
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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT |
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| 4.01 | The business contingency plans put in place during the pandemic were developed with wide consultation with officers within and across portfolios and trade unions. All decisions regarding operational service levels during the pandemic were made through EMRT and the various Tactical Working Groups that were set up. |
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| 4.02 | Any future changes to the grass cutting policy will be consulted with the area coordinators and area manager, service delivery teams, colleagues in ecology and biodiversity along with the Cabinet Members for the Streetscene and Transport portfolio and Planning, Economy and Environment portfolio. Any amendments identified will be presented to the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee as required. |
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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
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| 5.01 | Appendix 1 - Grass Cutting Policy Appendix 2 – Dashboard showing grass cutting performance for 2021 |
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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
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| 6.01 | None |
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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
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| 7.01 | Contact Officer: Barry Wilkinson, Highway Network Manager Telephone: 01352 704656 E-mail: barry.wilkinson@flintshire.gov.uk |
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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
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| 8.01 | None |
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Flintshire County Council.
Grass Cutting Policy (January 2018)

1. Roadside verges Cut by tractor flail

a) Rural Verges (outside 30mph) - **1 cut per year in July** (subject to weather conditions)

- 1 swathe widths on all principal roads
- 1 swathe width on all non-principal and unclassified roads

Visibility splays at junctions **4 cuts per year** in –

- April
- June
- August
- September/October

Full width verge cutting for weed and self-sown sapling control on all classifications of rural roads **once every 4 years** in September/October

Additional cuts may be carried out on Health and Safety grounds in specific locations as identified by the Area Coordinators.

b) Urban verges (within 30 mph zones) — **4 cuts per year**

- April
- June
- August
- September/October

2. Amenity Areas

Maximum of 13 cuts per year as required.

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions.

Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

(Removal of grass cuttings will only take place in exceptional circumstances i.e. First-Cut of the season)

3. Public footpaths / Cyclic Routes

A **maximum of 4 cuts** per year as required, to prevent rural footways being lost to grass ingress and verge creep due to lack of usage.

4. Hedges

The majority of highway hedges are the responsibility of the adjacent land owner. Where the hedge has grown to an extent that it is causing an obstruction to the highway user, notice will be served on the land owner to cut the hedge accordingly. Highway hedges owned by the Council will be cut **once a year** after the nesting season has passed.

5. Bus-stops

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required across the grassed areas either side of rural Bus-stops, up to 20 metres across the length of the stop.

6. Village / Town Gateways

A maximum of 4 cuts per year as required across the grassed areas either side of Village / Town Gateways signs, up to 10 metres either side of the gateway.

7. Recreation Sports Grounds –

Up to 16 cuts per year March to October. Subject to separate procurement arrangements and direct liaison with the Schools.

8. Cemeteries

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions.

Frequency of cuts based on **every 2 weeks in April to June**, extended to **every 3 weeks July to Oct**, subject to weather conditions.

(Removal of grass cuttings will only take place in exceptional circumstances. i.e. First-Cut of the season)

Additional key dates outside of the cutting season to include **Christmas** and **Mothering Sunday**.

9. Tenants Gardens

Where tenants have requested and qualify for the assisted gardening service. The service is provided by contractors who will provide the following:

Maximum of 13 cuts per year as required.

Flexible start required for the start of the cutting season, in February/March, subject to weather conditions.

Frequency of cuts based on every 2 weeks in April to June, extended to every 3 weeks July to Oct, subject to weather conditions.

Appendix 2 - Grass Cutting - Dashboard Progress Monitoring 2021

| Week No. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|---|----|---|
| | Mar | | | | Apr | | | | May | | | | Jun | | | | | Jul | | | | Aug | | | | | Sep | | | | Oct | | | |
| Round 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | 3 | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | 8 | | | 9 | | | | 10 | | | |
| Round 2 | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | 3 | | | 4 | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | | 8 | | | 9 | | | 10 | | | | |
| Round 3 | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | 3 | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | 7 | | | | 8 | | | 9 | | | 10 | | | | |
| Round 4 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 3 | | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 9 | | | 10 | | | | 11 | |
| Round 5 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 3 | | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 9 | 10 | | | 11 | | | 12 | |
| Round 6 | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 3 | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 9 | | 10 | | | 11 | | | |
| Round 7 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 3 | | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 9 | | | 10 | | | | | |
| Cemeteries | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | 8 | | | | 9 | | 10 | | | 11 | | | | 12 | |
| Tractor | 1 | | | | 2 | | 3 | | | | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 9 | | 10 | | 11 | | | 12 | |

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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

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|------------------------|---|
| Date of Meeting | Tuesday, 11th January 2021 |
| Report Subject | Vehicle Permit Criteria for Household Recycling Centres |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Streetscene |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) |
| Type of Report | Strategic |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2021, following two all-member seminars, a number of recommendations were presented to Cabinet on changes to be made to the current waste strategy in order for the Council to achieve 70% recycling by 2025.

One recommendation was to review the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) vehicle permit criteria in order to make it clearer to service users what types and sizes of vehicles should or should not be issued a permit and to ensure that traders do not take advantage of the system. A second recommendation was to introduce a booking system for hazardous and difficult waste streams to better manage their arrival at site.

Both recommendations were approved by Cabinet; however, a further report was requested to give further clarity on how the changes would be implemented. This report sets out the revised Vehicle Permit Policy and proposes the booking criteria for the disposal of asbestos and mattress waste.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and support the revised Vehicle Permit Policy for Household Recycling Centres. |
| 2 | Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and support the Household Recycling Centre booking system criteria. |

REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND FOR THE CHANGES TO THE VEHICLE PERMIT POLICY ON HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES AND THE PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR A BOOKING SYSTEM |
| 1.01 | <p>In September 2021, following two all-member seminars, a number of recommendations were presented to Cabinet on changes to be made to the current waste strategy in order for the Council to achieve 70% recycling by 2025. The Council's waste strategy is to re-use, recycle and compost as much recoverable waste as is practicable at our Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).</p> <p>One such recommendation from the member workshops was to revisit the current HRC vehicle permit scheme criteria. A permitting scheme is the fairest way to ensure that residents can use their own vehicles to visit the HRC sites, whilst deterring unlawful use by traders.</p> <p>At the seminar, members had expressed their concerns that the current vehicle permit criteria were ambiguous and could be left to interpretation, which could create confusion for service users.</p> |
| 1.02 | <p>Each household in Flintshire paying standard council tax is entitled to use the Council's HRCs to dispose of their own domestic household waste. Only Flintshire residents will be permitted to use Flintshire HRC sites. In order to control this, it is proposed that we retain the current system of requesting proof of residency in Flintshire, which we introduced during the pandemic in order to comply with the Test and Trace requirements and ensure that only Flintshire residents continue to use the sites.</p> |
| 1.03 | <p>It has also been highlighted by our HRC staff that the current permitting system unintentionally allows traders and commercial businesses to exploit the system and bring in trade waste streams, which we are not permitted to accept. When questioned or challenged by our staff, some of these customers can become abusive and violent leading to unpleasant working environments.</p> |
| 1.04 | <p>In the report to Cabinet, it was proposed that the vehicle permitting criteria should be reviewed in order to make it clearer to service users what types and sizes of vehicles should or should not be issued with a permit and to ensure that traders do not abuse the system. It was also proposed that some flexibility be allowed for those vehicles that are registered to a business to be allowed access to deliver waste if it is clear that the waste has not been produced by that company or emanates from the activities of that business. For example, allow a vehicle registered to a plumber to dispose of garden waste.</p> |
| 1.05 | <p>The Cabinet report also proposed that a booking system for materials that have restrictions, such as hazardous and difficult waste items (e.g. asbestos and mattresses) should be introduced to better manage their arrival at site. Such a system would allow HRC staff to control when this waste is coming to site, ensure container availability and make preparations for its acceptance. Materials will be accepted free of charge.</p> |

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| | <p>Both recommendations were approved by Cabinet in September 2021; however, a further report was requested to give further clarity on how the changes would be implemented.</p> |
| <p>1.06</p> | <p>Vehicle Permit Criteria</p> <p>The proposed Vehicle Permit Criteria Policy is presented in Appendix 1 to this report. The salient points to note from this policy are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy details the vehicle scheme criteria • Clear classification of those vehicles that do not require a permit, those that do require a permit and those that are not eligible for a permit • All trailers, irrelevant of size will now require a permit • Size restrictions have been placed on vehicles and trailers that are eligible for a permit, due to the limited space available on HRC sites and the additional time taken to unload larger vehicles and trailers, which can impact access for householders, particularly at peak times of the day. • The application process and required documentation is clearly detailed. • Those who repeatedly fail to provide the correct documentation in support of their application for a permit will be refused a permit and a timescale set for reapplication • Permits will be issued for one specific HRC site to improve control and access to the site • A one-off permit will be introduced for those who have a business/sign written vehicle who want to dispose of household waste • The temporary permit criteria is clearly defined • The policy details that abuse of the scheme will not be tolerated and that permits can be revoked for non-compliance <p>This policy will supersede the Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy 2017, Sections 12.7 to 12.13 detailed in Appendix 2</p> |
| <p>1.07</p> | <p>Booking System</p> <p>As indicated, it is proposed that a booking system will be introduced for difficult materials or waste streams and the proposal is to introduce this initially for asbestos and mattresses. Both of these waste streams have presented problems with disposal on site due to either being hazardous, limited capacity to accept the waste or because of safety issues with carrying and moving the waste.</p> <p>Appendix 3 details the proposed booking system for the two types of waste. The booking system consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement to book online in advance of the visit • A restriction on the volume of waste being brought to site during the visit • A restriction on the number of visits per year • A timeslot to be given for the disposal time • If being brought in a van/trailer then a valid permit will be required to book • Details of which site will accept the waste stream • Detail of which days are available for disposal |

