

Public Document Pack

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Contact Officer:
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To: Cllr David Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Mel Buckley, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Ian Hodge, Ray Hughes, Richard Lloyd, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Dan Rose and Roy Wakelam

7 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 2022 at 10.00 AM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in the Council Chamber, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. The live streaming will stop when any confidential items are considered. 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 - 20)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 11 October and 15 November 2022.

4 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING** (Pages 21 - 30)

Report of Environment and Social Care 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.

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

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure until such time as those consultations/negotiations have been concluded.

5 **MTFS & BUDGET SETTING 2023-24 (STAGE 2)** (Pages 31 - 54)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy, Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement, Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

Purpose: That the Committee reviews and comments on the cost pressures and overall budget strategy, and advises on any areas of cost efficiency it would like to see explored further.

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

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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **11 OCTOBER 2022**

Minutes of the remote attendance meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Tuesday, 11 October 2022

PRESENT: Councillor David Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Ian Hodge, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Dan Rose, and Roy Wakelam

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillor Tina Claydon for Councillor Richard Lloyd, and Councillor Teresa Carberry for Councillor Mel Buckley

APOLOGIES: Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Strategy)

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Chris Bithell Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy, Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation), Regulatory Services Manager, Compliance & Training Manager, Enterprise and Regeneration Manager, Access and Natural Environment Manager

Hedd Vaughan Evans, David Matthews and Henry Aron, Ambition North Wales (for minute number 20).

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mike Peers, Dan Rose, Tina Claydon, Chris Bithell and Ian Hodge declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 10: Town Centre Regeneration.

Cllr Teresa Carberry declared a personal interest on agenda item 4 as she was involved in a uniform recycling project.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022 were approved, as moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Peers and Ian Hodge.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

19. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking report. She drew attention to the items scheduled for future consideration and invited Members to raise any further items they wished to put forward for inclusion on the Programme.

Referring to section 1.07 in the report Councillor Mike Peers suggested that the item on Parking Outside Schools should be considered by the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that consideration be given to holding a joint meeting with the Education, Youth, and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Peers also asked that items on Highways Drainage, and the Bereavement Services be included on the Programme.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) advised that the item on the Local Toilet Strategy which was scheduled for consideration at the meeting on 15 November would need to be moved to the meeting on 10 January 2023.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) advised that an update on Ash Dieback could be submitted to the meeting on 15 November.

The Facilitator reported on the outstanding items on the Action Tracking report and gave an update on work in progress. The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) gave a brief update on progress on the Bus Network Review. The Regulatory Services Manager provided an update on progress on the action 'Check Your Bin Day'.

The recommendations in the report, were moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Peers and Ian Hodge.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to the amendments put forward at the meeting, the Forward Work Programme be approved;
- (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 Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding

20. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD & QUARTERLY REPORT

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) introduced the report and provided background information on the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

Hedd Vaughan Evans, David Matthews and Henry Aron, Ambition North Wales, gave a joint presentation on the North Wales Growth Deal which covered the following points:

- North Wales Growth Deal – Q1 and end of year update
- Our vision
- Principles
- Objectives
- Investment
- Our structure
- Achievements 2021-2022
- 5 Programmes:
 - Agri-food and Tourism
 - Digital connectivity
 - Innovation in High Value Manufacturing
 - Low Carbon Energy
 - Land and Property

Councillor David Healey welcomed the project and spoke in support of the benefits that could be achieved through creation of employment opportunities, skills, and carbon neutral conditions.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the aspiration on page 36 of the report that North Wales was well placed to become a ‘world leader’ and asked if the tidal scheme was being carried out and if there were further projects planned, citing wind and solar farms as examples. Councillor Peers also referred to current local development on green field land at Manor Lane, Broughton, which was located next to Airbus and close to the Deeside Enterprise Zone and asked what type of employment would be created on that site.

