

# Public Document Pack

**Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr**  
Chief Officer (Governance)  
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



Contact Officer:  
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To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Leader)

Councillors: Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, David Healey, Dave Hughes, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones and Billy Mullin

12 October 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING**  
**CABINET**  
**TUESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 2022 at 10.00 AM**

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum  
Democratic Services Manager

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

**\*A verbal statement will be delivered by Councillors Jones and Mullin to raise awareness of the forthcoming National Safeguarding Week 2022\***

### 1 **APOLOGIES**

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### 3 **MINUTES** (Pages 7 - 18)

**Purpose:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

### **STRATEGIC REPORTS**

### 4 **COUNCIL PLAN 2023-28** (Pages 19 - 28)

Report of Chief Executive - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

**Purpose:** To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub Priorities and Well-being Objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28.

### 5 **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021/22** (Pages 29 - 66)

Report of Chief Executive - Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

**Purpose:** To approve the Annual Performance Report 2021/22 prior to endorsement by County Council.

### 6 **CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (CJC) UPDATE REPORT** (Pages 67 - 98)

Report of Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance) - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the progress being made in relation to the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

**7 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022 – 2027 (Pages 99 - 130)**

Report of Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets - Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

**Purpose:** To approve the Asset Management Plan 2022 – 2028 so that it can be adopted as the principal document for managing the Council’s corporate property and land resource assets.

**8 STRATEGIC HOUSING AND REGENERATION PROGRAMME (SHARP), UPDATE REPORT (Pages 131 - 154)**

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

**Purpose:** To provide an update on progress of the Council’s SHARP Housebuilding programme.

**9 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT (Pages 155 - 186)**

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

**Purpose:** To approve the revised Disabled Facility Grant Policy.

**OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

**10 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 5) (Pages 187 - 210)**

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

**Purpose:** This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2022/23 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5, and projects forward to year-end.

**11 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION (Pages 211 - 220)**

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

**Purpose:** To provide an update on local responses being planned and delivered to regenerate town centres across Flintshire and tackle vacant properties through enforcement action.

12 **FLINTSHIRE COASTAL PARK** (Pages 221 - 284)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the progress of the scoping work to establish a Coast Park and to agree the recommendations for implementation.

13 **WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD (WHQS) CAPITAL PROGRAMME – DELIVERY REVIEW UPDATE** (Pages 285 - 294)

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the progress of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), that the Council is delivering through its Capital Investment Programme, and preparation for the next phase of WHQS.

14 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 295 - 296)

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

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

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

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

The report contains information relating to contracts to be let and the public interest in withholding those details outweigh the public interest in revealing them until the contracts are let.

15 **WHOLE HOUSE ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT 2022** (Pages 343 - 352)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

**Purpose:** To provide and update on the procurement process for domestic energy retrofit works in Flintshire and to seek approval for the appointment of the successful contractor.



The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains legal advice in relation to Procurement and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information until such time as the Procurement is concluded.

16 **DATA CENTRE TECHNOLOGIES CONTRACT EXTENSION** (Pages 353 - 368)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

**Purpose:** To receive Cabinet approval to extend the Council's Datacentre technologies contract up to 31st March 2023.

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

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**CABINET**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held virtually via Zoom on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

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

Councillors: Sean Bibby, Dave Hughes, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones and Billy Mullin.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Social Services), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Housing and Communities), Corporate Finance Manager, Revenues and Procurement Manager, Benefits Manager, Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets, Senior Manager – School Improvement Systems, Community and Business Protection Manager and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Chris Bithell and Dave Healey

**38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**39. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were submitted and confirmed as a correct.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meetings be approved as a correct record.

**40. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2023/24**

Councillor Johnson introduced the item which provided an update to the additional budget requirement for the 2023/24 financial year in advance of the specific Member briefings and Overview and Scrutiny meetings to be held in the Autumn.

The current national employers pay offers for Teachers and NJC (Green Book) employees were now known and the significant financial impact had been included in the revised forecast. Latest intelligence on potential future increases on utility prices had also been built into the forecast, which was also significant.

The impact of pay and utilities, together with other changes to existing cost pressures and some new emerging pressures across Portfolios, had increased the minimum budget requirement to £24.348m.

The Corporate Finance Manager explained that the report also set out the budget solutions and risks that would need to be urgently considered to enable the Council to set a legal and balanced budget in February.

There were a number of ongoing risks that could change the additional budget requirement further, which were detailed in the report.

The Chief Executive reiterated the challenge facing the Council to deal with the deficit position. Each portfolio would be holding a finance briefing session before reports being submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Councillor Roberts and the Chief Executive expressed their thanks to all staff who had been involved in Operation London Bridge.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the revised additional budget requirement for the 2023/24 financial year be received and noted; and
- (b) That the budget solutions and risks that will need to be urgently considered to enable the Council to set a legal and balanced budget in February be noted.

**41. COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM SCHEME FOR SECOND HOMES AND LONG-TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES**

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that local authorities in Wales had had discretionary powers since 2017 to charge a Council Tax premium of up to 100% above the standard rate of Council Tax on certain classes of second homes and long term empty properties.

From April 2023, local authorities in Wales would have the autonomy to charge, or vary, a Council Tax premium rate of up to 300% above the standard charge which could result in individuals paying an overall charge of 400%.

The Council introduced a premium scheme in 2017 and established a premium rate of 50% on both second homes and long-term empty properties and that rate had applied each year since 2017.

The Revenues and Procurement Manager explained that, following a public consultation that was undertaken in November 2021, the report set out the key considerations and options for Cabinet to consider retaining or varying the premium rates from 2023/24, and for those recommendations to be approved at a future meeting of County Council. In response to a question, he said that most neighbouring authorities charged a levy of 50%.

**RESOLVED:**

That the current rate of premium of 50% on second homes and long-term empty properties remain the same.

#### **42. NORTH WALES MARKET STABILITY REPORT**

Councillor Jones introduced the report which provided an overview of the North Wales Market Stability Report 2022 (MSR) which had been produced as a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

A single regional MSR report must be produced for the North Wales Region and be approved by Council for each of the local authority areas, and the Board of the Local Health Board.

The assessment of the care market should be produced and published by June 2022. A draft of the report had been shared with Welsh Government (WG). However, it had been made clear to WG that it was an early draft that had not yet been approved by the full Councils and the Health Board. The approval process was taking place between July 2022 and October 2022 with the final version of the MSR going to the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) in November prior to it being submitted to WG.

The Chief Officer (Social Services) explained that the final MSR report must be published on all local authority websites, the Health Board website and the RPB website in both English and Welsh. A copy of the report would also be submitted to Welsh Ministers. The full MSR was a lengthy document and summary reports and an executive summary and accessible formats would also be made available in order to make the content and key messages more accessible and digestible.

The report was being considered by County Council the following day.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the North Wales Market Stability Report 2022 be approved.

#### **43. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 4)**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which provided the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2022/23 for the Council Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

The projected year end position was:

##### **Council Fund**

- An operating deficit of £0.285m (excluding the impact of the pay award which would need to be met by reserves)
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 of £6.911m (before the impact of final pay awards)

##### **Housing Revenue Account**

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £0.188m higher than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 of £6.287m

Hardship Funding from Welsh Government (WG) helped secure £16m of direct financial help the previous year and the authority would continue to claim for payments to Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement payments, along with Free School Meals direct payments in 2022/23.

A brought forward amount of £2.066m remained available from the original £3m emergency ring-fenced fund. The 2022/23 budget approved in February included a further top up of £3.250m to the Reserve to provide a prudent safeguard against any ongoing impacts of the pandemic. Early indications were that whilst the risks due to COVID-19 had diminished considerably, the inflationary risk had increased. The position would be monitored closely over the coming months and any impacts would be reflected in future reports.

Details of pay awards for teaching and non-teaching staff were outlined in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the estimated financial impact on the 2022/23 budget be noted.

**44. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 4)**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which summarised changes made to the Capital Programme 2022/23 since it was set in December 2021 to the end of Month 4 (July 2022), along with expenditure to date and projected outturn.

The Capital Programme had seen a net increase in budget of £29.590m during the period which comprised of:

- Net budget increase in the programme of £15.864m (Council Fund (CF) £17.621m, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£1.757m));
- Introduction of Carry Forward from 2021/22 of £13.726 (CF £13.726m, HRA £0.000m)

Actual expenditure was £14.290m.

Capital receipts received in the first quarter of 2022/23, totalled £1.058m. That gave a revised projected surplus in the Capital Programme at Month 4 of £3.126m (from an opening funding position surplus of £2.068m) for the 2022/23 – 2024/25 Capital Programme, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be approved;
- (b) That the carry forward adjustments be approved; and
- (c) That the additional allocations be approved.

**45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

Councillor Johnson introduced the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22 which was appended to the report.

As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Annual Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> July where officers responded to questions to the satisfaction of the Committee and there were no specific issues to bring to the attention of Cabinet.

It was recommended that the report be presented to Council on 18<sup>th</sup> October for final approval.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet recommends the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22 to Council on 18<sup>th</sup> October for final approval.

**46. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – COUNCIL TAX REFORM**

Councillor Mullin introduced the report which provided information on a Welsh Government (WG) phase 1 consultation seeking views on the reform of Council Tax.