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| | <p>The service will allocate the appropriate ICT infrastructure to the Household Recycling Centres in order to manage the process. This will also be utilised to offer a more digital solution for the management of waste and operations on site.</p> <p>For waste streams not accepted under the booking system (such as large sheet asbestos), information will be provided to residents on the most appropriate methods of disposal available for that waste stream.</p> <p>Once established, it is the intention of the service to review whether it would be beneficial to introduce other waste streams or restricted materials to the booking system.</p> |
| 1.08 | It is proposed that the revised Vehicle Permit Policy and booking system will be implemented from April 2022. This will allow for staff resources to be allocated to the implementation of the revised systems, as well as the development of a comprehensive communication plan to control and implement the changes and develop the back office booking system. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | The new systems will require ICT provisions at HRC sites to allow for live, current booking information to be shared in real time. This will be in the format of handheld tablet devices for use by the site staff. |
| 2.02 | Investment in on-site barriers will be required to prevent unauthorised access and out of scope vehicles gaining entry to site prior to vehicle inspection and presentation of permits. Estimated costs for the barriers are approximately £2,000 per site, which will be funded from existing revenue budgets in 2022/23. |
| 2.03 | ICT services support and assistance will be required to develop the back office booking system. |

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| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT | |
| 3.01 | Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact | |
| | Long-term | Positive - The proposals will drive improvements to recycling performance by excluding no recyclable trade waste. |
| | Prevention | Positive – The proposals will eliminate the illegal transit and disposal of trade waste ensuring the Council is compliant with waste legislation |
| | Integration | No impact |
| | Collaboration | No impact |
| | Involvement | Positive – For those vehicles not permitted access to the site or permitted to book additional waste, waste management information will be provided to them in order for users to make alternative legal arrangements for disposal. |

| Well-being Goals Impact | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Prosperous Wales | Positive – Continued provision of accessible recycling facilities for the residents of Flintshire. Reducing the financial burden of supporting illegal small trading companies from disposing waste at the sites. |
| Resilient Wales | Positive – Ensuring that appropriate disposal sites are available and accessible to residents of Flintshire. |
| Healthier Wales | Positive – reducing vehicle movements and emissions. |
| More equal Wales | No impact |
| Cohesive Wales | No impact |
| Vibrant Wales | Positive – Promoting reuse and recycling of waste, and working towards carbon reduction |
| Globally responsible Wales | Positive – Educating residents and potential traders on the most appropriate disposal methods for their recycling and waste disposal needs ensuring compliance with legislation |
| 3.02 | The vehicle permit scheme can be a very emotive topic and any changes result in negative feedback from service users currently taking advantage the system. A clear communications plan will be developed to control the implementation of the new policy. |
| 3.03 | The level of abuse and threats of violence to HRC staff has been highlighted previously and under ongoing concern for some time. The site staff will soon be presented with body worn CCTV cameras to wear to record and report events. Providing a clear and concise permit criteria will support the site staff in managing non-conforming waste arriving at the site. |
| 3.04 | Control of the vehicles utilising the sites will allow for better, easier access for Flintshire residents as large vehicles, which can take up to an hour to off-load their waste will be prohibited. |
| 3.05 | The booking system will notify residents when there is container availability so that they do not bring their waste to site when containers are full and avoid wasted journeys. |
| 3.06 | The risk to the authority is reduced by eliminating trade vehicles from the sites, as the current Environmental Permit does not allow for trade waste to be accepted at HRCs. It also eliminates the risk of rogue traders, who should not be transporting commercial waste without a valid waste carriers licence, waste transfer note or waste permit. |
| 3.07 | A full integrated impact assessment has been completed. i) The impact assessment has identified there will be a positive impacts on Equality and Human rights, Welsh Language, Environment and Biodiversity and Health from the approval of this policy. |

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| | <p>ii) There will be potential negative impacts on Equality and Diversity with respect of digital communications for older people and those with learning difficulties. These will be mitigated by ensuring communications are provided in a face to face format or by written literature.</p> <p>There will be potential negative impacts on Equality and Diversity with respect of those with learning difficulties understanding the requirements of the waste and recycling procedures at the Household Recycling Centers. This will be mitigated by making documentation and information available in easy read format.</p> <p>There will be potential negative impacts on the environment should those not eligible for a vehicle permit chose to fly tip their waste. This will be mitigated by providing clear information to residents on how to dispose of waste correctly (their duty of care). Also, any traders will be advised of appropriate waste facilities to dispose of waste correctly. The Council environmental enforcement team will monitor and investigate any fly tipping cases.</p> <p>iii) There will be a neutral impact on service from the introduction of this policy across all aspects of the assessment.</p> |
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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT |
| 4.01 | Cabinet Member for Streetscene |
| 4.02 | All member seminars held on 6 th July and 20 th July 2021 |
| 4.03 | Streetscene workforce and trade unions |
| 4.04 | Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee – January 2022 |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix 1 – Vehicle Permit Policy |
| 5.02 | Appendix 2 – Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy |
| 5.03 | Appendix 3 – Proposed booking system criteria |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | Target 70 A Review of Flintshire County Councils Waste Strategy.pdf |

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| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | <p>Contact Officer: Ruth Tulley, Regulatory Services Manager Telephone: 01352 704796 E-mail: ruth.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 8.01 | Household waste and non-household waste are defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012. |

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Vehicle Permit Policy 2021



CONTENTS

1. Flintshire Vehicle Permit Scheme
 - 1.1 Vehicle Permit Scheme Criteria
2. Vehicle Eligibility
 - 2.1 Vehicles that do not require a permit
 - 2.2 Vehicles that do require a permit
 - 2.3 Vehicles not eligible for a permit
3. Application Process
 - 3.1 Vehicle documentation required on application
 - 3.2 Trailer documentation required on application
4. Permit Holder Access
5. Withdrawal from the vehicle permit scheme
6. One-off permit
7. Temporary permit
8. Abuse of the vehicle permit scheme

1. Flintshire Vehicle Permit Scheme

Flintshire County Council currently manages and operates five Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) for Flintshire residents to recycle or reuse household items that cannot be collected by the kerbside collections vehicles. The centres are situated at the following locations across the County:

- Greenfield
- Sandycroft
- Mold
- Buckley
- Rockliffe (Oakenholt)

The HRCs are solely for the disposal of small scale household waste from domestic properties. Commercial and/or business waste is not accepted in line with the conditions of the Environmental Permit.

To control access and manage the waste volumes being delivered to a HRC, the Council operates a vehicle permit scheme.

This policy sets out the parameters of the vehicle permit scheme.

1.1 Vehicle Permit Scheme Criteria

- A permit is issued on a rolling twelve month basis
- Twelve visits are permitted every twelve months - a householder can choose when to use the permits e.g. all in one month or spread over the year.
- A full application must be resubmitted following the permit expiry
- Only one permit to be issued per residential address
- Trailers **will not** be allowed access if towed by a vehicle requiring a permit (E.g. van)
- Sign written vehicles **are not** eligible for a permit (this includes vehicles with business signage, logos or other advertising)
- Vehicles registered to a business **are not** eligible for a permit
- Domestic vehicles **are not** eligible if linked to businesses e.g. highlighted through business signage, logos or other advertising.
- The vehicle/owner must **not be** a registered waste carrier with either Natural Resources Wales or Environment Agency (England)

2. Vehicle Eligibility

The type of vehicle will dictate whether a permit is required.

2.1 Vehicles that do not require a permit

- Small car
- Standard car
- Large family car
- Sports Utility vehicles (SUV)

- 4x4 vehicles (also known as All-Wheel drive)
- Motorbike

2.2 Vehicles that do require a permit

- Pick up (two and four seats) i.e. a small vehicle with an open/closed part at the back in which goods can be carried
- Car derived van
- Small van
- Medium van (standard or low roof elevation below 7ft or 2.14 metres)
- Single axle trailers up to 6 foot (1.83 metres) in length
- Twin axle trailers up to 6 foot (1.83 metres) in length
- Minibus (with internal fixtures intact)
- Camper vans and motor homes (with internal fixtures intact and below 7ft or 2.14 metres)

2.3 Vehicles that are not eligible for a permit

- Large box van (Luton type)
- Large goods vehicles (LGVs)
- Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs)
- Tipper vehicles
- Flatbed vehicles
- Large vans (XLWB; LWB)
- Vans with high roof elevations (over 7ft / or 2.14 metres)
- Trailers longer 6 feet (1.83 metres) in length
- Caged trailers / boxed trailers / trailers with extended side panels / modified trailers
- Trailers with access ramps
- Minibus (with internal fixtures removed)
- Camper vans and motor homes (with internal fixtures removed)
- Agricultural vehicles
- Horse boxes / trailers

3. Application process

Householders paying standard council tax in Flintshire will be entitled to apply for permits by fully completing an application form. Permits will only be issued to Flintshire households. (Only households in Flintshire paying standard Council Tax are entitled to use the Council's Household Recycling Centres).

All applications for a vehicle permit will be made via the online e-form available on the Council's Website.

On application, all required documentation must be submitted so that an assessment of eligibility can be made.

Householders will be required to provide the following information:

- Name of applicant
- Address
- Telephone number
- Vehicle registration number
- Vehicle make and colour
- Type of Vehicle: as specified in Section 2.2
- Confirmation of acceptance of Terms and Conditions of the permitting scheme

For applicants who repeatedly do not provide the required documentation their application will be refused and they will not be eligible to re-apply for a period of six months.

A resident will be allowed one appeal should a vehicle permit be refused. To lodge an appeal the resident must complete the relevant e-form on the Council's website clearly stating the grounds for appeal.

Terms and Conditions apply and can be viewed on the Council's website along with the privacy notice.

3.1 Vehicle documentation required on application

- Completed e-form
- Full vehicle log book / A copy of the V5 Vehicle Registration document
- Driving licence
- 2 x utility bills / council tax bill to prove you live within the County of Flintshire (current and within the last 12 months)
- Photos of the vehicle for which the permit is requested:
 - Rear of vehicle showing number plate (doors closed)
 - Rear interior view from rear doors
 - Front view showing number plate
 - Side view (both sides)

3.2 Trailer documentation required on application:

- Complete e-form
- Full vehicle log book / A copy of the V5 Vehicle Registration document
- Trailer dimensions
- Driving licence
- 2 x utility bills / council tax bill to prove you live within the County of Flintshire (current and within the last 12 months)
- Photos of trailer for which the permit is requested clearly showing:
 - Rear of trailer showing number plate
 - Side view showing full length and height.