In response to the comments and questions raised by Councillor Peers, Henry Aron referred to work with the Welsh Government on the North Wales Regional Energy Strategy which provided an holistic view about technologies and other energy types that would need to be developed across North Wales. Henry Aron also gave an update on progress on the tidal project. The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) provided an update on local development concerning the Warren Hall site.

The recommendation as set out in the report, was moved and seconded by Councillors Dan Rose and Mike Peers

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report for 2021-22 be noted.

21. OUTCOME OF STATUTORY TRAINING AUDIT

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) introduced a report to inform Scrutiny of the outcome of the statutory training internal audit and provide an update on agreed actions. She provided background information and invited the Regulatory Services Manager and Compliance & Training Manager to give a joint presentation which covered the following main points:

- statutory training requirements
- Compliance & Training Team Overview

- Council's Training facility
- Statutory Training Audit
- Statutory Training Audit - outcome
- agreed actions and updates

The Chair referred to section 1.05 of the report and the reference to 2,400 training events and asked for clarification of what constituted an 'event'. The Regulatory Services Manager provided explanation and said one person attending one course would constitute a training event.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the key actions which had been agreed and asked if the performance indicator would move from amber-red to green as a result or was a re-audit required to confirm the actions. Councillor Peers also asked questions regarding how operatives of refuse vehicles were trained. Councillor Peers referred to page 97 of the report and raised further questions regarding the completion date for Converting the authority's fleet to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen etc), and sought clarification on the task 'Developing the County's electric car charging network. The Chief Officer responded to the questions and comments raised and invited Members to visit the training facility if wished.

The recommendations as set out in the report, were moved by Councillor Ian Hodge and seconded by Councillor Roy Wakelam.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the work of the Streetscene and Transportation Compliance and Training team be supported; and
- (b) That the action taken and controls put in place in response to the internal audit recommendations be supported.

22. COUNCIL PLAN 2022/23 TIMELINE REVIEW

The Chief Executive presented the report to review the timelines for the Council Plan 2022/23 following a request from County Council in July. He provided background information and advised that the outline of the Council Plan for 2022/23 including the six themes, their priorities and actions, was appended to the report. At County Council in July, it was requested that all Overview and Scrutiny Committees review the action timelines and some of the definitions.

Councillor Peers referred to the questions he had raised on page 97 of the report regarding the completion date for Converting the Authority's fleet to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen etc), and clarification as to whether the task on Developing the County's electric car charging network, and Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets, was development or implementation. The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) provided further information in response to the questions raised by Councillor Peers. Councillor Peers asked if an update could be provided to the Committee at a future meeting on progress of the implementation of the conversion of the Authority's fleet to electric and alternative fuels.

The recommendation in the report was moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Peers and Ian Hodge.

RESOLVED:

That the Council Plan Part 1 reviewed and updated timelines be approved.

23. COUNCIL PLAN 2023-2028

The Chief Executive presented the report on the priorities, sub-priorities and well-being objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28. He provided background information and explained that the 'super-structure' of the Plan comprised 7 priorities and relevant sub-priorities. The 7 priorities took a long-term view of recovery, projects, and ambitions over the next five years. The priorities and sub-priorities relevant to the Committee were appended to the report. Part 2 of the Council Plan would be considered by all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to ensure full coverage of Part 1 of the Council Plan 2023/28 and its respective measures and their targets.

The recommendation as set out in the report, was moved and seconded by Councillors Ian Hodge and Teresa Carberry.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed priorities, sub-priorities and well-being objectives of the Council Plan 2023-28, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be supported.

24. FLINTSHIRE COASTAL PARK

The Access and Natural Environment Manager presented the report to inform on the progress of the scoping work to establish a Coast Park and to agree the recommendations for implementation. He provided background information and explained that the concept of a Flintshire Coast Park had been re-explored through the commissioning of a scoping study which reviewed case studies and precedents before analysing the benefits and constraints. The study suggested potential coast park footprints and steps for implementation. A Flintshire Coast Park for Flintshire would provide a fresh impetus and focus for the coast, raising the profile of the foreshore and enable communities and businesses to work sustainably and innovatively to help deliver environmental, economic, and social prosperity.