The Revenues and Procurement Manager explained that the proposals included:

- Completing a Council Tax revaluation
- Designing a new system of bands and tax rates that was more progressive
- Improving the framework of discounts, disregarded persons, exemptions and premiums
- Improving the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The report provided a series of recommended responses on the reform proposals to specific questions posed by WG.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Revenues and Procurement Manager be authorised to respond to the consultation on the proposals of the Welsh Government Consultation to reform Council Tax as outlined in the report.

**47. COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Councillor Johnson introduced the report and explained that the recent increase in the cost of living had come at a time when a combination of factors were impacting on individuals, families, and communities, driving more people into poverty and creating social needs that were not an issue pre-pandemic.

It was therefore important for the Council and its partners to consider what action and support could be provided to communities to mitigate some of those impacts.

The report explored some of the reasons for the crisis, reflected on the response so far and looked to the future response.

In order to address the wide scope of the issues it would be necessary to coordinate the activities of the Council and its partners to ensure that the response and support offered within communities was as wide ranging as possible. The diagram in the report showed a comprehensive view of the range of support that would be necessary.

The report detailed the response of the Council in the last year and the next steps. Details of the Winter Fuel Payment Scheme 2022/23, and the qualifying benefits, were also provided in the report.

There was a proposal for Warm Hubs which would provide additional support. There were 22 community centres within the Council's own sheltered accommodation schemes across the County. Since the easing of lockdown restrictions, the Council has been able to reopen a number of those centres for residents to attend classes and coffee mornings to help alleviate loneliness and isolation.

As part of the Warm Hub proposals, residents would be supported to eat well with the provision of a fridge, microwave and Well-Fed meals at each centre, giving the residents the opportunity to eat together or take their meal home with them. In addition to the centres, the Council would also support community hubs in Shotton and Holywell as well as the community centre in the Holway to become Warm Hubs.

The Benefits Manager reiterated that this was a work in progress and work was continuing to take place on finding ways to support communities to fill any gaps.

The Chief Executive said there were many third sector organisations that the Council wanted to work with to support local communities.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the update on the cost of living support schemes be noted, and the development of Warm Hubs be supported and approved.

#### **48. RECYCLING BRING SITES**

Councillor Hughes introduced the report and explained that a recycling bring site was a localised collection point where recycling containers were placed in places such as car parks and on streets so that residents had convenient access to facilities for the disposal of recyclable materials. Such facilities had been in place for many years and, at one time, they were the only option for residents to recycle in addition to the household recycling centres (HRCs).



The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) explained that the introduction of the kerbside sorting service had made recycling much more convenient for residents and was available to all households in Flintshire. Having banks at the bring sites for recyclable materials such as glass was now unnecessary, as an alternative kerbside collection service was available, in addition to the HRCs. It would also assist with reducing fly tipping and costs associated with cleaning those sites.

With the provision for weekly kerbside collections for recycling glass and the availability of textile banks at all five HRCs, there was an opportunity to review the provision of the bring sites in Flintshire and consider their ongoing suitability.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the recommended removal of the textile recycling bring sites across the county be approved; and
- (b) That it be noted that the current glass contractor will be removing all glass igloos from bring sites across the county.

**49. DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL VISITOR LEVY**

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that Welsh Government (WG) had recently announced, as part of the co-operation agreement with Plaid Cymru, a programme for Government between 2021-2026 which included a commitment to consulting on and introducing tax raising powers for local authorities to raise a levy on overnight visitor's accommodation in Wales.

The Revenues and Procurement Manager explained that the policy aims for a visitor levy was to enable local authorities to raise additional revenue to re-invest in the conditions that made tourism a success.

The purpose of the report was to provide Cabinet with early, basic information on the development of the levy and work led by WG. A further report would be submitted to Cabinet in November.

**RESOLVED:**

That the latest developments for the development of a local Visitor Levy ahead of the formal Welsh Government consultation in the Autumn 2022 be noted.

**50. SELF-EVALUATION REPORT EDUCATION SERVICES 2021/22**

Councillor Roberts introduced the report and explained that the Education and Youth Portfolio undertook a rigorous annual self-evaluation of its performance and services to provide assurance to the Council on the quality of education services in Flintshire. The report identified strengths and areas for further improvement and those areas for improvement were then reflected in the Council Improvement Plan and the Portfolio's own Business Plan.

The report was structured to provide assurance to the Council across the three inspection areas of:

- Outcomes
- Quality of Education Services (including Youth Services)
- Leadership and Management

The overall conclusion of the self-evaluation report was that education services in Flintshire were strong, effectively supported children and young people and provided good value for money.

Councillor Roberts expressed his thanks to the Chief Officer and her staff for their work on the document, and all school based staff for their contributions.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the outcome of the Education Portfolio's annual self-evaluation report on the quality of education services for the period 2021/2022 be noted; and
- (b) That any observations be provided to the Portfolio Team.

## **51. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS**

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

### **Housing and Assets**

- **Community Asset Transfer**  
This relates to the Community Asset Transfer of Ty Calon, Chester Road West, Deeside.
- **Community Asset Transfer**  
This relates to the Community Asset Transfer of Buckley Cricket Club, Lane End Ground, Chester Road, Buckley.

### **Revenues**

- **Council Housing Rents – Former Tenancy Arrears Write Offs**  
Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) stipulates that individual bad and irrecoverable debts in excess of £5,000 are considered for write off in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member. The decision to write off is in respect of 2 cases of unpaid rent. Following the steps taken, the former tenancy arrears in each case are considered to be irrecoverable and there is no prospect of securing payment. The total amount of unpaid rent associated with these two is £13,003.98.
- **Business Rates Write Offs**  
Financial Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Management to write off

debts between £5k and £25k. There are two outstanding Business Rates debts totalling £15,133.81 that have been written off for debts between 2019/20 to 2021/22 which are deemed irrecoverable.

- **Council Tax Write Offs**

Financial Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Management to write off debts between £5k and £25k. Three outstanding Council Tax debts totalling £26,224.98 which are deemed irrecoverable and a write off is considered necessary.

- **Council Housing Rents Write Offs**

Financial Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Management to write off debts between £5k and £25k. There are two outstanding Business Rates debts totalling £15,133.81 that have been written off for debts between 2019/20 to 2021/22 which are deemed irrecoverable.

- **Council Housing Rents Write Offs**

Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) stipulates that individual bad and irrecoverable debts in excess of £5,000 are considered for write off in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member. The decision to write off is in respect of two cases of unpaid rent where the tenants are subject to insolvency. The debts are considered to be irrecoverable and there is no prospect of securing payment. The total amount of unpaid rent associated with these two cases is £15,324.75.

## **Education & Youth**

- **Local Authority Appointed School Governors**

Appointment of Local Authority Governor(s) representatives on school governing bodies in accordance with The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005.

## **Planning, Environment & Economy**

- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**

Cabinet at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July agreed, amongst other things, that delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy to develop and submit Flintshire's priorities for inclusion in the regional Investment Plan to enable the programme funding to be drawn down. It also authorised Gwynedd County Council to act as the lead body to submit the regional Investment Plan to UK Government on behalf of the six North Wales authorities.

## **Streetscene and Transportation**

- **The Flintshire County Council – B5441 Drome Road and Green Lane West, Deeside – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time**

To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time on the B5441 Drome Road and Green Lane West, Deeside.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

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

### **52. THEATR CLWYD PROJECT**

Councillor Roberts introduced the report which provided an update on the Theatr Clwyd project.

It provided a potential solution to a funding gap and highlighted the risks of not proceeding together with the economic benefits of investment into the Theatr project and community and social benefit package.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That Cabinet approve the additional £1.5m required to proceed with the Theatr Clwyd project;
- (b) That in doing so, approval be given to enter into a contract for the construction phase, this being subject to confirmation of additional funding from Welsh Government; and
- (c) That Cabinet refers the project to County Council for a final decision in the event that Welsh Government is unable or unwilling to proportionally increase its contribution in line with the increased costs of the project.

### **53. COMMISSIONING OF RESIDENTIAL AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN FLINTSHIRE**

Councillor Jones introduced the report which sought approval for awarding a contract for the continued delivery of Residential and Therapeutic Services for Children and Young People in Flintshire.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the approach to award the contract for the continued delivery of Residential and Therapeutic Services for Children and Young People in Flintshire be approved.

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

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

(The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 3.57 p.m.)

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**Chair**

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Council Plan 2023-28
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan for 2023 - 28 has been reviewed and refreshed to reflect the key priorities of the Council for the five-year term of the new administration.

The 'super-structure' of the Plan comprises of seven priorities and relevant sub-priorities. The seven priorities take a long-term view of recovery, projects and ambitions over the next five years.

The Council Plan 2023 - 28 will be published in a similar format to previous years, identifying actions aimed at achieving the Well-being objectives, priorities and sub-priorities. National and regional issues/risks which could impact on the achievement of these priorities will be identified and monitored.