4 Permit Holder Access

To better control access to HRCs and prevent abuse of the permit scheme, permits will be issued to a designated HRC site. The permits will be issued for the site in closest proximity to the resident's property or, where a valid business case is presented, for the resident's site choice.

This will assist in the control of larger more complex vehicles at each site meaning that one site is not overwhelmed with permitted vehicles.

Permits will only be issued to individual addresses once per annum.

Vehicles cannot be issued permits against multiple addresses.

A permit is only valid for the vehicle described on the permit

If a householder changes their address or vehicle they must notify the Council before reapplying with new details. Amended permits will invalidate the old permit.

5. Withdrawing from the vehicle permit scheme

Residents can withdraw from the vehicle permit scheme at any time by returning their permit to the following address with a covering letter explaining their wish to cancel:

**Flintshire County Council
Alltami Depot, Mold Road, Alltami, Flintshire CH7 6LG**

Should unused permits not be handed back, the Council will treat this situation the same as if a householder has lost the permits.

6. One-Off Permit

For those vehicles that do not conform to the vehicle eligibility criteria, such as a vehicle registered to a business, whose owner(s) require to use their vehicle/trailer to dispose of larger, bulky items, then a one-off permit can be issued if it is clearly demonstrated that the waste being disposed of is not related to the business or activity of the business to which the vehicle is registered or used e.g. a vehicle registered to a plumber wanting to dispose of household garden waste.

To obtain a one-off permit an application must be made in advance of the visit via the specified e-form on the Council's website so that an assessment can be made and a permit issued.

The vehicle type for the application of a one-off permit must conform to one of the vehicle types stated in Section 2.2.

A one-off permit may be issued a maximum of two times in a twelve month period.

7. Temporary Permit

a) Using a Hired Vehicle to remove household waste

A temporary permit can be issued to a Flintshire resident who hires a vehicle to remove their own household waste.

To obtain a temporary permit an application must be made in advance of the visit via the specified e-form on the Council's website so that an assessment can be made and a permit issued.

The householder will be required to provide the vehicle hire agreement to demonstrate that the vehicle is on hire.

b) Borrowing or using a workplace or company van and commercial type vehicle

Householders from Flintshire may use their employer's van or commercial type vehicles (subject to the vehicle complying with the type and size restrictions detailed in Section 2.2) to deposit their own household waste at Household Recycling Centres subject to a maximum of 2 Single Use Van Permits per year.

However, the householder will require a letter from the owner (or their representative) on company notepaper giving permission to the applicant to use the vehicle to move their own domestic waste, which will be used in place of the Vehicle Registration Document V5 for verification purposes (proof of residency in Flintshire will still be required by the householder).

The vehicle type for the application of a one-off permit will be required to conform to one of the vehicle types stated in Section 2.2. If the vehicle does not meet the vehicle sizing or type requirements it will not be allowed access onto the HRC site.

A temporary permit will be issued a maximum of one time in a twelve month period and will allow for three visits over a seven day period.

8. Abuse of the vehicle permit scheme

Flintshire County Council reserves the right to terminate all concessions afforded by the permit scheme if the permit holder is in contravention of any stipulations contained within this policy and the Terms and Conditions of use.

Abuse, aggressive behaviour or threats to members of staff or other residents will not be tolerated and may result in a permit either being revoked with immediate effect or the permit holder being excluded from access to Flintshire County Council HRCs.

HRC staff members are authorised and permitted to confiscate a permit should certain circumstances make this necessary, for example:

- Abuse, aggressive behaviour or threats towards site staff or other residents.
- Not adhering to site rules including breach of site safety rules, speeding restrictions, staff directives.
- Permits defaced, altered or with illegible details are invalid.

- Not declaring hazardous waste within a load.
- Depositing non-conforming or waste types that are not permitted on site.

Permits issued apply to a vehicle at a specific Flintshire address and not the waste, therefore, even with a permit the site staff at HRCs are still able to turn away anybody suspected of bringing in waste of a commercial nature.

Lost or Damaged Permits

If any permits are lost or damaged the householders should contact the Council to report the loss or damage.

The Council will monitor visits to HRC sites to prevent and control duplicated requests for replacement of lost or stolen permits, that is, householders that continue to use the supposedly lost permits, after receiving new ones.

The Council will monitor visits to identify any permits that have been copied or faked.

The Council will have the right to reject any person from a HRC site if it suspects that the person has contravened any of the conditions highlighted within this Policy.

Householders who turn up at a Household Recycling Centre site without a permit for their van or small commercial-type vehicle will be turned away.

Any person bringing trade waste to site with or without a permit will be reported to Natural Resources Wales.

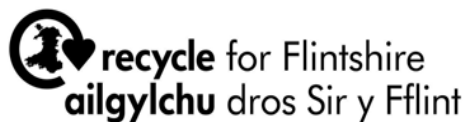
This Policy supersedes the Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy 2017, Sections 12.7 to 12.13



Flintshire County Council

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION
and
HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE
OPERATIONS
POLICY**

June 2017



POLICY FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION

1.0 Legislation

1.1 Under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990, Flintshire County Council (the “Council”) is classed as a Waste Collection and Disposal Authority, and as such has a statutory duty to collect household waste from all domestic properties in the County. Under Section 46(4) of the Act, the Council has specific powers to stipulate:

- The size and type of the collection receptacle(s);
- Where the receptacle(s) must be placed for the purpose of collecting and emptying;
- The waste types which may or may not be placed within each of the receptacle(s).

1.2 In addition Section 51 sets out the authorities statutory duty as a waste disposal authority. In that;

- It shall be the duty of each waste disposal authority to arrange—
 - (a)for the disposal of the controlled waste collected in its area by the waste collection authorities; and
 - (b)for places to be provided at which persons resident in its area may deposit their household waste and for the disposal of waste so deposited;

1.3 This policy sets out the Council’s collection and disposal arrangements for householders in the authority and also the householder’s duty all in accordance with the above legislation.

2.0 Household Waste Collection Eligibility

2.1 Each household in Flintshire registered on the Council Tax Register will be entitled to receive a waste collection service.

2.2 Places of religious worship, registered charities and community halls (where no business activity takes place for profit) may be entitled to the same standard of waste collection service offered to householders.

3.0 Collection Frequency

3.1 The Council operates a Managed Weekly Collection (MWC) service offering the following:

- A weekly collection of all recyclable material which should be cleaned and separated by the residents. This includes – Glass, Mixed plastics, Card/Paper and Tin cans
- A weekly collection of food waste
- A fortnightly collection of a general domestic wheeled bin
Alternating with:
- A fortnightly collection of wheeled bin for garden waste.

4.0 Containers for the Storage of Waste Materials

- 4.1 Where operationally possible all households are included in the MWC service and these properties will receive curtilage collections. However in some locations specific collection points have been identified by the Council and in some locations (particularly flats) local collections will be provided from communal wheeled bin(s) which are provided for the purpose of storing waste materials prior to collection.
- 4.2 All containers supplied to householders for the purpose of the waste/recycling collection service shall remain in the ownership of the Council. When householders move home they will be required to leave all wheeled bins and recycling boxes at the property for the new occupant to use. The only exemptions are additional garden waste bins (Brown Bins) that have been purchased by the householder from the Council.
- 4.3 Householders are responsible for the storage, safe keeping and cleaning of waste containers provided by the Council.

Non recyclable waste containers

Each householder shall be provided with the following containers free of charge in which to store and present their waste non-recyclable waste

- 1 180L black wheeled bin for non-recyclable waste. Only waste produced by a household on a normal day to day basis should be placed in this wheeled bin (i.e. it should not contain non-standard items such as bulky waste, commercial waste or recyclable waste).
- 4.4 Where a household has 6 or more permanent occupants, they may make a request for a larger, 240 litre wheeled bin for the storage of non-recyclable waste. This service shall be subject to annual review and the 240 litre wheeled bin will be exchanged for a standard 180 litre wheeled bin once the number of permanent occupants reduces below 6.

Recyclable waste containers

Each householder shall be provided with the following containers free of charge in which to store and present their recyclable waste

- One blue recycling box for glass bottles and jars.
- One reusable weighted woven sack for mixed plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays, tin cans and waxed cartons
- One blue reusable plastic sack for paper and cardboard.
- Additional sacks will be available on request.
- Recycling products placed in these receptacles should be rinsed and be free of the material originally stored in them.

- One kitchen caddy for the storage of food waste and a larger kerbside caddy for presentation at kerbside
- Householders will also be supplied with a roll of 52 biodegradable bags for food waste when they notify the collection crew by tying a bag to the handle of their kerbside caddy on collection day.

Garden waste containers

Each householder shall be provided with the following container free of charge in which to store their garden waste

- One 140L wheeled bin for green garden waste. If an additional bin is required please see paragraph 4.9

4.5 All containers supplied by the Council should only be used for the storage of items as prescribed by the Council. Failure to do so may result in the Council retrieving the container(s) from the households.

4.6 Households must separate their waste items into the appropriate containers as per the advice provided by the Council. If the householder fails to correctly segregate their waste materials into the prescribed containers as required, the waste **may not** be collected and this **shall not** be classed as a missed collection. Following such an incident the householder must place the waste items in the correct container which will then be collected at the next scheduled collection.

4.7 Any request to provide a new or replacement wheeled bin, recycling box/bag or food bags (e.g. due to damage or for a new property etc) shall be made by contacting the Streetscene service through the Streetscene Contact Centre (01352 701234) or through the Council's web-site.

4.8 Only wheeled bins will be delivered by the Council to the householder's property. All other items (bags/boxes etc) can be collected from a network of collection sites across the authority. A list of these sites can be found on the Council's website.

4.9 Where a household produces large quantities of green garden waste, they may purchase up to 2 additional 140 litre wheeled bins for the storage of this material. The charge for additional brown bins will be reviewed annually and details of current charges are available on the Council's Fees & Charges listing.