The Access and Natural Environment Manager drew attention to the 4 options outlined in section 1.07 of the report, next steps, and timescales.

Councillor David Healey spoke in support of option 2.

Councillor Vicky Perfect commended the Access and Natural Environment Manager and his team on the work carried out on the Coastal Path. She also thanked Mike Taylor for his work to repair coastal path defences.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to page 130, paragraph 2.27 of the report, and asked if a further report could be submitted to a future meeting of the

Committee to inform of the facilities to be provided at the Coast Park. Councillor Peers expressed concerns that the financial implications of providing a Flintshire Coast Park were currently unknown and commented that all projects would be subjected to robust consideration in view of the Council's current budget gap.

Councillor Tina Claydon sought reassurance that wildlife would be protected in the proposals.

The Chair commented on the need to join the coastal path between Connah's Quay and Flint.

The Access and Natural Environment Manager responded to the comments and questions raised.

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded by Councillors Roy Wakelam and Mike Peers.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the content of the scoping study be noted and the Flintshire Coast Park be taken forward as a local, informal entity;
- (b) That option 2 was the preferred coast park footprint to take forward;
and
- (c) That the Access & Natural Environment Manager establishes a Flintshire Coast Park Steering Group to move forward the next steps for implementation.

25. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager gave background information and presented the report which provided an update on the strategic context for town centre regeneration and the programmes of work currently underway. Furthermore, it provided details about the development of Place Plans and the enforcement action required to tackle empty properties within town centres.

Councillor Mike Peers asked if the regeneration of town centres would include the view of the existing masterplans or would Place Plans replace the masterplans. He also referred to section 1.14 in the report and asked when Cabinet would grant approval for the criteria to be used to prioritise properties for intervention. Councillor Peers asked if details could be provided on local Member involvement in the creation of Place Plans and timescales. Councillor Peers commented on the issue of empty commercial properties in town centres and said the feedback was that rental charges were high and asked if this could be looked at. The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager responded to the points made.

Councillor Chris Bithell referred to page 179, section 2.01 of the report, and referring to match funding asked if this would come from private ownership of properties or from the Council. Councillor Bithell commented on the budget gap to be addressed by the Council. In his response the Enterprise and

Regeneration Manager explained that the public sector would be required to provide the balance.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Mike Peers and seconded by Councillor Ian Hodge.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the requirements to develop Place Plans for the seven towns (Buckley, Connah's Quay, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Queensferry and Shotton) in Flintshire be noted and the sequence in which the proposed work is delivered within the constraints of resource available be supported; and
- (b) That the requirement to address vacant town centre properties through an enforcement action plan be noted, and the criteria and approach to be used supported.

26. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 12.28 pm)

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Chair

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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
15 NOVEMBER 2022

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Tuesday, 15 November 2022

PRESENT: Councillor David Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Mel Buckley, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Ray Hughes, Richard Lloyd, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Dan Rose, and Roy Wakelam

SUBSTITUTION: Councillor Dennis Hutchinson for Councillor Ian Hodge

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Chris Bithell (Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection), Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy), Councillor David Healey (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation), Regulatory Services Manager, Enterprise and Regeneration Manager, and Access and Natural Environment Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officers

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

28. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking report. She drew attention to the items scheduled for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 13 December 2022 and reported on the items for consideration at future meetings.

The Facilitator gave an update on work in progress on the outstanding items on the Action Tracking report. She also gave an update on progress to arrange a joint meeting with the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider parking outside schools.

The Chair requested that an item be added to the Forward Work Programme to consider the exceptions criteria for 20mph implementation which was to be introduced by the Welsh Government next year. Councillor Mike Peers spoke on the 20 mph highway scheme which had been introduced as a trial in Buckley in March this year. He gave background information and said concerns had been expressed by local Members in the Buckley area to the Minister around the trial scheme. He commented on the County Council's view of the trial scheme and said he supported the suggestion to hold a meeting or workshop to consider the issue as early as possible.