Part 2 of the Council Plan will be considered by the respective Overview and Scrutiny committees to ensure full coverage of Part 1 of the Council Plan 2023/28 and its respective measures and their targets.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub-priorities and Well-being objectives of the Council Plan 2023-28.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL PLAN 2023-28
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	A full review has taken place to ensure the appropriateness and relevance of the well-being objectives, priorities, and sub-priorities going forward. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• priority actions that continue from 2023 onwards for sustained attention</li><li>• priority actions which could be removed as they have been completed or become operational (business as usual); and</li><li>• emerging priority actions for 2023-28</li></ul>
1.03	The proposed structure of the Council Plan 2023-28 consists of seven priorities, well-being objectives, and sub-priorities as follows:  <b>Priority: Poverty</b> <b>Well-being Objective:</b> Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient Sub-priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Income Poverty</li><li>- Child Poverty</li><li>- Food Poverty</li><li>- Fuel Poverty</li><li>- Digital Poverty</li></ul> <b>Priority: Affordable and Accessible Housing</b> <b>Well-being Objective:</b> Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities Sub-priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Housing Support and Homeless Prevention</li><li>- Housing Needs and Housing Options</li><li>- Social Housing</li><li>- Private Rented Sector</li><li>- Empty Properties</li></ul> <b>Priority: Green Society and Environment</b> <b>Well-being Objective:</b> Limiting and enhancing the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint Sub-priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Phosphates Mitigation</li><li>- Carbon Neutrality</li><li>- Climate Change Adaptation</li><li>- Flood Risk Management Strategy</li><li>- Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment</li><li>- Fleet Strategy</li><li>- Green Environment</li></ul>



- Flintshire Forest
- Green Access
- Renewable Energy
- Active and Sustainable Travel Options
- Circular Economy

**Priority: Economy**

**Well-being Objective:** Connecting communities and enabling sustainable economic recovery and growth

Sub-priorities:

- Rural Regeneration
- Levelling Up
- Town Centre Regeneration
- Business
- Transport Connectivity
- Digital Infrastructure
- Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets
- Spending Money for the benefit of Flintshire
- Reducing Worklessness

**Priority: Personal and Community Well-being**

**Well-being Objective:** Supporting people in need to live as well as they can

Sub-priorities:

- Independent Living
- Safeguarding
- Direct Provision to support people closer to home
- Local Dementia Strategy
- A Well-connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment.

**Priority: Education and Skills**

**Well-being Objective:** Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities

Sub-priorities:

- Educational Engagement and Achievement
- Digital Learning Opportunities
- Learning Environments
- Learning Community Networks
- Specialist Educational Provision
- Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
- Well-being

**Priority: A Well-managed Council**

**Well-being Objective:** A responsible, resourceful and trusted Council operating as efficiently as possible

Sub-priorities:

- People
- Anti-Racist and Anti-Discriminatory Council
- Financial Resilience
- Flintshire Assets
- Digital
- Partnerships

1.04

The Council Plan 2023-28 is presented for agreement prior to detailed work beginning within portfolios.

1.05	The final Council Plan will be available as a web-based document published on the Flintshire County Council website following adoption by County Council in June 2023.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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2.01	Resource implications have been considered during preparation of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme and will continue to be monitored during the regular budget monitoring and financial review arrangements.
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
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3.01	All Members will have the opportunity to consider and review the content of the draft Well-being objectives, priorities and sub-priorities including the opportunity to scrutinise targets set for 2023-28.
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
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4.01	<p><b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td rowspan="5">The Council Plan 2023-28 continues to be aligned to the Sustainable Development Principles across all of their working. A full integrated impact assessment will be carried out for Council Plan 2023-28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Well-being Goals Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td rowspan="7">Council Plan 2023-28 continues to provide evidence of alignment with the Well-being Goals. Specific strategic and policy reports include impact and risk assessments.</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><b>Council's Well-being Objectives</b> The Council's Well-being objectives have been reviewed as part of this exercise. The refreshed set Well-being objectives is found within this report in section 1.03.</p>	Long-term	The Council Plan 2023-28 continues to be aligned to the Sustainable Development Principles across all of their working. A full integrated impact assessment will be carried out for Council Plan 2023-28	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement	Prosperous Wales	Council Plan 2023-28 continues to provide evidence of alignment with the Well-being Goals. Specific strategic and policy reports include impact and risk assessments.	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Cohesive Wales	Vibrant Wales	Globally responsible Wales
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<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
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5.01	Appendix 1: Council Plan 2023-28 – Proposed Priorities, Sub-priorities and Well-being Objectives
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<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Sam Perry, Performance and Risk Management Support Officer  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 701476  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Sam.perry@flintshire.gov.uk">Sam.perry@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Council Plan:</b> the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council.</p> <p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy:</b> a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.</p> <p><b>Council Plan Part 2:</b> the document which underpins the Council Plan, which captures Measures, Tasks and Risks.</p>

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## Council Plan 2023-28 Development – Proposed Priorities

The following table provides an overview of proposed priorities for the Council Plan 2023-28

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>Poverty</b>
<b>Description/ Well-being Objective</b>	<b>Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient</b>
<b>Income Poverty</b>	<b>Definition:</b> People on low income who are unable to meet day to day living costs
<b>Child Poverty</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Children who do not have access to adequate food, clothing, shelter and education to lead a healthy and active life
<b>Food Poverty</b>	<b>Definition:</b> People who are not able to access food that meets their daily nutritional needs and requirements
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Households that spend more than 10% of their income (after housing costs) on energy
<b>Digital Poverty</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Inability to interact fully in a digital world when, where and how an individual needs to
<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>Affordable and Accessible Housing</b>
<b>Description/ Well-being Objective</b>	<b>Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities</b>
<b>Housing support and homeless prevention</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Offering support to people to retain their housing and live well and ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and unrepeated
<b>Housing Needs and Housing Options</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Helping people to explore their housing options so they can access the right homes to meet their needs
<b>Social Housing</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Working with housing partners to develop and invest in affordable housing and social housing - with modern methods of construction, improving the quality of Council homes, and a commitment towards carbon neutral
<b>Private Rented Sector</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Supporting the private sector to raise standards in the management and condition of housing and promote tenancy sustainment in our communities
<b>Empty Properties</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Bringing empty homes back into use to enhance the local housing market and improve our local communities

## Council Plan 2023-28 Development – Proposed Priorities

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>Green Society and Environment</b>
<b>Description/ Well-being Objective</b>	<b>Limiting and enhancing the impact of the Council’s services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint</b>
<b>Phosphates Mitigation</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Provision of viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on Special Areas of Conservation protected rivers
<b>Carbon Neutrality</b>	<b>Definition:</b> A net carbon zero Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery
<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Be more resilient to the changes that have happened due to climate change and prepare for predicted future change
<b>Flood Risk Management Strategy</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Refresh the Council’s flood risk management strategy to align with the national strategy and identify communities at most risk in Flintshire and the actions required to mitigate this risk
<b>Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Review the Council’s Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment in light of the Ministerial letter of November 2021, to prepare for the implementation of revised TAN15 Development and Flood Risk guidance which becomes operational in June 2023
<b>Fleet Strategy</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet
<b>Green Environment</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Enhance and increase biodiversity and trees to deliver multiple benefits for people, wildlife and the environment
<b>Flintshire Forest</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Development of a plan to establish a Flintshire Forest that will identify available land assets, budget requirements and a realistic delivery timescale
<b>Green Access</b>	<b>Definition:</b> The promotion, good management and protection of our green spaces to deliver multiple benefits to the environment and our residents and visitors
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	<b>Definition:</b> The promotion and support of renewable energy opportunities across the Council Estate and wider communities
<b>Active and Sustainable Travel Options</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Create opportunities to increase levels of walking and cycling (Active Travel) and the use of sustainable public transport options, enabling the undertaking of multi-modal transport journeys to access key destinations
<b>Circular Economy</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Support and promote the Welsh Government’s strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire

## Council Plan 2023-28 Development – Proposed Priorities

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>Economy</b>
<b>Description/ Well-being Objective</b>	<b>Connecting communities and enabling sustainable economic recovery and growth</b>
<b>Rural Regeneration</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Ensure that Economy interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals
<b>Levelling Up</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Prepare and submit bids to the UK Government Levelling Up Fund programme to invest in projects in deprived coastal communities in Flintshire
<b>Town Centre Regeneration</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Regenerate and re-invent our town centres
<b>Business</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Enable business continuity and encourage appropriate investment
<b>Transport Connectivity</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Develop and promote effective transport connectivity while supporting recovery and economic growth
<b>Digital Infrastructure</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Ensure the digital networks facilitate and support recovery and growth
<b>Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Achieve LDP policy objectives for growth, protection and enhancement
<b>Spending money for the benefit of Flintshire</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Grow our local economic vitality through social value commitments and procurement strategy
<b>Reducing worklessness</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Work with our partners to support individuals to gain employment
<b>PRIORITY:</b>	<b>Personal and Community Well-being</b>
<b>Description/ Well-being Objective</b>	<b>Supporting people in need to live as well as they can</b>
<b>Independent Living</b>	<b>Definition:</b> People will be supported to live as independently as possible through the right type of support, when they need it
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Continue to embed safeguarding procedures so our employees understand how they can help safeguard people in the community
<b>Direct Provision to support people closer to home</b>	<b>Definition:</b> The services we provide so people can access the support they need in their local community
<b>Local Dementia Strategy</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Continuing to improve the lives of people living with dementia in Flintshire
<b>A well-connected, safe and clean local environment</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Resilient communities where people feel connected and safe