5.0 Collection Points

5.1 All wheeled bins, food containers and recycling boxes/bags must be placed on the drive or footway within one metre of the curtilage or boundary of the property and be easily accessible to the crews without the need to open gates etc. Where this is not possible the containers should be placed on the footway/verge outside the property, at a point causing minimal obstruction to the highway users. See paragraph 8.0 for residents registered as on the Council's assisted collection scheme.

- 5.2** The collection point for householders with long private drives will be the point where their drive meets the adopted highway.
- 5.3** Where possible collection vehicles will travel along un-adopted roads allowing residents to present their waste containers at the same point on their property as though the road were adopted (5.1).
- 5.4** This does not mean that the Council will maintain the road and should the road be deemed unsuitable for the vehicles involved and poses the risk of damage to the vehicle or if the owner of the road refuses to allow the vehicle to use the road, the residents will be required to bring their containers to the nearest adopted highway.
- 5.5** Where required, site specific arrangements will be made for collections at flats or properties with narrow or difficult access arrangements. These specific collection arrangements will be advised to the householder by the Council.
- 5.6** Wheeled bins and recycling containers will be returned to their point of origin by the collection crews immediately after collection with the lid of the container closed.
- 5.7** The householder must collect their wheeled bins/recycling boxes after they have been emptied and return them to within the boundary of their property on the day of collection. Containers must not be permanently stored on the public highway. See paragraph 7.4 regarding enforcement activity.
- 6.0 Collection Day and Time**
- 6.1** Wheeled bin and recycling collections, where operationally possible, will generally take place on the same day each week.
- 6.2** All wheeled bins, food bins and recycling containers should be presented for collection by 7.00 am on the day of collection and removed after collections have taken place (which could be up until 5pm). Containers may be placed at their collection point on the evening before collection however the Council will not accept liability for any injury or damage to third parties as a result of any incidents occurring with a container left on the public highway outside of these periods unless caused by the acts or omissions of its employees, contractors or agents.
- 6.3** It may be necessary for the Council to change collection days from time to time e.g. over the Christmas and New Year period and on some occasions the waste collection service will have to be suspended due to a service disruption (e.g. during heavy snow, fuel shortage etc). The Council will make every effort to minimise the level of disruption to householders during these periods and will try to rectify any missed collections as soon as the cause of the disruption comes to an end. Notification of changed collection days in these instances will be available on the Councils website and from the Councils Streetscene Contact Centre.

6.4 Where the Council is unable to collect any missed waste collections due to a service disruption, householders should retain their waste materials until the next scheduled collection when all of the material will be collected. The Council would encourage residents to use their nearest HRC for the disposal of all waste types in these instances.

7.0 Presentation

7.1 All waste must be presented in Council supplied containers to ensure its safe collection. Lids on wheeled bins must be shut when the waste is collected in order to ensure that the waste is properly contained and to protect the health and safety of the collection crews when handling the bin.

7.2 Any waste jammed in a wheeled bin that does not fall out following the normal mechanical emptying process on the waste collection vehicles will not be taken. In these cases householders will have to loosen the materials themselves ready for the next scheduled collection.

7.3 All non recyclable waste must be contained within the wheeled bin provided by the Council.

7.4 Side waste presentation and enforcement

7.6 Properties presenting side waste will be noted by the crews and advice stickers will be placed on the householders wheeled bin to advise them of the recycling services that the Council provides. The sticker will also advise them that if they continue to present side waste then the Council's environmental crime team will be informed and they may face prosecution under the powers listed in 1.1 of this policy if evidence can be found within the side waste that links the waste to the particular property.

8.0 Assisted Collections

8.1 Where, through frailty or incapacity, a householder cannot present their wheeled bin or recycling boxes at the curtilage, and subject to there being no other able bodied adult person living at the property, the householder may make a formal request to the Council for an Assisted Collection.

8.2 If an Assisted Collection is approved a suitable collection point on the property shall be agreed with the householder and collections will then take place from this point. All containers will be returned to the collection point by the waste teams once they have been emptied.

8.2 Assisted Collections will be restricted to those households who are in genuine need following approval of an application to the Council. The Council will review every individual case every two years.

9.0 Missed Wheeled bin and food caddy

9.1 If a wheeled bin or food waste caddy is placed out ready for collection at a collection point as specified in section 5 and on the correct collection day and time, and is not picked up by the Council, then this will be classed as a missed collection.

9.2 Where a genuine missed collection is reported the Council will endeavour to return and collect the wheeled bin or food caddy the following working day after receipt of notice.

9.3 Where it is proven that the householder has failed to place the bin out for collection at a collection point as specified in section 5 or on the designated day and time; the Council will not return for the collection and the resident will be required to place their waste for collection on the next collection date.

9.4 Missed collections can be reported through the Streetscene Contact Centre (01352 701234) or through the Councils web-site.

9.5 Missed recycling

9.6 Where a recycling container (box/bag) is not collected this can be reported as in 9.4. However, the Council will not return for a missed recycling collection and the householder will be expected to place the recycling out for collection on the next due collection day.

9.7 Alternatively, if the householder is unable to wait until the next collection then the recycling can be taken to one of the Council's HRC's to be recycled.

10.0 Clinical Household Waste Collection

10.1 The Council provides a collection service for clinical household waste from householders upon request from the relevant Health Care provider, via a prescribed application form.

10.2 The Council shall provide a suitable container for the householder to store their clinical waste.

10.3 An agreed collection point, day of collection, frequency of collection and any other specific instructions regarding this service, will be agreed between the Council and the householder.

11.0 Bulky Household Waste Collection

11.1 The Council provides a bulky waste collection services for householders. This is a chargeable service for 1 to 5 items (or up to 10 bin bags). Extra items, up to a maximum of 5, are also collected at an additional charge.

- 11.2** The cost for each of these services will be shown in the Council's Fees & Charges listing which is reviewed each year. Domestic Fridges and Freezers are collected free of charge.
- 11.3** A subsidy to the standard charges is applied to householders in receipt of Income Support, Unemployment Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, State Pension or Guaranteed Pension Credits. Proof of benefit will be required.
- 11.4** Typical examples of bulky waste that will be accepted include the following - mattress's, bed frames, chairs, tables, TV's, carpets, hi-fi's, cupboards, standard cookers, sideboards, lamps, children's toys, computers, bookcases etc. A three piece suite will count as three items.
- 11.5** Home Improvements including kitchen/bathroom renewals, fitted wardrobes and any soils & rubble from landscaping works **will not be collected** as part of a bulky waste collection and households should make the appropriate arrangements with their contractor to ensure they comply with their own duty of care for the safe disposal of the material.
- 11.6** No commercial or industrial waste will be collected.
- 11.7** The Council reserves the right to refuse the collection of any waste items that may cause harm or that may put at risk the health and safety of waste collection staff.
- 11.8** Bulky collection can be requested through the Streetscene Contact Centre or through the Councils web-site where a collection appointment with the householder will be made.

12 Household Recycling Centres (HRC's)

- 12.1** Flintshire County Council currently manages and operates 6 HRC sites for Flintshire residents to recycle/reuse household items that cannot be collected by the kerbside collections vehicles. They are situated at the following locations across the County:
- Greenfield (7 day opening)
 - Sandycroft (7 day opening)
 - Mold (7 day opening)
 - Buckley (7 day opening)
 - Connahs Quay (3 day opening only)
 - Flint (3 day opening only)
- 12.2** The number of HRC sites will reduce to 5 during in the Summer of 2017 when a new site situated in Oakenholt will open to serve the towns of Flint and Connahs Quay. The existing sites in these towns will close on the opening of Oakenholt.
- 12.3** The opening hours for the facilities will be as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Summer(April to September) | Open | 10.00hours |
| | Close | 18.00 hours |
| Winter(October to March) | Open | 09.00 hours |
| | Close | 17.00 hours |

12.6 Trade or commercial waste will not be accepted at any of the Council's HRC's.

12.7 Resident Van Permits Scheme

12.8 The Council operates a resident van permit scheme for Flintshire residents only. The permit allows a total of 12 visits per annum and residents owning the following vehicles must be in possession of a permit to dispose of their waste at HRC sites:

- Pick up & Crew cab
- Minibus (no internal modifications)
- Camper van & mobile home (no internal modifications)
- Trailers greater in size than 6' x 4'

The following vehicles will **not** be permitted to use the Council's HRC sites:

- Large box vans
- Tipper vehicles
- Horse boxes
- LGV'S
- Sign written vans
- Vans towing trailers

12.9 The Criteria for residents to obtain a van permits is as follows:

- The vehicle must be registered to the resident, not a business or other organisation.
- The vehicle must be registered to an address in Flintshire.
- The vehicle must not be sign-written or display advertising.

12.10 If the resident cannot satisfy the above conditions, they will not be issued with a van permit.

12.11 Permit holders proven to be tipping trade waste will have their permit revoked.

12.12 Hired Van 'One Off' Permits

12.13 If the van is hired or borrowed and taking household waste to a Flintshire County Council HRC a "one off" permit will be required. 'One Off' permits

will be issued at the HRC sites and are subject to a maximum of 3 visits. Residents will need to provide proof of Flintshire residency and any hire documents in the event that the vehicle is hired. Sign written borrowed vehicles are not permitted.

13 The Councils 'Bring Sites'

13.1 In addition to the HRC sites the Council also operates a number of strategically placed Bring Sites across the County. Since the introduction of the Council's MWC in 2012 the waste and recycling collected through these sites has significantly reduced.

13.2 In future bring sites will only provide banks for materials that cannot be collected by the kerbside services such as textiles, shoes etc.

13.3 The latest list of sites can be found on the Council's website:

Appendix 2 - The proposed Household Recycling Centre booking system criteria:

Asbestos

- Online booking to be completed by resident
- A restriction on the size of waste coming in e.g. accepted only if the waste fits in to the red bag provided.
- A restriction on the amount of waste coming in e.g. 5 red bags full
- A restriction on the number of visits e.g. once per year
- Retain asbestos skips at both Greenfield and Buckley HRC as at present, which would provide resilience for instances when skips are full/damaged
- If being brought in a van/trailer then the driver must have a valid permit to book
- Advice to be given on correct method of disposal if not accepted on site e.g. large sheets of asbestos
- Information to be provided on FCC website on correct disposal if not eligible to use the HRC booking system
- Restrict number of time slots available per day e.g. 2 hr slots
- Allow disposal during weekdays only.