Councillor Dennis Hutchinson raised concerns around the poor condition/visibility of some road markings in Flintshire and cited the road markings next to roundabouts in some areas as an example.

In response to the comments and concerns raised by Councillor Peers the Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) explained that public engagement was planned regarding the Buckley 20mph scheme and a press statement would be released this week. She referred to the Welsh Government's launch of the national rollout of the new legislation in January 2023 and supported the suggestion that a workshop should be held following the launch. The Chief Officer agreed to discuss any specific concerns that Councillor Hutchinson had around road markings with him following the meeting.

Councillor David Healey spoke in support of public consultation being held on the Welsh Government 20mph highway scheme.

Members were invited to raise any further items they wished to put forward for inclusion on the Programme.

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded by Councillors Mike Peers and Roy Wakelam.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to the amendments put forward at the meeting, the Forward Work Programme be approved;
- (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 Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions

29. HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE VEHICLE PERMIT POLICY

The Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) introduced the report. She provided background information and advised that the report provided an overview of the impact of the revised policy along with details of the review undertaken and proposals for amending the policy. Further considerations were presented on the broader operations for Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) with a view to introducing further service improvements and efficiencies.

The Regulatory Services Manager presented the report and gave an overview of the main considerations concerning the implementation of the vehicle permit policy as detailed in the report. The Regulatory Services Manager referred to two all Member workshops which were held during September 2022 to undertake a review of the policy so that Members could provide officers with constituents' feedback or concerns. The review was extended to include the wider HRC site operations with a view to introducing further service improvements and efficiencies and maximising the opportunities for recycling. Details of the content of the workshops were appended to the report.

The Regulatory Services Manager advised that following evaluation of the feedback provided from the workshops a number of proposals were presented for consideration. Members' comments, the associated considerations to be reviewed and, following appraisal of the advantages and disadvantages of those considerations, a proposed outcome for each comment, were detailed in Appendix 3 of the report. The proposed outcomes had been written into a revised policy document for consideration. The amendments and new clauses for inclusion in the policy were highlighted in Appendix 4.

The Regulatory Services Manager also reported on further service improvements and efficiencies at HRCs and referred to proposals concerning the booking service, charges for disposal of waste (Trade/Charity), alternative opening hours, and charging for soil conditioner.

Councillor Roy Wakelam referred to page 55, Appendix 4 of the report, and asked if the bullet point 'mobility vehicle' could be amended to read 'any mobility vehicle'. The Regulatory Services Manager explained that clarification could be provided around the height and length restriction of the vehicle in the policy.

Councillor Mike Peers expressed concerns around the reason for refusing vehicles with sign writing with specifically associated trade waste and said the policy did not include anything not associated with trade waste. He asked that consideration be given for an exemption for residents with sign written vehicles not associated with business, not producing trade waste, and where the vehicle was assigned to a residential property which was subject to council tax. He asked that the policy be amended to reflect those circumstances or deferred to enable the Streetscene service to develop an exemption.

Councillor Peers proposed that the policy be amended to allow residents who had a sign written vehicle and were not associated with a building trade and were promoting their business for the benefit of the community, but not producing trade waste, be allowed a permit which he said had previously been granted. Councillor Peers said he felt there should be a "two tier system" and the current "catch all" situation could be rectified by information provided at the permit application stage, which would enable residents the right to dispose of household waste. In response to the comments made by Councillor Peers the Chief Officer explained that it is a challenging area to control and police, as a lot of commercial waste is inherently similar to household waste and therefore difficult to distinguish from legitimate waste produced from domestic properties, but it is more likely to be delivered or deposited by a trade vehicle. The Chief Officer spoke of the potential for more applications for permits which would impact on waste and recycling rates.