## Council Plan 2023-28 Development – Proposed Priorities

<b>Priority Name</b>	<b>Education and Skills</b>
<b>Description/ Well-being Objective</b>	<b>Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities</b>
<b>Educational Engagement &amp; Achievement</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Providing diverse learning opportunities to support educational achievement in schools and communities
<b>Digital Learning Opportunities</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Supporting education engagement and achievement through proactive use of accessible digital media
<b>Learning Environments</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments
<b>Learning Community Networks</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Supporting our learning communities to engage and achieve through extensive partnership working unpinned by common safeguarding practices
<b>Specialist Educational Provision</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Extending local capacity to support learners with additional learning needs (ALN)
<b>Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Working with schools and partners to support the Welsh Government’s strategy to enable one million Welsh speakers by 2050
<b>Well-Being</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Working with schools and partners to provide opportunities for children, young people and the education workforce to engage in activities which support their emotional health and well-being

<b>Priority Name</b>	<b>A well-managed Council</b>
<b>Description/ Well-being Objective</b>	<b>A responsible, resourceful and trusted Council operating as efficiently as possible</b>
<b>People</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Recruit, retain, develop and support the well-being of our employees to enable high quality service delivery
<b>Anti-Racist and Anti-Discriminatory Council</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Welsh Government Anti Racist Wales Action Plan and public sector equality duties
<b>Financial Resilience</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Ensuring that the Council is sustainable over the medium to longer term
<b>Flintshire Assets</b>	<b>Definition:</b> The provision of the right asset in the right place at the right time will ensure the effective and efficient delivery of a comprehensive range of high-quality public services
<b>Digital</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Modernising our services so that they are designed around user needs and are simple, secure and convenient
<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Working collaboratively with partners across the private, public, voluntary and community sectors to achieve shared goals and priorities





## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Annual Performance Report 2021/22
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Performance Report for 2021/22 reviews our progress against the Council Priorities as detailed in the Council Plan 2021/22 and supporting measures document (Part 2).

Performance against the Council Plan measures was positive with 73% of the performance indicators meeting or exceeding their target for the year, compared to 67% the previous year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve the Annual Performance Report 2021/22 prior to endorsement by County Council.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE 2021/22</b>
1.01	<p>The Annual Performance Report (the Report) previously met a statutory requirement to publish a Corporate Plan as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure (2009) (the Measure). The report had to be published by 31st October each year. The statutory requirement no longer exists in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.</p> <p>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.</p>
1.02	The Annual Performance Report must be approved by the full Council prior to publication.
1.03	<p>The Annual Performance Report for 2021/22 reviews our progress against the Priorities as detailed in the Council Plan and supporting Measures document 2021/22. This assessment takes into consideration assessments of our performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance indicator outturns (target and trend analysis)</li> <li>• Regulatory, audit and inspection activity</li> <li>• Progress against the Well-being of Future Generations sustainable development principles and goals.</li> <li>• Progress against the Council's Well-being Objectives</li> </ul>
1.04	<p><b><u>Performance Indicator Outturns</u></b></p> <p>The Report summaries our performance against the 2021/22 Council Plan measures.</p> <p>Welsh Government stopped collecting the Public Accountability Measures (PAMs) data in 2019/20 therefore, benchmarking information for 2021/22 is not available.</p> <p><b>Council Plan Measures</b></p> <p>Assessment of actual performance against target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73% (44) of performance measures achieved target or better</li> <li>• 9% (5) of performance measures missed target within an acceptable margin</li> <li>• 18% (11) of performance measures significantly missed target</li> </ul>
1.05	<p><b><u>Regulation, Audit and Inspection Activity</u></b></p> <p>Audit Wales publishes an Annual Audit Summary Report each year on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales. This report is currently being produced for Flintshire which will summarise its findings and give recommendations from the various reports that have been produced.</p>

1.06	The Auditor General has not made any statutory recommendations with which the Council must comply thus far.
1.07	The Report will be made available via the Council's website once published. Paper copies will also be available with the supporting documents which provide the more detailed information available as 'hyperlinked' documents upon request.
1.08	Both Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee have continued to consider performance areas which have under-performed (downward) throughout 2021/22.
1.09	Progress against these action plans with mid-year performance will be monitored and reported in November 2022, as part of the mid-year performance reports.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no specific resource implications as part of this report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>														
3.01	<p><b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td rowspan="5">The Annual Performance Report covers all Five Ways of Working. Throughout the report you will be able to see the impact and the way we apply Five Ways of Working across the Council Priorities. We have included two case studies which demonstrates impact through each of the areas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Well-being Goals Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td rowspan="7">Throughout the Annual Performance Report, we refer to the Well-Being Goals and their impact.</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><b>Council's Well-being Objectives</b> The Annual Performance Report demonstrates performance against the Council's Well-being Objectives.</p>	Long-term	The Annual Performance Report covers all Five Ways of Working. Throughout the report you will be able to see the impact and the way we apply Five Ways of Working across the Council Priorities. We have included two case studies which demonstrates impact through each of the areas	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement	Prosperous Wales	Throughout the Annual Performance Report, we refer to the Well-Being Goals and their impact.	Resilient Wales	Healthier Wales	More equal Wales	Cohesive Wales	Vibrant Wales	Globally responsible Wales
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Vibrant Wales															
Globally responsible Wales															

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Member workshops were unable to take place however, consultation with Senior Managers, Chief Officers and Members has been supported online. Consultation is undertaken throughout the year by Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees regularly reviewing performance reports.
<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A - Annual Performance Report 2021/22
<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Council Plan 2021/22 Council Plan Measures (Part 2) 2021/122 Flintshire County Council's Well-being Objectives
<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Sam Perry, Performance and Risk Management Support Officer <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 701476 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:sam.perry@flintshire.gov.uk">sam.perry@flintshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<b>Council Plan:</b> 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.  <b>Public Accountability Measures:</b> nationally agreed measures to be collected and monitored by all councils for benchmarking purposes.



# **Annual Performance Report 2021/22**

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## Introduction

Welcome to Flintshire's Annual Performance Report (APR). This document gives an overview of the performance of the Council during 2021/22 against the priorities set and progress against our Well-being Objectives.

The report covers:

- Actual and comparative performance information.
- Our performance against the Future Generations Ways of Working and our Own Well-being objectives.

## Priority Setting

Flexibility in planning has been necessary during 2021/22. Corporate and portfolio strategic and operational risks have been monitored as part of ongoing recovery process and not directly linked to the Council Plan for 2021/22.

## Alignment of Council Plan Priorities and Well-Being Objectives

For 2021/22, the Well-being Objectives have been allocated to the respective portfolios as detailed below:

Portfolio	Well-Being Objectives
<b>Education and Youth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs</li> <li>• Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities</li> <li>• Supporting people in need to live as well as they can</li> </ul>
<b>Housing and Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs</li> <li>• Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities</li> <li>• Supporting people in need to live as well as they can</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs</li> </ul>
<b>Planning, Environment and Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling a sustainable economic recovery</li> <li>• Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities</li> </ul>
<b>Social Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting people in need to live as well as they can</li> </ul>
<b>Streetscene and Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Supporting people in need to live as well as they can</li> <li>• Enabling a sustainable economic recovery</li> </ul>
<b>Chief Executives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs</li> <li>• Enabling a sustainable economic recovery</li> </ul>

Note: The colour scheme used in this table is used throughout the document for ease of recognition.



## Your Local Services

Services for you – a compilation of the range of services we offer the communities of Flintshire and some figures against how well we have performed last year 2021/22

- **2,777** children participated in the summer play scheme including **38** disabled children supported by volunteer buddies
- Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) - Participants from the Council dedicated **1,183** hours to volunteering with a social value of **£5465.46**
- **48** outreach sessions delivered in the community by 'Flintshire Sorted' across **10** areas in Flintshire
- Reduction in the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system
- **1,224** applications for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) - advice and support provided as part (DHP) application process
- **£395,349** (DHP allocation and additional Government funding) spent supporting households due to impact of pandemic and cost of living rising costs
- **3,000+** Self Isolation Support Payment applications granted
- **140+** households provided with specialist advice and support, including Discretionary Assistance Fund, Warm Wales, Welsh Water, Supporting People, Free School Meals and Uniforms
- **Over 2,000** meals were delivered to families over half term and the Christmas holidays
- **8,672** applications processed for Winter Fuel Payment Support Scheme, awarding **6,682** eligible customers with £200 towards their fuel bills
- The rate of completion of small/priority adaptations doubled and **11** large adaptations were completed following 'hold on work' due to Covid
- **98%** of reported Anti-social behaviour (ASB) cases were closed as resolved with **100%** customer satisfaction rate in the handling of ASB case
- The Digital Flintshire Hub has attracted **over 7,000** views since it was launched in August 2021
- **22,902** subscriptions to 'My Account'
- **Over 92,000** digital self-service enquiries were received. This is an increase compared to the previous year and exceeds the target set for the year
- Council tax 'in-year' collections levels were the **2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Wales** - Outturn of **97.73%**, which is 0.7% above the previous year, an additional **£700k** being collected in year
- NDR 'in-year' collections levels recorded as being the **highest in Wales** with an outturn of **99.24%**, an increase of 1.5% on previous year. The national average was 95.9%
- The Council Tax and NDR service migrated **375** customer accounts across to the new Customer Portal
- **1,293** households supported to increase the energy efficiency of their homes exceeded the target of **1,200** set for the year
- **204** vulnerable households were supported to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and well-being. This exceeded the target set of 200 households.
- Approval of **£424K** 'house to home' loans to enable Empty Homes to be brought back into use
- **49** sites received biodiversity improvements