Mattresses

- Online booking to be completed by resident
- Restriction on the amount of waste coming in e.g. 1 mattress per visit
- Restriction on the number of visits e.g. twice per year
- Allow disposal at all HRCs, not restricting to closest site due to container availability
- Review storage capacity at all HRCs to ensure consistent service provided
- If being brought in a van/trailer then the driver must have a valid permit to book
- Restrict number of time slots available per day e.g. 1 hr slots
- Allow seven days a week disposal

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Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting | Tuesday 7 th December 2021 |
| Report Subject | The North Wales Growth Deal Quarterly Performance Report |
| Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Economic Development |
| Report Author | Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) |
| Type of Report | Operational |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 2 (July-September) Growth Deal report.

Quarterly and annual reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration of the documents by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, it follows that the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and each Local Authority Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That Members consider and note the Quarter 2 Performance Report. |
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REPORT DETAILS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1.00 | |
| 1.01 | In December 2020, the NWEAB and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal. Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. |

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| 1.02 | <p>This report includes one appendix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ North Wales Growth Deal Quarter 2 Performance Report. |
| 1.03 | <p><u>North Wales Growth Deal Quarter 2 Performance Report (Appendix 1)</u> The Quarter 2 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.</p> |
| 1.04 | <p>This quarter saw the completion of the second annual Growth Deal assurance review with an Amber-Green rating achieved. This is the second highest delivery confidence rating available and an improvement on the Amber rating received in 2020. The review carried out by an independent review team verifies the progress made over the last 12 months, particularly since the signing of the Final Deal Agreement with both Governments in December 2020.</p> |
| 1.05 | <p>In August, the Board approved two further Outline Business Cases (OBC): the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub, led by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, and the Digital Signal Processing Centre led by Bangor University. Both projects have also had their assurance process approved by Welsh Government and will now move to the next phase and submit a Full Business Case (FBC) for consideration once the relevant consenting and procurement activities have been completed.</p> |
| 1.06 | <p>This quarter also saw the completion of the first annual update of the Portfolio Business Case, a requirement of our Final Deal Agreement with Welsh and UK Governments. The updated business case was presented to the Board in September and approved for submission to Government.</p> |
| 1.07 | <p>The majority of programmes and projects are currently reporting as Amber due to delays in the business case development process. A revised timetable has been submitted to both Governments as part of the 2021 Portfolio Business Case update.</p> |
| 1.08 | <p>Eight projects are currently reporting as Red due to either risks to the project scope, or significant delays to project timescales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full Fibre at Key Sites and Connected Campuses (Digital Programme) – The business case development timetable has been pushed back to allow programme capacity to focus on initial two Portfolio Management Office projects. ▪ Morlais – due to key risks and issues associated with State Aid and funding constraints, consenting and Government revenue support mechanisms. ▪ Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence – project under review due to change request for capital and revenue projections. ▪ Key Strategic Site, Bodelwyddan (Land and Property Programme) – outline planning consent on the site has lapsed and the project will need to be reviewed when the new planning policy for the site is established. ▪ Holyhead Gateway (Land and Property Programme) – scope of the project under review due to concerns about the cost of the project and the commercial case. |

| | |
|------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre – project under review due to change request for capital and revenue projections. ▪ Centre for Environmental Biotechnology - project under review due to change request for capital and revenue projections. |
| 1.09 | A number of procurement activities have been completed to support the work of the team. FarrPoint have been appointed to support the development of business cases for the Last Few % and Connected Corridors projects within the Digital Programme. Arup have also been appointed to support the development of a methodology to help projects deliver on the Board’s commitments to climate change and biodiversity. |
| 1.10 | The Portfolio Risk Register is updated on a regular basis by the Portfolio Management Office and reviewed by the Portfolio Board (Executive Officers Group) and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on a quarterly basis. |
| 1.11 | At this stage, no project Full Business Cases have been approved, therefore the only expenditure to date relates to the drawdown against the 1.5% allocation for Portfolio Management Office costs. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
|-------------|------------------------------|

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| 2.01 | <p>There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.</p> <p>The quarterly performance report provides an overview of the expected capital expenditure profile of Growth Deal funding. At this stage, no project business cases have been approved and therefore there is no expenditure to report on. Future iterations of the report will include reporting on financial expenditure following project business case approval.</p> |
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| 3.00 | IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT |
|-------------|--|

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| 3.01 | None. |
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| 4.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT |
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| 4.01 | None. |
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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
|-------------|-------------------|

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| 5.01 | Appendix 1 - North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report |
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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | None. |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 7.00 | CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS |
| 7.01 | <p>Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow (Chief Officer, Planning, Environment and Economy)</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 703201</p> <p>E-mail: andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk</p> |

| | |
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| 8.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| | - |

North Wales Growth Deal

2021-22 Quarter 2

(July to September 2021)

Performance Report

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This quarter saw the completion of the **second annual Growth Deal assurance review with an Amber-Green rating achieved**. This is the second highest delivery confidence rating available and an improvement on the Amber rating received in 2020.

“The Portfolio has made significant and impressive progress since the last Portfolio Assurance Review (PAR) review, in challenging circumstances.”

The review carried out by an independent review team verifies the progress made over the last 12 months, particularly since signing the Final Deal Agreement with both governments in December 2020.

In August, the Board approved two further Outline Business Cases (OBC): the **Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub**, led by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, and the **Digital Signal Processing Centre** led by Bangor University. Both projects have also had their assurance process approved by Welsh Government and will now move to the next phase and submit a Full Business Case (FBC) for consideration once the relevant consenting and procurement activities have been completed.

This quarter saw the team hard at work to complete the **first annual update of the Portfolio Business Case**, a requirement of our Final Deal Agreement with Welsh and UK Government. The updated business case was presented to the Board in September and approved for submission to Government.



A number of procurement activities have been completed to support the work of the team this quarter.

- FarrPoint have been appointed to support the development of business cases for the Last Few % and Connected Corridors projects within the Digital Programme.
- Arup have been appointed to support the development of a methodology to help projects deliver on the Board’s commitments to climate change and biodiversity.

Recruitment activities continued this quarter with the following appointments made. Stuart Whitfield, Digital Programme Manager, Sian Lloyd-Roberts, Regional Skills Manager, Laura James-Mowbray, Strategic Transport Lead, Catherine Morris-Roberts, Senior Skills Delivery Officer and Angharad Evans, Graduate Growth Deal Project Manager. The three remaining vacancies will be filled in the next quarter.

Three business-led projects identified through the Welsh Government’s **Whole System Business Research Innovation for Decarbonisation Challenge (WBRID)** have been given the go-ahead to proceed to Phase 2 – an on-farm drone project with M-Sparc, a scalable anaerobic digestion demonstration with The Biofactory and a bilingual carbon footprint platform for livestock farms with Promar International. The WBRID challenge is being delivered in North Wales by the Economic Ambition Board working with Coleg Cambria at Llysfasi.

Finally, as part of our partnership with Business News Wales, we’ve launched our new [North Wales specific business channel and newsletter](#). This will share news of the latest developments within the Growth Deal and will provide thought-leading columns and topical features from key figures in the region.

Alwen Williams
Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director

| Themes | RAG Status | Commentary |
|------------------------------|------------|---|
| Portfolio Business Case | Green | The Portfolio Business Case was approved as part of the Final Deal Agreement in December 2020. The 2021 update of the Portfolio Business Case was considered and approved by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (hereafter referred to as "Economic Ambition Board" or "the Board") in September and will be submitted to Welsh Government and UK Government for approval as part of the annual award of funding process. |
| Delivery Pipeline | Yellow | The timetable for development of project business cases has slipped with a number of projects now forecasting delays of 3-6 months. This is primarily due to the business case development process, assurance and approvals process taking longer than originally forecast and is not considered a significant risk to the delivery of the Growth Deal. A revised delivery pipeline has been submitted to Welsh Government and UK Government for approval as part of the 2021 Portfolio Business Case update. |
| Governance | Green | The Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Framework is now established with the Portfolio Board and five Programme Boards in operation. Governance Agreement 2 was approved by all partners in December 2020. The Conflicts of Interest process has been rolled out to the Business Delivery Board, Portfolio Board and Programme Boards and is currently being rolled out to Project Boards. |
| Assurance | Green | The second annual Growth Deal assurance review (Programme Assurance Review) was undertaken in August 2021 and delivered an Amber-Green confidence rating, an improvement on the Amber rating received in 2020. The report recognised the progress made over the last 12 months and set out five recommendations. |
| Resource and Capacity | Yellow | There are three vacant posts within the Portfolio Management Office to be recruited to in quarter 3. Recruitment to project management roles is proving challenging in the current climate with two of these roles being re-advertised. |
| Finance | Yellow | Due to the delays outlined above to the project delivery timetable, no full business cases have been approved to date and capital expenditure for 2021-22 will be significantly below the expected budget for the year. The only expenditure to date relates to the drawdown against the 1.5% allocation for Portfolio Management Office costs. Securing the public and private sector investment required to deliver the Growth Deal remains the biggest risk across the portfolio and an investment strategy is being developed to support the team to meet the investment targets. |
| Risk | Yellow | Three residual risk ratings have increased this quarter – 1) partners capacity to provide project board representatives and difficulty recruiting into PMO vacancies, 2) public sector investment and 3) spending objectives. Both 2) and 3) have increased due to a number of project change requests being considered. Two new risks have been added following the portfolio assurance review – revenue funding and skills gap. |
| Monitoring and Evaluation | Green | A revised Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been submitted to UK Government and Welsh Government as part of the annual update of the 2021 Portfolio Business Case. |
| Communication and Engagement | Green | A new brand has been approved by the Board and will be launched during quarter 3 along with the new website. As part of our partnership with Business News Wales, we launched our new North Wales specific business channel and newsletter. This will share news of the latest developments within the Growth Deal and will provide thought-leading columns and topical features from key figures in the region. |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | | |
| Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required) | Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place) | Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required) |

| Programme Aim | Job Creation Target | GVA Investment Target | Total Investment Target |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of the UK, unlock the potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem. | 380 | £158m | £41.7m |

| RAG Status | Programme Manager Commentary |
|------------|---|
| Page 117 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Digital project is now into Full Business Case development with procurement starting this quarter. The project is on track for North Wales Economic Ambition Board Full Business Case approval by the end of the year. Project Boards are now in place for three projects with the final two other project working groups to be formalised into project boards at the start of quarter 3. Delivery of Outline Business Cases for Last Few % is on track with external specialist support brought in. The Connected Corridors project Outline Business Case development has been delayed due to the requirement to replace the previous consultancy support Last few % project Outline Business Case will now be completed when outcome of recently announced Welsh Government 'Open Market Review' of broadband deployment is available in Quarter 3. |