Councillor Peers proposed that the Policy be amended as follows: where the Policy states that sign written vehicles would not be permitted, this should relate to trade vehicles associated with trade waste and on Section 2 - checking of the vehicles under vehicles permitted, a sign written vehicle will be permitted provided it is registered to a residential address in Flintshire for council tax, is not a trade associated with any trade waste, does not generate any trade or business waste, and the only waste presented is domestic waste. Councillor Peers

suggested that this could be part of the application process and checked, and the vehicle could be checked and monitored by the operator at it enters the HRC site.

Councillor Richard Lloyd seconded the proposal put forward by Councillor Peers. Councillor Lloyd spoke in support of a charging system to enable residents to pay for bulky items to be taken to HRCs for disposal if unable to transport items themselves.

The Chief Officer responded to the comments and questions raised by Members.

The recommendations as set out in the report, were moved and seconded by Councillors Dan Rose and Mike Peers

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee supports the review undertaken and endorses the proposed amendments to the Vehicle Permit Policy for Household Recycling Centres with the addition on the amendment proposed above on signed vehicles and trade waste;
- (b) That the Committee supports and endorses the inclusion of tyres as an additional waste stream in the HRC booking system to ensure waste minimisation and control; and
- (c) That the Committee supports and endorses the additional proposals to improve HRC operational controls and services.

30. ASH DIEBACK UPDATE

The Access & Natural Environment Manager presented a report to provide an update on how Flintshire County Council had addressed Ash Dieback in 2021/22 in line with the 2019 Ash Dieback Action Plan, and the recommendations following an internal audit in July 2021.

The Access & Natural Environment Manager provided background information and reported on the main considerations as detailed in the report. The 2019 Ash Dieback Action Plan identified and proposed ways in which to manage the risk and costs associated with Ash Dieback, highlighting where infected Ash trees had an increased risk to public safety and the financial cost incurred to the Council. To moderate and manage the risk associated to Ash Dieback, a series of surveys had been undertaken to assess the distribution and disease classification of roadside Ash trees for primary and secondary roads. A programme of tree removal is ongoing for Flintshire owned trees and landowners with infected trees have been contacted to highlight the presence of Ash Dieback in their trees, with an expectation that they will manage their own trees to mitigate risks.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the work on recovery to re-plant trees lost due to the disease and asked if each area would be subject to its own site survey. Councillor Peers also commented on the impact on landscapes. The

Access & Natural Environment Manager acknowledged the points raised by Councillor Peers and explained that recovery was an important part of the Ash Dieback Plan and said areas would be looked at on a case-by-case basis as not all areas would warrant additional tree planting for various reasons. He said the main focus was on risk mitigation.

The Access & Natural Environment Manager responded to the further questions and concerns raised by Members around timelines, re-planting, impact on bio-diversity, the cost to the Council of dealing with Ash Dieback, and removal/disposal of diseased trees.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved by Councillor Mike Peers and seconded by Councillor Mike Allport.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted and the ongoing work associated with Ash Dieback supported.

31. BIODIVERSITY SECTION 6 REPORTING

The Access & Natural Environment Manager presented the report which detailed how the Council was making progress in delivering its biodiversity duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The report explained the Council's Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan 2020 – 2023, 'Supporting Nature in Flintshire' and the progress of action to deliver objectives, highlighting key areas of biodiversity work within the County. The report also included the statutory Section 6 report which would be submitted to Welsh Government in January 2023 at the end of the second 3 year reporting round.

The Access & Natural Environment Manager provided background information and reported on the key points referring to the 6 objectives and the progress made in delivering action to meet the Plan's 20 actions under the objectives (Appendix 1).

Councillor Mike Peers commended the Access & Natural Environment Manager and his team on the success of schemes undertaken in the community citing the 'wild meadows scheme' as an example.