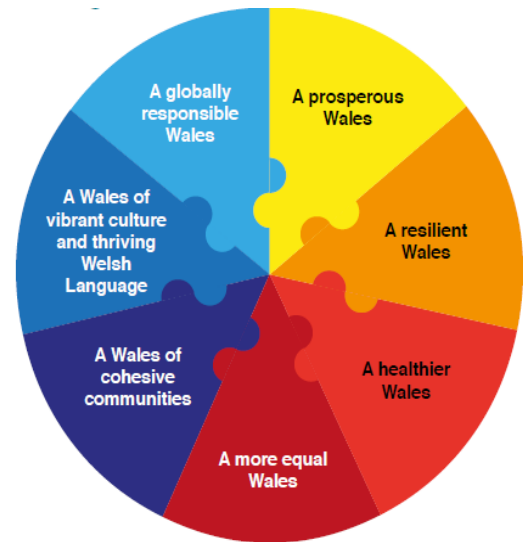
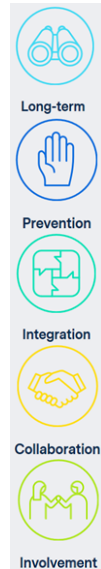
- **One of eight** local authorities across Wales (only authority in North Wales) to receive funding for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit scheme ahead of the national rollout
- **8** new foster carers were recruited
- **374** packages of reablement in the community were completed during the year, with **67%** reducing or removing the need for formal support
- **39%** of home-based support was delivered via a direct payment
- **92%** of community equipment was cleaned and reused
- **877** adult carers had their needs assessed during the year
- **600** people were supported through the Dementia Strategy
- **100%** of urgent requests for equipment met or exceeded the national 1-day response standards
- **100%** of requests for equipment met or exceeded the national 7-day standard
- **27** Micro-carers delivering services in the county
- Approximately **£3,229,432** of social value has been generated through the Council's procurement activities, surpassing the target of **£2,854**
- **62%** of the Council's contracts procured have included contractual social value requirements

## Assessment of our Wellbeing Objectives

The Council set its Well-being Objectives in June 2021 to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Designated public bodies are required to work individually and collectively to improve well-being in Wales. The seven well-being goals and the five ways of working set a general purpose for public bodies. They also aim to ensure better decisions by:

- considering the long-term
- prevention
- integrated working
- working collaboratively
- being inclusive of people of all ages.



Further details on the Future Generations Act (FGA) and the seven wellbeing goals can be found by using this [link](#).

The section 'Future Generations – Five Ways of Working Case Studies' provides examples of how we have met the Future Generations ways of working in some specific area of work.

Our Well-being Objectives reflect the 'Impacts' we intend to make through the actions and activities within each priority. An assessment of the progress against each Objective is made as part of the overall performance for each priority.

## Highlights of performance and what has been achieved

### Portfolio: Education and Youth

#### Strong Performance

- During August 2021, 2,777 children participated in the summer play scheme. This included 38 disabled children supported by volunteer buddies
- Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) - Participants from **Flintshire County Council** dedicated **1,183** hours to volunteering between April 2021 and March 2022, with a social value of **£5465.46**
- Flintshire Sorted have delivered 48 outreach sessions in the community across 10 areas in Flintshire
- Reduction in the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system
- Current national re-offending indicators demonstrate a reduction for children and young people and the lowest offending within our YOT family across England and Wales

#### Strong Stories

- Castell Alun High School – Successful completion and handover in August 2021 to provide for a new three-story specialist Art and Design Technology teaching block and remodelled internal accommodation, capital investment c£8.0m
- Brynford C.P School – £1.3m to extend hall, new classroom, stores, community room, staff room and refurbish some existing areas - Successful completion and handover in February 2022
- Queensferry Learning Campus – Successful completion and handover in February 2022, to develop existing learning campus to develop three learning facilities, capital investment c£11m:
  - Remodelling and refurbishment of Queensferry C.P. School
  - Plas Derwen – new build for pupils who require specialist intervention for their behavioural, social and emotional challenges
  - Ty Calon – new build community facility to deliver adult and young people community learning opportunities and sports facilities
- Launch of the new Integrated Youth Provision Plan – Multiplying Impact
- Development of LGBT+ open access youth club provision in partnership with Theatre Clwyd
- Ongoing development of LGBT+ groups within High School Settings. One is currently set up and facilitated by the School and Community Immersion Worker in Ysgol Treffynnon and delivered within the school timetable
- Ongoing specialist LGBT+ support from Integrated Youth Provision's Youth information office for schools wishing to develop and LGBT group within the school setting
- Targeted transition and mental health and wellbeing support provided to learners of Connah's Quay High School through an evening youth club provision. This group has been developed by the School and Community Immersion team
- Open Access Youth Provision has been opened at Deeside Leisure Centre. The dedicated youth club venue has been provided by Aura Leisure and Libraries following extensive renovation works. The weekly Youth Club is staffed by both Integrated Youth Provision and Aura's qualified youth work staff
- Integrated Youth Provision Detached team support Aura Leisure and Libraries to deliver community sports sessions
- The detached team also responded to issues and needs within Flintshire communities by providing youth work support that is not linked to a youth centre or building but on the streets and in the areas where young people congregate and spend their social and leisure time
- Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) and Wrexham Youth Service joint consultation work on the impact of Covid 19 on young people's mental health and wellbeing
- Integrated Youth Provision delivered a programme of activities through Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing Funding. The activities were developed for young people to have fun and enjoy themselves but also provide information, support and guidance to young people

- Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) social media platforms aimed to reach out to young people to share information, support and signposting services from IYP and our partnership networks. It is also a method for young people, partners and members of the public to make contact and ask questions or request information
- Forest Schools were delivered by qualified youth workers to young people identified by schools who they felt would benefit from this additional and targeted support. Forest School is based on a holistic approach to mental health and wellbeing and the beneficial effects of learning in a relaxed outdoor setting but within a structure where they feel their achievements can be recognised by others (youth workers and school etc.) but also, more importantly, by themselves. This leads to increased confidence and self-esteem and has a positive effect on mental health and wellbeing. This approach has been hugely beneficial and is a much sought-after provision by our Flintshire High Schools
- **What Just Happened Project** – Flintshire’s Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) team launched a unique video highlighting insights into and reactions to the Covid-19 pandemic by young people and how it affected their lives. The video shows young actors voicing the thoughts and feelings of local young people and the scripted video shows a true reflection of how they coped during the last two years and how they have adapted to change
- **Can a Lles Project** - Flintshire’s Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) teamed up with a group of young people from Ysgol Maes Garmon recently for a new and exciting pilot project called ‘Cân a Lles’ (“Song and Wellbeing”). The project was led by singer songwriter Tom Collins who originally had a hook of a song as a starting point for the young people to work with. But these talented young people had other ideas and decided they wanted to write, compose and record their own song with Tom’s support. Following eight sessions they recorded their song called ‘Dal i Ddod’ (Still to Come)
- **Celf a Lles Project** – A project has been running within our Youth Clubs called ‘Celf a Lles’ this project is for young people in our youth clubs to create pieces of art that we could submit into the Urdd Arts and Crafts Competitions. Four youth clubs actively took part to create their pieces of art. From this project we had 31 young people that became members of the Urdd and we submitted 12 pieces of artwork in to the Eisteddfod. All work were awarded at County level, but one young person’s work made it to the National Eisteddfod where they came second throughout Wales. We visited the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh with the young person to receive her reward. The Chair of the Council Cllr Mared Eastwood also joined us to support our young person from Greenfield Youth Club as did the clubs worker in charge.
- **Cymraeg Bob Clwb** – We have introduced ‘Cymraeg Bob Clwb’ to our youth clubs to introduce more Welsh in our open access delivery. The aim of the project is to create a bilingual environment where young people will see and hear the Welsh language in any form outside of an education setting. Resources have been created to support the Youth Clubs to promote the Welsh language, heritage and culture. The youth clubs have been supportive of this campaign, and many have started to create Welsh areas / rooms within their clubs
- **Cymraeg Bob Cynllun** – Welsh language has been introduced into play through the Play Development team. The team use basic phrases in all of their sessions with the children, resources have been created that encourage the use of the language but without infringing on the right of the child to play. The team have mentioned that children regularly ask to do their warmups in Welsh as we have introduced a fun and active warm up with the ‘lâr Ffynci’ (Funky Chicken). Evidence is showing an increase in the use of the Welsh language in Play. We will also introduce more Welsh in to the 2022 Summer Playschemes
- Use of IT in schools following major investment programme by Welsh Government:
  - We currently have 19,000 desktop devices in use across our schools
  - All schools have up to date smartboard teaching devices for every regular class base
  - As a result, 70% of those surveyed use Edtech for learning for more than 30% of teaching and learning time
  - 90% use it naturally to develop literacy, numeracy, science and technology skills