Mark Pritchard
Lead Member



Sioned Williams
Senior Responsible
Owner



Stuart Whitfield
Programme Manager


| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required) | | Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place) | | Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required) |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|

| Project (Project Sponsor) | Project Stage | Key Milestones (this quarter) | Key Milestones (next quarter) | RAG Status | RAG Rationale |
|---|--|---|---|------------|---|
| Digital Signal Processing Centre Bangor University | Full Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the approval process: NWEAB consideration of the Outline Business Case in August. Initiation of first phase of procurement Started Full Business Case development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement completed Full Business Case submitted for review and approval | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Business Case now on track for delivery for North Wales Economic Ambition Board approval next quarter. |
| Connecting the last few % North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case being drafted Appointed Deputy Senior Responsible Owner External specialist business case support brought in. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Outline Business Case Gateway Review 2 Programme and Business delivery Board reviews Outcome of Welsh Government Open Market Review | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay to business case development due to need to assess outcome of Welsh Government Open Market review in quarter 2. |
| Connected Corridor North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping Study concluded, Strategic Outline Case inputs developed External support for Outline Business Case procured | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Strategic Outline Case developed Draft Outline Business Case developed Coverage baselining exercise | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay to business case development due to need to replace previous consultancy to take the Outline Business Case forward |
| Full Fibre at Key Sites North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the provisional project board and appointed Senior Responsible Owner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Strategic Outline Case and undertake scoping / feasibility work | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business case development pushed back to allow programme capacity to focus on initial two projects Revised schedule submitted to Government for approval |
| Connected Campuses North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the provisional project board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Strategic Outline Case and undertake scoping / feasibility work Appoint Senior Responsible Owner | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business case development pushed back to allow programme capacity to focus on initial two projects Revised schedule submitted to Government for approval |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required) | | Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place) | | Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required) |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|

| Programme Aim | Job Creation Target | GVA Investment Target | Total Investment Target |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| To unlock the economic benefits of transformational low carbon energy projects and position North Wales as a leading UK location for low carbon energy generation, innovation and supply chain investment. | 980 | £530m | £668.5m |


| RAG Status | Programme Manager Commentary |
|------------|--|
| Page 119 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Boards & Senior Responsible Officer's in place for all Projects Collaborating with partners to address risks & issues associated with State Aid and funding constraints, consenting and Government revenue support mechanisms for the Morlais Project Change request for capital and revenue projections submitted for the Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence Project Business Case delivery for Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence and Transport Decarbonisation projects running 3-6 months behind schedule. Revised schedules submitted to Government for approval Smart Local Energy and Trawsfynydd projects currently on track with no significant risks or issues |



Cllr Llinos Medi
Lead Member



Dylan Williams
Senior Responsible Owner



Henry Aron
Programme Manager

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | | |
| Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required) | Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place) | Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required) |

| Project (Project Sponsor) | Project Stage | Key Milestones (this quarter) | Key Milestones (next quarter) | RAG Status | RAG Rationale |
|---|--|--|---|------------|--|
| Morlais Menter Môn | Developing the Full Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory work for the Full Business Case and associated grant offer letter • Collaborating with Welsh European Funding Office and Menter Môn to identify and mitigate key issues and risks • Ongoing procurement of principal contractors • Supply chain and skills working groups established and operational • Seven turbine developers assigned berths in the development zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address key State Aid and funding constraints and agree way forward with Welsh European Funding Office and Menter Môn • Review schedule for Full Business Case review and approval process • Project consenting decisions expected in October 2021 • Menter Môn to complete procurement of civils and drilling contractors | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key risks & issues associated with State Aid and funding constraints, consenting and Government revenue support mechanisms |
| Transport Decarbonisation North Wales Economic Action Board | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Responsible Owner and Project Board in place • Strategic Outline Case completed and endorsed by Project Board • Development of Outline Business Case has commenced • Continued engagement with Menter Môn, Government regarding potential coordination between Holyhead and Deeside projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue development of Outline Business Case and associated stakeholder engagement and workshops • Engage with Mersey Dee Alliance regarding project proposals at Deeside • Respond to UK Government consultations published alongside UK Hydrogen Strategy | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Case delivery 3-6 months behind schedule • Revised schedule submitted to Government for approval |

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|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required) | | Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place) | | Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required) |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|

| Project (Project Sponsor) | Project Stage | Key Milestones (this quarter) | Key Milestones (next quarter) | RAG Status | RAG Rationale |
|--|--|--|--|------------|---|
| Low Carbon Centre of Excellence Bangor University | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel changes at Bangor University require recruitment of new project manager Change request submitted to the Portfolio Management Office proposing reduction in capital and revenue projections Case for Change workshop held in May to support development of Strategic Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit new project manager Process change request for capital and revenue projections and project name Continue Outline Business Case development process and associated workshops Arrange Gateway 2 Review for target date of December 2021 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change request for capital and revenue projections Personnel changes require recruitment of new project manager. Business Case delivery 3-6 months behind schedule Revised schedule submitted to Government for approval |
| Smart Local Energy North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pen Llyn Multi vector study completed and shared with stakeholders Strategic Case endorsed by Project Board Wavehill procured to support development of the Economic Case. First workshop held | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue development of the Strategic Outline Case, including workshops, and submit to Project and Programme Board for approval Commence delivery of feasibility studies for multi-vector Smart Local Energy Systems if Community Renewal Fund projects if applications are successful. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project on track with no significant risks / issues |
| Trawsfynydd Power Station Cwmni Eginio | Business case process expected to commence in 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwmni Eginio Company was incorporated and registered in Companies House –June 2021 and interim Chair appointed Interim Chief Executive of Cwmni Eginio appointed with recruitment for permanent role ongoing. Introductory meetings held with Portfolio Management Office First benefits realisation workshop held in July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of business plan for developing Cwmni Eginio and securing technology partner Engagement with key partners (including NWEAB) regarding project development Second benefits realisation workshop | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project on track with no significant risks / issues |

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| Programme Aim | Job Creation Target | GVA Investment Target | Total Investment Target |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development. To deliver improvements that stimulate investment in sites and premises in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. Enables other programmes by ensuring the right land and property infrastructure is available. | 2280 | £1.29bn | £355.4m |

| RAG Status | Programme Manager Commentary |
|------------|--|
| Page 122 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economic Ambition Board’s position statement on reductions in operational and embodied carbon and bio-diversity enhancement is being assessed for the impact on projects. A Project Board has been established for the Western Gateway, Wrexham with Wrexham County Borough Council taking the Lead Partner role and Welsh Government Highways in attendance due to the strong links to the A483 Junction upgrades and the project. Warren Hall, Broughton - a revised Statement of Common Ground was submitted into the Local Development Plan Examination in Public which was held at the beginning of September. Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh - A mixed full and outline planning consent has been granted on the project for enabling development and Listed Building Consent for change of use and the demolition of agreed parts of the range of buildings. |



Cllr Hugh Evans
Lead Member



Andrew Farrow
Senior Responsible
Owner



David Mathews
Programme Manager

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| Project (Project Sponsor) | Project Stage | Key Milestones (this quarter) | Key Milestones (next quarter) | RAG Status | RAG Rationale |
|--|--|--|--|------------|---|
| Western Gateway, Wrexham Wrexham County Borough Council | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Team has evolved into a formal Project Board led by Wrexham Council with Senior Responsible Owner appointed from the Council. Discussions with Council to identify funding for site surveys, designs, costings, statutory consents and business case development. Welsh Government announced Major Highway Capital Works Review, uncertain if the A483 project is included in this Review. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft possible heads of terms for a Joint Venture between Welsh Government, The Council for the delivery of highways and associated works package. Seek clarity on the position of the A483 Junction project and its inclusion of within the Highways Capital Programme Review. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Development Plan adoption scheduled for late 2021 and the A483 junction upgrade programme will dictate timescales for project delivery |
| Warren Hall, Brighton Welsh Government / North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Plan Examination in Public has occurred and has considered a statement of common ground agreed taking into account the Airbus' Hawarden Airfield Safety Case. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Inspectors report is expected to be issued on the Flintshire Local Development Plan before Christmas 2021 or early 2022. Agree a governance and business case approval process allowing for the Final Deal provisions and Welsh Governments own Property Delivery Plan Full Business Case. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Development Plan Adoption timescale is scheduled for late 2021/early 2022. |
| Key Strategic Site Bodelwyddan North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and Programme Board Officers are assisting Denbighshire County Councils own internal assessment for the project and the forthcoming Local Development Plan review. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity from the Council as to a possible revised project may sit within a deposit Local Development Plan. Explore private and public sector delivery partners interest to deliver the project. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Local Development Plan policy to be reviewed by 2023 and new policy adopted. Scope of project could change dependent on revised Local Development Plan policy. |