Councillor Chris Dolphin also spoke in support of the 'wild meadow' scheme but said some concerns had been raised regarding a risk of fire due to exceptionally hot and dry weather and long grass. The Access & Natural Environment Manager acknowledged the point made and explained that overall, due to the small areas concerned and monitoring of local climate conditions, it was felt that the benefits outweighed the potential risk. He gave reassurance that there was flexibility to mow the area if needed at any time.

Councillor Chris Bithell spoke on the work of the Planning Service and the ways in which planning could help with biodiversity.

Councillor Dan Rose raised concerns about the loss of habitat. He commented on the loss of green spaces and hedgerows due to planning

development and on other services provided by the Council which used pesticides and other methods of control. He asked if there was recording in place to monitor the impact. The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy) advised that the points raised by Councillor Rose could be addressed in the Monitoring Report which would sit alongside the LDP and could be addressed at Planning Strategy Group.

Councillor David Healey spoke on the importance of bio-diversity at a local level referring to Town and Community Council involvement.

The recommendation in the report was moved and seconded by Councillors Roy Wakelam and Mike Peers.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted and the ongoing work associated with improving biodiversity be supported.

32. LEVELLING UP FUND – ROUND 2

The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager presented the report to provide an update on the development of the programme and projects and to recommend approval by Cabinet of capital funding to meet the required match funding expected by UK Government.

The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager provided background information and advised that the report updated on the development and submission of two bids in line with the bidding strategy agreed at Cabinet on 18 January 2022 and on a third strategic transport bid. The report also provided an update on the programme as a whole and requested an allocation of match funding from the capital programme of £1,106,915 (£630,467 Alyn & Deeside bid, £476,448 Delyn bid) in order to draw down the UK Government funding.

Councillor Mike Peers, commented on the risk of match funding availability referred to on page 124 of the report. He suggested that as the Council's budget for 2023/24 was not yet presented that recommendation 3 be agreed in principle only until further details on the budget were known. Officers responded to the concerns raised by Councillor Peers on the bids put forward and commented on the firm commitment to funding required. The proposal by Councillor Peers was not seconded.

The recommendations as set out in the report, were moved and seconded by Councillors Dan Rose and Mike Allport.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the progress in developing and submitting bids to round two of the UK Government Levelling Up Fund be noted;
- (b) That the risks and mitigations associated with the package of projects be noted; and

- (c) That the allocation of match funding of up to £1.107m from the capital programme in 2024/2025 be supported.

33. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Enterprise and Regeneration Manager presented the report. He provided background information and advised that the report provided an update on the development of the programme management infrastructure, locally and regionally, and sets out recommended priorities for the programme as well as criteria by which projects seeking funding through the programme would be assessed. The report also provided a broad update on the strategic Council projects which were under development in readiness for the programme. Members were asked to recommend to Cabinet for approval to be given for the framework of priorities and processes needed to effectively operate the programme.

Councillor David Healey spoke in support of the project and commended the Enterprise and Regeneration Manager on his work.

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded by Councillors Dan Rose and Mike Allport.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the progress made in developing the SPF programme both regionally and locally be noted;
- (b) that the broad outline of the structures and processes to be used to deliver the programme be noted' and
- (c) that the proposed outline uses of 2022/2023 funds by the Council be supported

26. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 12.58 pm)

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Chair

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ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	13 December 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

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

REPORT DETAILS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 2022/23

Date of Meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report/Presentation	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
<p>10 Jan 2023 10.00 am</p>	<p>Memorials/Legacy in the Countryside Policy</p>	<p>To receive an update</p>	<p>Assurance</p>	<p>Tom Woodall</p>	
	<p>Streetscene Standards</p>	<p>The Streetscene Standards have not been reviewed since 2019. This report will review the existing standards and recommend amendments to ensure that the service continues to deliver to the needs and expectations of the public.</p>	<p>Policy review</p>	<p>Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation</p>	
	<p>Waste Strategy</p>	<p>To review the Councils current Waste Strategy with the objective of achieving Welsh Government statutory recycling targets</p>	<p>Policy Review</p>	<p>Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation</p>	
	<p>Council Plan 2022-23 Mid-Year Performance Reporting</p>	<p>To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.</p>	<p>Performance monitoring</p>	<p>Chief Officers</p>	