- 90% of those surveyed say it has increased pupils' collaboration and independent skills
- **Welsh Language** - The informal use of Welsh in all schools is very much a strategic priority. All 5 Welsh medium primary schools in Flintshire have achieved their Gold award. All English medium primary schools in Flintshire have embarked on their journey with Cymraeg Campus, with 4 schools achieving the Silver Award, one of whom has now gone on to achieve the Gold Award. They are the first school in North Wales to achieve this
- **Reducing the impact on inequality** - The Healthy Schools Team have overseen SHEP Food and Fun in Flintshire since it began in 2018 initially with 2 schools. In 2021, over 160 children and young people aged 5-12 years benefited from SHEP in 6 schools, with over 2000 meals served during the 12-day programme
- **Support Period Dignity** - As part of the Period Dignity Grant the Portfolio launched a home subscription service for products to be delivered to home addresses of children and young people directly with a suitable provider. Training has been provided for schools and this has been linked to the work for RSE. A survey of users of this service was very positive with 96% agreeing the products were delivered in discreet packaging; 92% of responders saying they would recommend the providers' sanitary products to others and 91% of responders would consider using the provider again
- **Outdoor Learning to support learning and well-being** - As a result of a target to increase outdoor learning for pupils at key stage 2, 127 places have been taken up on a range of training by 154 teaching or teaching assistant practitioners over the past academic year. This has resulted in a 15% average increase in time spent learning outdoors and it has developed confidence in this area
- All schools in Flintshire have received training and support with regards to the implementation of the new legislation for children and young people with additional learning needs. Children are being moved to the new system in line with the Welsh Government timescales
- Officers and schools worked hard with children with a range of individual needs and their families to support continued engagement and intervention. This resulted in no appeals being lodged with Special Education Tribunal for Wales (SENTW)
- The levels of Year 11 pupils becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) after completing compulsory education remain very low at 1.2% of the overall year group despite the impact of the Covid pandemic
- There has been a comprehensive offer of support to refugee families moving into Flintshire. This has included support to access and engage with education along with wrap around services to support the whole family to integrate successfully with the wider community

### Improvement Areas

- Improving the monitoring, evaluation and learning from our investment and delivery within integrated youth provision to further evidence the immediate, medium and long-term impacts

## Portfolio: Housing and Assets

### Strong Performance

- 1224 applications for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) - advice and support provided as part (DHP) application process
- £395,349 (DHP allocation and additional Government funding) spent supporting households due to impact of pandemic and cost of living rising costs
- 3,000+ Self Isolation Support Payment applications granted
- 140+ households provided with specialist advice and support, including Discretionary Assistance Fund, Warm Wales, Welsh Water, Supporting People, Free School Meals and Uniforms
- 2000+ meals were delivered to families over half term and the Christmas holidays
- New Discretionary Grant Policy (2021), meaning adaptations of less than £10,000 could be approved without the requirement of means. This equated to 40% of medium sized adaptations being processed as discretionary
- 8,672 applications processed for Winter Fuel Payment Support Scheme, awarding 6,682 eligible customers with £200 towards their fuel bills
- The rate of completion of small/priority adaptations doubled and 11 large adaptations were completed following hold on work due to Covid
- Delivered additional schemes and initiatives for Welsh Government, whilst continuing to meet standard performance targets around Housing Benefits and Council Tax Reduction. (New Claims 19.25 days against target of 20 days; Change of Circumstances 4.5 days against target of 8 days)
- 98% of reported Anti-social behaviour (ASB) cases were closed as resolved with 100% customer satisfaction rate in the handling of ASB case
- Exceeded targets for providing local job opportunities on Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) refurbishment work programmes through our procured suppliers and contractors
- 2,000+ energy efficiency measures delivered to reduce fuel poverty and our ambitions towards decreasing our Co2 emissions

### Strong Stories

- Apprentice gained full time employment position within Welfare Reform Team
- Members of the department gained qualifications in Advice and Support NVQ Levels 3 and 4
- Joint working with Revenues to deliver financial support via the Cost of Living Scheme. 10,070 customers received £150 towards the costs of their bills, in addition to the 32,000 customers automatically paid £150. Flintshire paid over 90% of the main Cost of Living scheme payments (one of two LA's achieving such high results against a Welsh average of 60%)
- Successful administration of a range of new grants and schemes in addition to business as usual work within the Benefits and Grants team
- Events for local residents held in the HRA community centres tackling loneliness and isolation
- The Community Support Hub in Shotton was opened providing support on poverty, digital inclusion and handing out lateral flow tests
- Hospital to home food safety box service for residents returning home from hospital to help them to continue to eat well
- Collaborative work with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to deliver fire safety advice and support vulnerable tenants by installing stove guards
- Supporting resettlement schemes for Afghan and Syrian nationals and families fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. The only Authority in North Wales investing in caseworkers providing holistic packages of support, alongside statutory and third sector partners - recognised as good practice by Welsh Government. An Afghan individual supported is now employed by the Council as a caseworker to support our families

- The Council was successful in achieving the WHQS (Welsh Housing Quality Standards) in December 2021 as per the Welsh Government deadline

### Improvement Areas

- Development of customer involvement strategy to increase satisfaction levels around involvement and participation in response to recent residents' survey
- Review end to end voids management process and explore best practice to improve voids performance
- Complete planned restructures and establish robust workforce planning to respond to increasing demands and pressures across the service

## Portfolio: Governance

### Strong Performance

- The Digital Flintshire Hub has attracted over 7,000 views since it launched in August 2021. The Hub provides resources to keep people safe online, training, health and wellbeing resources, digital events and activities. The Hub also provides information about the Council's ambitious plans contained in the Digital Strategy
- Over 92,000 digital self-service enquires were received during 2021-22, an increase on the previous year
- Recommended civil marriage and civil partnership ceremonies that were suspended over the last two years without disruption to existing bookings for 2021-22
- Successfully moved from traditional paper Registers to online registrations for marriage
- Continued to support the Councils hybrid workplace approach ensuring secure remote access for over 2,000 officers
- Council tax 'in-year' collections resulted in an outturn of 97.73%, which is 0.7% above the previous year. In monetary terms, this equates to an additional £700k being collected in year. The collection levels for 2021-22 are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Wales
- NDR 'in-year' collections saw an outturn of 99.24%, which is 1.5% above the previous year. The collection levels for 2021-22 are officially recorded as being the highest in Wales and well above the national average of 95.9%
- The Council Tax and NDR service migrated 375 customer accounts across to the new Customer Portal
- 38,785 telephone calls were received by the Revenues service and 96% of these were answered promptly

### Strong Stories

- Continued rollout of HWB infrastructure project in schools in line with Welsh Government funding award which has seen significant investment in core infrastructure, schools-based networks and classroom-based devices
- The number of subscribers to "My Account" continues to increase with 23,952 subscriptions so far
- The Digital Flintshire Hub launched in August 2021 on Flintshire's website. The Digital Hub promotes a range of tools to support people to develop their digital skills - help getting online, staying safe online, free digital training, help and advice
- Introduced Welsh Government's Child Burial Fund for parents suffering the loss of a child – administered by the Registrars offering a £500 payment
- New Concerns and Complaints Policy launched
- #BeKindOnline campaign and Social Media House Rules launched to set behaviour standards for everyone using social media as communication channel



- Refreshed website content for Elections – the Elections Hub launched at the end of 2021-22 in preparation for the county council elections in May 2022
- The Revenues service undertook a pioneering review using an external contractor to review entitlement to Council Tax exemptions for 284 properties where probate was pending on the estate of the last resident. The review led to new council tax charges of £27k
- Businesses continued to be supported throughout the covid recovery period and the Revenues service continued to award the final round of Business Support Grants during 2021-22 which resulted in grants of £2.18m being awarded to 904 businesses. The grants awarded in 21-22, when combined with grants in the previous year, has seen the Council awarding in excess of £56.6m in Business Support Grants

### **Improvement Areas**

- Although Council Housing Rent arrears have stabilised, collection of rent remains challenging as the cost-of-living crisis continues to affect vulnerable tenants who are often less able to meet the rising energy and other living costs. 2021/22 Rent Arrears were £1.90m, which equates to £47k higher than the previous year. The service continues to provide early interventions and advice to support tenants who fall behind with their payment

## Portfolio: Planning, Environment and Economy

### Strong Performance

- The number of households supported to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and thereby contributing to the reduction in fuel poverty exceeded the target set for the year with 1293 measures being delivered against a target of 1,200
- The number of support and referrals of vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing exceeded target with 204 households supported against a target of 200
- Approval of £424K 'house to home' loans to enable Empty Homes to be brought back into use
- 49 sites received biodiversity improvements
- The Access and Natural Environment team secured Woodland Investment Grant funding to plant over 12 Hectares with 4,000 trees to increase the resilience of Wepre Park and contribute towards the Council's Carbon reduction programme. This scheme also provided multiple benefits by improving public access and recreation and visitor experience with improved trails, information and signage, contributing to improved health and wellbeing of the local community. The trees were planted with local volunteers and school children
- This tree planting programme has been completed with projects externally funded through Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature grant and challenge fund. Semi-mature standards have been planted across the urban communities of Flintshire in line with policy target to increase canopy cover