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| Project (Project Sponsor) | Project Stage | Key Milestones (this quarter) | Key Milestones (next quarter) | RAG Status | RAG Rationale |
|--|--|--|--|------------|--|
| Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council | Developing the Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skeleton Outline Project Business Case has been drafted. • A mixed full/outline and Listed building consent for the project was granted in September. • Gateway 2 Review completed for the project from 27th to 29th September | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree measures to mitigate development risk. • Develop the Outline Business Case to a stage for Economic Ambition Board approval. • Agree all contractual links and procurement matters with Jones Bros and Denbighshire County Council. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency and risk associated with build and abnormal development costs. |
| Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor Welsh Government / North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings have been held with Construction Wales Innovation Centre and Welsh Government Property to assess the links to their policy of de-carbonisation of their property portfolio. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with Welsh Government and other potential partners the scope of a project for the delivery of a new low carbon employment premises to meet the Board's position statement on low carbon. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of scope of project will be subject to availability of sufficient funding, effective occupier demand and agreeing a specification for a low carbon employment unit |
| Holyhead Gateway Stena Line Ports Limited | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Levelling Up Fund Application Expression of Interest has been submitted to the Council. • Stena, Welsh Government, Isle of Anglesey County Council and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board are holding on going discussions to deliver the project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consenting process for the breakwater refurbishment has commenced. • Discussions will continue to further understand how the port enhancement works and the breakwater refurbishment will be delivered. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Funding gap to deliver the scope of both the Holyhead Breakwater and port capacity enhancement project is substantial. Work to review the project scope and identify other additional funding sources has commenced. |

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| Programme Aim | Job Creation Target | GVA Investment Target | Total Investment Target |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| To build a more sustainable, vibrant and resilient foundation economy in the region, optimising opportunities for employment and prosperity through our environment and landscape. | 380 | £281m | £41.3m |

| RAG Status | Programme Manager Commentary |
|------------|--|
| Page 125 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project managers in place for all three projects; project boards meeting for Llysfasi and Glynllifon, being set up for the Tourism Talent Network • Workshops completed for Glynllifon; underway for Llysfasi and being scheduled for the Tourism Talent Network • Outline business case approved for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub and underway for the Llysfasi Net Zero Farm (Gateway 2 Review in November) • Three pilot projects underway with Llysfasi through the Whole System Business Research & Innovation for Decarbonisation (WBRID) business competition testing a scalable anaerobic digester, drone support for farm tasks and developing a carbon footprint platform for livestock farmers • Continued progress on match funding bids in support of the Tourism Talent Network through the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools programme and the UK Community Renewal Fund. |



Cllr Charlie McCoubrey
Lead Member



Jane Richardson
Senior Responsible Owner



Robyn Lovelock
Programme Manager

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|---|--|--|
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| Project (Project Sponsor) | Project Stage | Key Milestones (this quarter) | Key Milestones (next quarter) | RAG Status | RAG Rationale |
|--|--|--|--|------------|--|
| Glynnlifon Rural Economy Hub North Wales Economic Ambition Board | Outline Business Case approved; Full Business Case expected June 2022 following planning process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval process completed in July Preferred locations and access identified from options appraisal In principle views on preferred location and access option discussed with planning Intermediate outcomes of ongoing environmental reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare pre-planning application and address feedback Engage with Project User Group to further develop benefits realisation plan | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permission to be secured |
| Llysfasi Net Zero Farm Coleg Cambria | Developing the Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three business case workshops completed Planning started for Llysfasi Farm pathway to net zero Gateway 2 review booked | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise business case workshops Draft Outline Business Case Complete Gateway 2 review Prepare for project approval process | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Business case development is running behind original schedule |
| Tourism Talent Network Grŵp Llandrillo Menai | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID related review of 'spoke' element with view to expanding partners concluded 21st Century Schools bid under development for Hub element (outcome pending) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a project board (to evolve as spokes confirmed) Start the business case workshops, plus pre-meetings with stakeholders | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector role needs development given sector staffing and logistics pressures Multiple related bids being managed for success |

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|--|---|--|--|--|--|



| Programme Aim | Job Creation Target | GVA Investment Target | Total Investment Target |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| To consolidate North Wales position as a powerful and innovative high value manufacturing cluster, building on existing specialisms and leading expertise to create a higher value, more diverse economic base that supports the transition to a low carbon economy. | 180 | £114m | £39.5m |

| RAG Status | Programme Manager Commentary |
|------------|--|
| Page 127 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both projects under review by Portfolio Board due to changes in capital and revenue projections. Amber-Green rating from the Gateway 2 Review for the Glyndwr Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre; outline business case due for review pending EAB consideration in January 2022. Strategic Outline Case drafted for the Bangor Centre for Environmental Biotechnology with Gateway 1 Review planned for December. The Bangor Centre for Environmental Biotechnology project is working on refining project scope in line with emerging regional and national biotechnology priorities. |



Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
Lead Member



Paul Bevan
Senior Responsible Owner

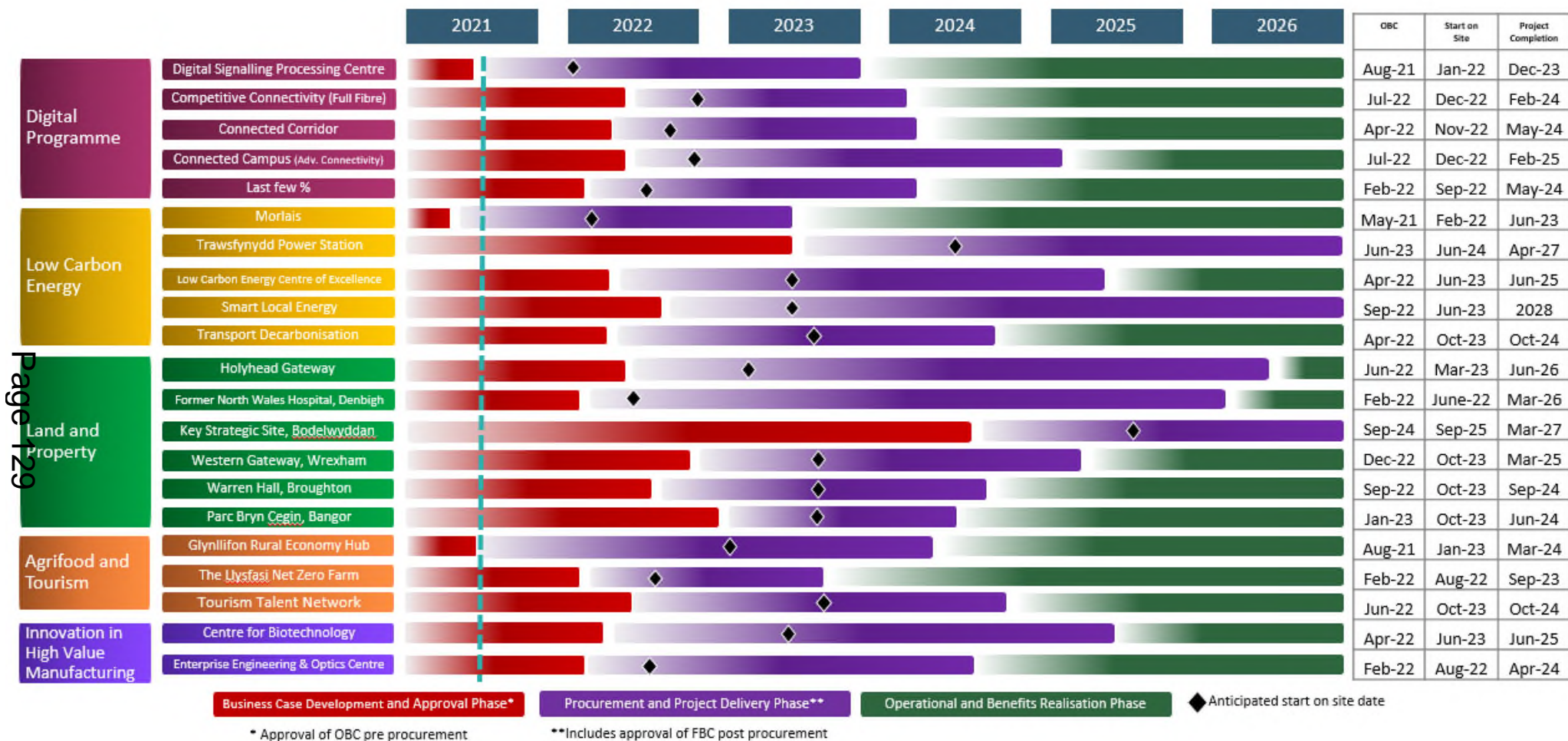


Robyn Lovelock
Programme Manager

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| Project (Project Sponsor) | Project Stage | Key Milestones (this quarter) | Key Milestones (next quarter) | RAG Status | RAG Rationale |
|--|--|--|---|------------|---|
| Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre Glyndwr University | Developing the Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateway 2 Review completed with Amber-Green rating Outline Business Case submitted for review by Portfolio Management Office Risk register drafted and being regularly reviewed Change in capital and revenue projections identified during annual programme business case update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolve change request for capital and revenue projections Ensure risk register being robustly managed Final Outline Business Case review by Portfolio Management Office Complete the approval process – Economic Ambition Board consideration of the Outline Business Case in January 2022. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business case development is running behind original schedule. Change request for capital and revenue projections |
| Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Bangor University Page 128 | Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops 1 and 2 completed effectively Strategic Outline Case nearly finalised On-going internal discussions to narrow project scope in line with emerging regional/national biotechnology priorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolve change request for capital and revenue projections Continued stakeholder engagement Finalise Strategic Outline Case Schedule and prepare for Gateway 1 review Deliver business case workshops | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in Project Manager (interim, pending recruitment) Further work required to define project scope, leading to continued delay Change request for capital and revenue projections |