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 Feb 2023 10.00 am	Woodland Strategy	To receive a progress report.	Assurance	Tom Woodall	
	Welsh Water draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 - Public Consultation	To consider Flintshire County Council's response to the Consultation	Consultation	Andy Roberts	
	Wepre Park Management Plan	To receive a report outlining the management plan.	Pre-decision scrutiny	Tom Woodall	
	Communities for Work	To update the Committee on the work of the employability programmes and on the closure of the Communities 4 Work programme and any implications for the Council.	Assurance	Niall Waller	
	Grass Cutting Policy	To advise Scrutiny of the revised Grass Cutting Policy	Policy Review	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
Parking Outside Schools and Enforcement	To advise Scrutiny of the current position	Monitoring/ Assurance	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 March 2023 10.00 am	Local Toilet Strategy	To advise the committee on the approach and timescales for the statutory formal review of the Local Toilet Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Bereavement Services	To advise the committee on the services provided and challenges faced.	Assurance	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Presentation by Land & Property Programme Manager – NWEAB – to be confirmed	To receive an update on the Land & Property Programme			
18 April 2023 10.00 am	Highways Drainage	To receive an update	Assurance	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	
	Housing regeneration grants & loans policy	To consider the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy and to recommend approval to Cabinet.	Pre-decision scrutiny	Niall Waller	
	Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transition Plan	To consider the Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transition Plan	Assurance	Chief Officer Streetscene & Transportation	
	Integrated Transportation Strategy	To consider the Strategy	Assurance	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
16 May 2023 10.00 am	Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO's) review	To review the current PSPO's prior to consideration by Cabinet.	Policy Review	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)	
13 June 2023 10.00 am	Welsh Government Deposit Return scheme NWEAB Low carbon Energy (to be confirmed)	To receive an update	Assurance	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)	
11 July 2023 10.00 am	Council Plan 2022-23 Year-End Performance	To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Performance monitoring	Chief Officers	

Page 28

Items to be added: -

February 2023 - Exceptions criteria for 20 mph implementation - Workshop

October 2023 - Progress on the implementation of the conversion of the FCC fleet to electric and alternative fuels.

Action tracking from Environment & Economy OSC November 2022

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	The Bus Network Review undertaken by Transport for Wales (TfW) is currently ongoing and has yet to be concluded. An update is awaited from TfW. 06/09/22	Anthony Stanford	Timescale awaited.
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 Email update circulated 1/2/22 An update note will be circulated shortly which will contain a formal response to the questions asked by Scrutiny members on the Buckley / Flint markets idea. 03/10/22	Niall Waller	Timescale awaited.
Minutes 14/09/21	Litter from food outlets	Update on Welsh Government initiative to be circulated when available	Gabby Povey	Awaiting on current position from WG Timescale awaited.

Forward Work Programme	Parking outside schools	Joint meeting to be held with Education, Youth & Culture OSC to progress	Ceri Shotton	February
Forward Work Programme November 2022	<p>Cllr Hutchinson raised concerns re road markings.</p> <p>Katie Wilby agreed to speak to Cllr Hutchinson outside the meeting.</p>	<p>Chief Officer has spoken to Cllr Hutchinson and explained the process for road markings. Issues raised regarding Wylfa roundabout have been passed to the Trunk Road Agency as the A494 falls within Their responsibility to maintain, not Flintshire.</p> <p>Issues with roads that Cllrs are aware of should be raised with area coordinators. Issue about road markings on roundabouts specifically will be picked up with the area managers.</p>	Katie Wilby	Completed
Forward Work Programme	The Chair requested that an item on the Exceptions Criteria for 20mph implementation be added to the Forward Work Programme. It was agreed that a workshop would be held early in 2023.	Workshop to be arranged in February 2023	Katie Wilby	Ongoing

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