### Strong Stories

- The Climate Change Strategy was developed and adopted by the Council, setting an ambitious pathway to net zero carbon Council by 2030
- The Communities for Work team, with Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales, held a Job Fair at Broughton Park in October 2021. Over 600 people attended the event which was supported by 15 businesses showcasing 200 vacancies in the retail and hospitality sector. The event was very successful with positive feedback from everyone who took part
- Communities for Work in partnership with Department for Work and Pensions and Careers Wales supported the Mitie redundancies in a two-day event (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March). Mitie were managing 178 Covid testing sites across Wales which were set to close on the 31 March 2021, resulting in over 150 redundancies at their Deeside sites. Through this multi-agency approach, individuals being made redundant were able to access the support from all providers as well as employers who were there on the day with vacancy opportunities
- The Business Development team delivered a succession of Welsh Government funded Covid emergency grants to businesses throughout the year. 2,827 applications were processed and over £4m of funding was awarded to small businesses. Despite the workload created by the urgency of the programmes, the team took the time to help applicants, who were often unfamiliar with public sector processes, through the application process to ensure they got the money they needed
- The Council's Health and Safety Enforcement Team undertook a successful Crown Court prosecution against a care home who were found guilty of serious breaches to Health and Safety legislation in September 2021. The failings included unsafe systems of work and lack of risk assessments. This led to a member of staff who worked there to sustain life changing injuries. The company who owned the home were fined £90k, plus legal costs
- Trading Standards prosecuted a second-hand car dealer for two counts of theft. In one case the trader sold a car to a consumer, but the car was never delivered, and the money was never refunded, in the second case a car was sold, it was faulty and when the consumer returned the car the trader never fixed the problem and again did not refund the money. He was sentenced to 40 months in prison, suspended for 12 months plus 200 hours community work and ordered to pay £4800 compensation to the two complainants

- Specialist infection, prevention and control advice was provided to workplaces, care homes and educational settings in relation to COVID 19
- Successful recruitment to vacancies for Environmental Health Officers in a very competitive market attracting experienced candidates to allow the team to concentrate on more “business as usual” activities following the two years spent supporting the Council’s response to Covid
- Significant progress was made in relation to moving at a faster pace than the minimum requirements set out in the Food Standards Agency COVID-19 Local Authority Recovery Plan: guidance and advice to local authorities for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 2023/24
- Focussed auditing of shellfish registration document completion was undertaken which increased the compliance levels and improved traceability through the food chain
- The Empty Homes team successfully progressed two problem empty homes through the enforced sales procedure resulting in both properties now being back in use
- Agreement to the concept of a Nutrient Management Board to control phosphate levels in our rivers
- Procurement and implementation of a new back-office system for the handing of planning applications. The system will subsequently be rolled out across the Portfolio
- Submission of a Levelling Up funding bid for improvements to the Wrexham/Bidston line and new station at Deeside

### **Improvement Areas**

- Supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient
- Supporting individuals to enter employment, learning or volunteering opportunities
- Mapping of Houses in Multiple Occupation

## Portfolio: Social Services

### Strong Performance

- 12,910 of contacts for children received during the year (12% ↑)
- 1,242 new assessments completed for children during the year
- 702 children were supported with a care and support plan on 31<sup>st</sup> March
- 100% of children who went missing were offered a return interview
- 8 new foster carers were recruited
- 7,318 of contacts for adults received during the year (6% ↑)
- 3,242 new assessments completed for adults during the year (24% ↑)
- 2,020 adults were supported with a care and support plan on 31<sup>st</sup> March
- 374 packages of reablement in the community were completed during the year, with 67% reducing or removing the need for formal support
- 39% of home-based support was delivered via a direct payment
- 100% of urgent requests for equipment met or exceeded the national one-day response standards, this exceeded the target for the year
- 100% of requests for equipment met or exceeded the national seven-day standard, this also exceeded the target for the year
- 92% of community equipment was cleaned and reused
- 877 adult carers had their needs assessed during the year
- 600 people were supported through the Dementia Strategy

### Strong Stories

- Completion of our expansion of Marleyfield House providing additional capacity at the site and state of the art facilities
- The Council's Lleisiau Clwyd Voices of the Future project, established with our partners Theatre Clwyd, was successful in being shortlisted as finalists for a prestigious Accolade award organized by Social Care Wales
- The Micro-care programme has been very successful, with 27 Micro-carers delivering services in the County
- Completion of the refurbishment work at Arosfa, increasing the provision and capacity to accommodate long term residents, and provide a quality local service as an alternative to out of county placements
- Further developed our actions to support people living with dementia
- We continued to grow and successfully progress our existing Mockingbird Foster Carer Support Model
- Developed our 'Small Homes Scheme' for children, which is currently supporting one child, and have commenced building works to develop two residential assessment centres for children
- Our wellness and recovery programme has adapted and expanded to support individuals with their mental health and well-being
- Our partnership with Hft continues to thrive in delivering services for people with learning disabilities
- We received a Highly Commended Award at the GeoPlace Conference 2021 for our innovative approaches, which include an interactive map of Dementia Friendly communities and services

### Improvement Areas

- Establish a robust workforce planning model to anticipate future social care demands and develop the social work and direct care workforce ahead of the need

## Portfolio: Streetscene and Transportation

### Strong Performance

- The Council's waste strategy has been continually reviewed to respond to the changing lifestyle patterns of Flintshire residents due to the pandemic.
- The continued provision of home to school transport continued throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic. Additional services were also provided during periods of lockdown which included transporting the children of critical workers and the delivery of free school meals
- The Council's Bereavement Services responded effectively to the effects of the pandemic, whilst also undertaking the highest ever recorded number of public health burials
- The Council was one of eight local authorities across Wales (only authority in North Wales) to receive funding for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit pilot scheme ahead of the national rollout
- The Council is one of the only authorities in the UK to have successfully implemented a Singular Speed Limit Order ensuring the legitimacy of the Flintshire's speed limits
- Successful in acquiring £3.5m of Welsh Government capital grant funding for the progression of the following projects:
  - Implementation of Average Speed Cameras on the A5104 Rhydtalog to Treuddyn
  - Undertaking of a detailed study and implementation of accident remedial measures on the A5119 – Northop to Flint
  - Active Travel and school safety improvement works on the A550 Hawarden Road and Fagl Lane, Hope – delivery within 2022
  - Development of Active Travel and school safety scheme proposals at 6 primary schools in Flint
  - Development and delivery of Mold to Chester Strategic Cycle Route improvements, contributing to the Council's Strategic cycle network
  - Development of Active Travel improvements on Lower Aston Hall Lane
  - Active Travel in rural communities - active travel improvements in Caerwys
  - Delivery of Active Travel Core Funding programme incorporating a wide range of infrastructure improvements across the county
  - Development of Garden City Bus Shuttle Interchange
  - Implementation of engineering measures to reduce motor vehicle strikes on Padeswood Road Train bridge
  - Development of bus links to newly constructed Park and Ride facility on Deeside Industrial Park
- The Council has maintained Gold Award for the accuracy of the Streets Gazetteer
- Supported the growth of the North Wales Metro with the primary developments for the region

### Strong Stories

- The Buckley repair and re-use centre opened to the public offering a number of upcycling and repair sessions centred around a welcoming café environment
- A weekly absorbent hygiene product (AHP) and nappy collection service was introduced to supplement the weekly recycling collections
- Side waste enforcement was reintroduced to minimise the amount of black sack (general residual) waste put out for collection.
- Actively supporting the Keep Wales Tidy "Caru Cymru" initiative and creation of a new environmental improvement coordinator to deliver community projects
- Community litter picking champions were supported with the issuing of equipment for them to utilise and the collection of all waste collected
- Completion of the £950k infrastructure development at Greenfield Household Recycling Centre, Composting Facility and Transfer Station
- The successful implementation the RFID system for garden waste subscriptions

- The development of a purpose-built training facility for the delivery of in-house training to the Streetscene workforce
- Approval granted to introduce a cashless payment solution for car parking charges
- The Holywell and Area Fflecsi bus service was introduced in July 2021 providing vital transport links for rural communities without accessible commercial services
- Completion of the Active Travel Network Map consultation
- The adoption of a new Cemetery Management System which has enabled the digitisation of the Council's cemeteries and records
- We supported the roll-out of more than 100 wildflower sites across the county
- We continued to deliver a winter maintenance service without disruption throughout the pandemic
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure was installed at our operational depot
- Supported in the success of national recognised awards in areas of public open spaces

### **Improvement Areas**

- Downturn in the Council's recycling performance due to an increase in the amount of black sack residual waste being presented by residents following the pandemic – work will continue to review the waste strategy for 2023-2024
- A statutory review of the provision of local toilets will be undertaken in 2022

## Portfolio: Chief Executives

### Strong Performance

- 78,612 Payroll payments processed during 2021/22 with 99.47% accuracy
- Approximately £3,229,432 of social value was generated through the Council's procurement activities, surpassing the target of £2,854,266 outlined in the Council plan for 2021/22. This included the delivery of a diverse range of social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes for local communities
- 62% of the Council's contracts procured in 2021/22 included contractual social value requirements