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| | | Portfolio Business Case 2020 Targets | | | Approved Project Business Case Targets | | | | Difference | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--|------------|--------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|
| | | GVA (£M) | Jobs Created | (£M) Total Investment* | OBC/ FBC** | GVA (£M) | Jobs Created | (£M) Total Investment* | GVA (£M) | Jobs Created | (£M) Total Investment* |
| Digital | Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP) | 50 | 80 | 7.3 | OBC | 12 | 40 | 3.0 | -38 | - 40 | - 4.3 |
| | Connecting the last few % | 35 | 150 | 4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Connected Corridor | 25 | 0 | 2.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Full fibre at Key Sites | 20 | 120 | 7.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Connected Campuses | 35 | 0 | 21 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Low Carbon Energy | Morlais | 50 | 100 | 36 | OBC | 79 | 210 | 34 | +29 | +110 | - 2 |
| | Transport Decarbonisation | 60 | 90 | 28.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence | 20 | 20 | 97.7 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Smart Local Energy | 120 | 180 | 106.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Trawsfynydd Power Station | 230 | 510 | 400 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Land and Property | Western Gateway, Wrexham | 220 | 360 | 43.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Warren Hall, Broughton | 235 | 440 | 70 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Key Strategic Site, Bodelwyddan | 125 | 250 | 82 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh | 20 | 50 | 74 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor | 30 | 50 | 6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Holyhead Gateway | 545 | 930 | 80 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Agrifood and Tourism | Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub | 25 | 40 | 13 | OBC | 45 | 96 | 13 | +20 | +56 | 0 |
| | Llysfasi Net Zero Farm | 215 | 310 | 15.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Tourism Talent Network | 20 | 0 | 12.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Innovation in High Value Manufacturing | Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre | 45 | 70 | 29.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Centre for Environmental Biotechnology | 60 | 90 | 9.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Growth Deal Portfolio Total | | 2,185 | 3,830 | 1,146 | 3 OBC | 136 | 349 | 50 | +49 | +126 | - 6.3 |

* Total investment includes 1.5% Portfolio Management Office costs

** OBC – Outline Business Case, FBC – Full Business Case

| Programme | Project | Project Sponsor | 2021/22 £m | 2022/23 £m | 2023/34 £m | 2024/25 £m | 2025/26 £m | Total £m |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Digital | Digital Signal Processing Centre | Bangor University | 1.72 | 0.99 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.96 |
| | Connecting the Last Few % | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.99 | 2.95 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.94 |
| | Connected Corridor | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.99 | 1.18 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.17 |
| | Full Fibre at Key Sites | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 3.45 | 3.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6.70 |
| | Connected Campuses | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 3.94 | 5.90 | 5.91 | 4.93 | 20.68 |
| Low Carbon Energy | Morlais | Menter Môn | 2.46 | 4.93 | 1.48 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8.87 |
| | Transport Decarbonisation | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 1.97 | 3.94 | 7.88 | 7.88 | 4.93 | 11.23 |
| | Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence | Bangor University | 0.00 | 4.74 | 6.71 | 5.23 | 4.00 | 20.68 |
| | Smart Local Energy | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 3.94 | 7.88 | 7.88 | 4.93 | 24.63 |
| | Trawsfynydd Power Station | Cwmni Egin | 0.00 | 4.92 | 9.85 | 4.93 | 0.00 | 19.70 |
| Land and Property | Western Gateway, Wrexham | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 4.03 | 4.93 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8.96 |
| | Warren Hall, Broughton | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 0.49 | 0.99 | 5.91 | 7.38 | 14.77 |
| | Key Strategic Site, Bodelwyddan | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.49 | 0.99 | 5.41 | 2.96 | 0.00 | 9.85 |
| | Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.00 | 3.94 |
| | Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.25 | 2.70 | 2.96 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.91 |
| | Holyhead Gateway | Stenaline | 0.00 | 11.33 | 13.78 | 9.36 | 0.00 | 34.47 |
| Agrifood and Tourism | Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub | Grip Llandrillo Menai | 0.49 | 4.68 | 4.68 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.85 |
| | Llysfasi Net Zero Farm | Coleg Cambria | 0.00 | 4.92 | 4.68 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.85 |
| | Tourism Talent Network | Grip Llandrillo Menai | 0.00 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.47 | 0.00 | 4.43 |
| Innovation in High Value Manufacturing | Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre | Glyndwr University | 8.28 | 1.57 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.85 |
| | Centre for Environmental Biotechnology | Bangor University | 0.00 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.96 |
| Portfolio Management Office Costs (1.5%) | | | | | | | | 3.60 |
| Total | | | | | | | | 240.00 |

* The 2021-22 capital funding allocation profile is based on the 2020 Portfolio Business Case. A new profile has been submitted to Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the 2021 Portfolio Business Case update.

| Programme | Project | Project Sponsor | Profile 21/22 (£m) | Actual YTD (£m) | Variance (£m)* | Rationale |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Digital | Digital Signal Processing Centre | Bangor University | 1.72 | 0.00 | -1.72 | No Full Business Cases have been approved: expenditure needs to be updated in line with revised timescales. |
| | Connecting the Last Few % | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.99 | 0.00 | -0.99 | |
| | Connected Corridor | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.99 | 0.00 | -0.99 | |
| | Full Fibre at Key Sites | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | Connected Campuses | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Low Carbon Energy | Morlais | Menter Môn | 2.46 | 0.00 | -2.46 | No Full Business Cases have been approved: expenditure needs to be updated in line with revised timescales. |
| | Transport Decarbonisation | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 1.97 | 0.00 | -1.97 | |
| | Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence | Bangor University | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | Smart Local Energy | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | Trawsfynydd Power Station | Cwmni Eginio | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Land and Property | Western Gateway, Wrexham | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | No Full Business Cases have been approved: expenditure needs to be updated in line with revised timescales. |
| | Warren Hall, Broughton | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | Key Strategic Site, Bodelwyddan | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.49 | 0.00 | -0.49 | |
| | Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.99 | 0.00 | -0.99 | |
| | Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor | North Wales Economic Ambition Board | 0.25 | 0.00 | -0.25 | |
| | Holyhead Gateway | Stenaline | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Agrifood and Tourism | Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub | Grip Llandrillo Menai | 0.49 | 0.00 | -0.49 | No Full Business Cases have been approved: expenditure needs to be updated in line with revised timescales. |
| | Llysfasi Net Zero Farm | Coleg Cambria | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | Tourism Talent Network | Grwp Llandrillo Menai | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Innovation in High Value Manufacturing | Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre | Glyndwr University | 8.28 | 0.00 | -8.28 | No Full Business Cases have been approved: expenditure needs to be updated in line with revised timescales. |
| | Centre for Environmental Biotechnology | Bangor University | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Portfolio Management Office Costs (1.5%) | | | 0.384 | 0.125 | -0.259 | Expenditure in line with budget |
| Total | | | 19.014 | 0.125 | -18.889 | See above |

* Variance is the difference between the planned profile and the Actual Year to Date (YTD) expenditure. YTD figures up to end of September 2021.

| Programme | Project | Sponsor | Summary |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Digital | Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP) | Bangor University | The project will allow the DSP Centre to expand its presence and remit, integrating fully with the National Strategy Project (NSP) and enable the scaling of key assets including a 5G testbed, research capacity and state-of-the-art equipment. |
| | Connecting the last few % | Economic Ambition Board | The project will accelerate the development of infrastructure for 19 key regional economic sites. |
| | Connected Corridor | Economic Ambition Board | This project targets universal superfast coverage across North Wales, which have yet to be served by other means and cannot obtain speeds of at least 30Mbps (download). |
| | Full Fibre at key sites | Economic Ambition Board | This project will deliver full fibre connectivity (gigabit capable) to 28 key business sites across North Wales. |
| | Connected Campuses | Economic Ambition Board | To introduce high bandwidth mobile coverage on transport networks (road & rail) with deployment in step with or in advance of UK Government 2027 target for 5G coverage. Delivery of coverage to include A55, A483 and A5. |
| Low Carbon Energy | Morlais | Menter Môn | Investing in the infrastructure that connects the Morlais Zone with the electricity grid system, and preparing the site for private sector developers who will lease parts of the zone for deploying their tidal energy technologies. |
| | Transport Decarbonisation | Economic Ambition Board | Support delivery of a demonstrator project involving the production of green hydrogen from low carbon energy sources and its use within regional transport networks. |
| | Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence | Bangor University | Investing in the development of facilities at Bangor University and Menai Science Park, enhancing the North Wales and UK capabilities for innovation in low carbon energy and related areas, helping to create the conditions for new inward investment and business growth in the low carbon energy supply chain in North Wales. |
| | Smart Local Energy | Economic Ambition Board | To help achieve renewable energy, decarbonisation and local ownership targets, the project will support innovative enabling projects and demonstrators that overcome market failures and unlock private and community sector investments in smart local energy solutions. |
| | Trawsfynydd Power Station | Cwmni Eginio | The site is uniquely placed for a 'First of A Kind' deployment of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) or Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR). Alongside the public and private sector, the Growth Deal will contribute funding towards enabling infrastructure for this development. |

| Programme | Project | Sponsor | Summary |
|--|--|-------------------------|---|
| Land and Property | Western Gateway, Wrexham | Economic Ambition Board | Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development. |
| | Warren Hall, Broughton | Economic Ambition Board | Delivery of primary services to enable the 65-hectare mixed use site to be bought to the market for sale and then development by the private sector. |
| | Key Strategic Site, Bodelwyddan | Economic Ambition Board | Delivery of primary services to enable the mixed-use commercial and residential development site to be brought to the market for development. |
| | Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor | Economic Ambition Board | Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units. |
| | Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh | Economic Ambition Board | The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services to bring forward a mixed-use commercial and residential development |
| | Holyhead Gateway | Stena Line | Future proof the Holyhead Port by providing new deep-water heavy loading and cruise facilities, improved vehicular access, guaranteeing the future of the breakwater and providing for the demands of regional energy projects. |
| Agri Food and Tourism | Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub | Grŵp Llandrillo Menai | The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector. |
| | Llysfasi Net Zero Farm | Coleg Cambria | The Llysfasi Net Zero Farm aims to lead North Wales to a resilient future where carbon neutral land management is at the centre of a developing renewable energy sector supporting a sustainable, thriving and healthy community covering the rural/urban mix of the region. |
| | Tourism Talent Network | Grŵp Llandrillo Menai | Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region. |
| Innovation in High Value Manufacturing | Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB) | Bangor University | The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will be a world-leading centre in the discovery and characterisation of novel extremophilic enzymes of industrial relevance. The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will provide a strong foundation for attracting world-leading researchers, significant public and commercial research funding, and inward investment to Wales. |
| | Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre | Glyndwr University | The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development in optics, composites and hydrogen fuel cells. |