### Strong Stories

- Introduction of a bilingual service provision for DBS checks
- Continued to support the organisation through the pandemic with limited impact on the services provided
- Occupational Health continued to provide specialist support to a number of front-line services during the early part of the pandemic who needed additional support to cope with their demands
- Occupational Health continued to support the vaccination programme at Deeside Rainbow Hospital, four clinical staff attended one day per week
- The Council continued to increase social value from the Council's commissioning and procurement activities with good achievements made against then targets set
- The Council continues to be Nationally recognised for its work in social value, this is outlined in the following highlights for 2021/22:
  - Key panel speaker at the UK National Social Value Conference 2022
  - Key panel speaker at the National Social Value Conference in Wales 2021
  - Engaged as a key stakeholder in the independent review of social value policy and legislation commissioned by Welsh Government, which will support the upcoming Procurement Reform and Social Partnerships & Procurement Bills
  - Key Speaker at the Infuse Procurement Lab event held in March/April 2022
  - The Council were featured and positively regarded within the Commissioners Procuring Well-being in Wales Report published in 2021 by the Future Generations office

### Improvement Areas







- Requests for Payroll interim payments increased from 0.40% to 0.53%

## Council Plan Progress – Infographic of RAGs

### Assessment of our Performance

The table below provides an overview of progress against Council Plan Key Performance Indicators. For more detailed information please refer to the End of Year Monitoring Report.

The key below defines the Red / Amber / Green (RAG) for measures contained in the End of Year Monitoring Report.

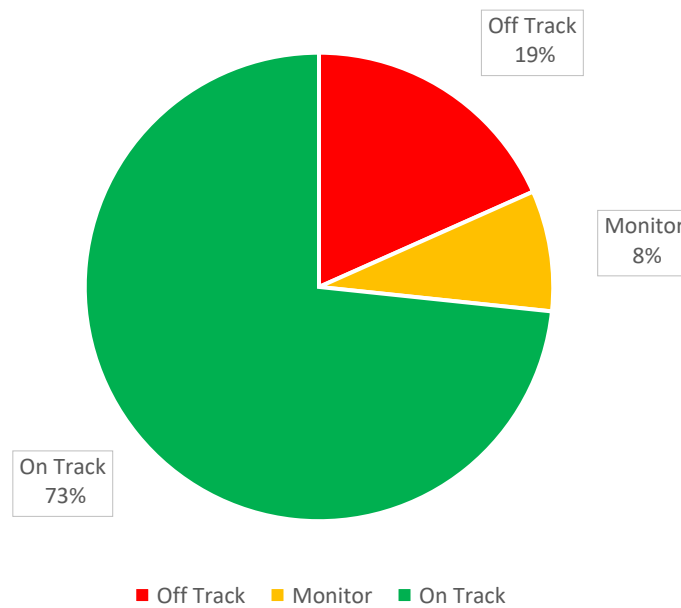
<u>Performance Status Key</u>		<u>Trend Status Key</u>	
	<b>Limited Progress</b> - delay in scheduled activity; not on track		<b>Downturned</b> – In comparison to the previous year’s data, the performance outturn has reduced
	<b>Satisfactory Progress</b> - some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track		<b>Maintained</b> – In comparison to the previous year’s data, performance is the same as last year
	<b>Good Progress</b> - activities completed on schedule, on track		<b>Improved</b> - In comparison to the previous year’s data, performance has increased



## Council Plan Performance Summary 2021/22

Performance for 2021/22 against our Council Plan Measures is summarised in the chart below.

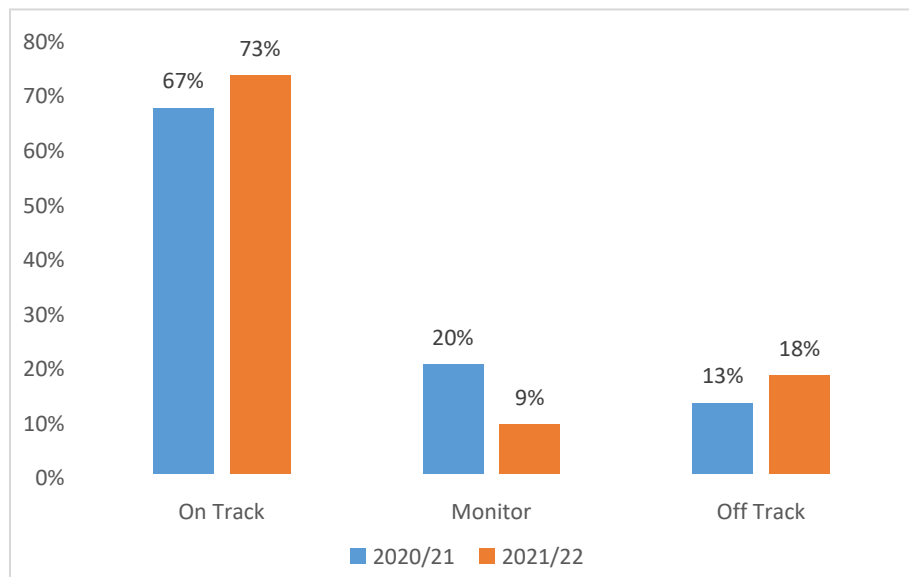
**Chart 1a: Council Plan Performance Measures 2021/22**



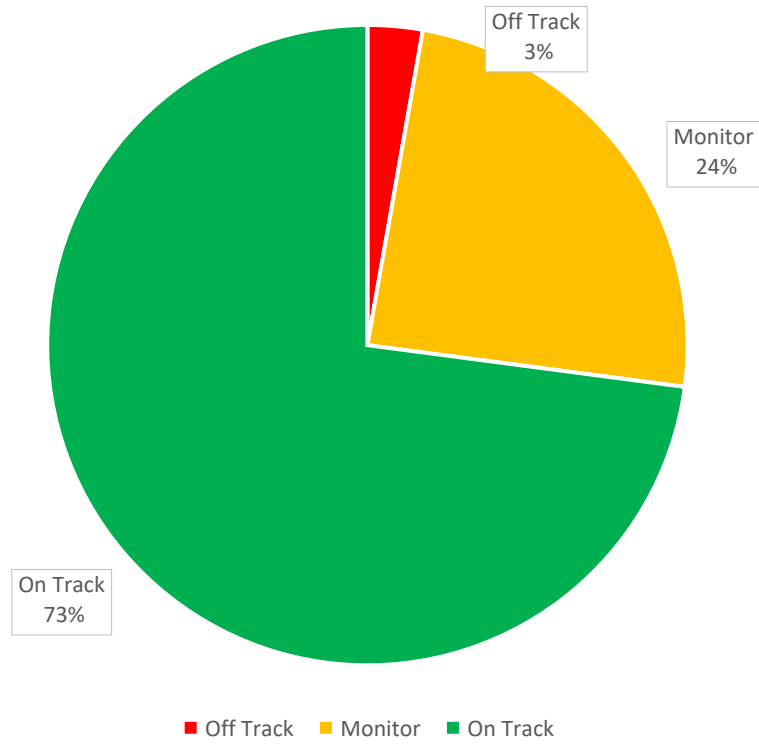
In summary:

- 73% of indicators achieved target or better compared to 67% in 2020/21
- 18% of indicators missed target compared to 13% during 2020/21
- 9% of indicators are being monitored compared to 20% in 2020/21

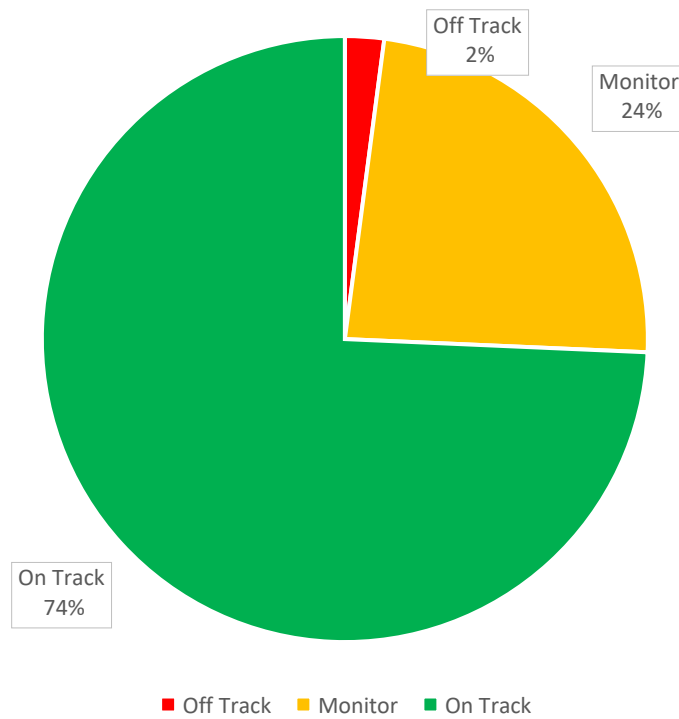
**Chart 1b: Comparison of Performance RAG Status for Council Plan Measures - 2020/21 and 2021/22**



**Chart 2: Council Plan Action RAG Status 2021/22**



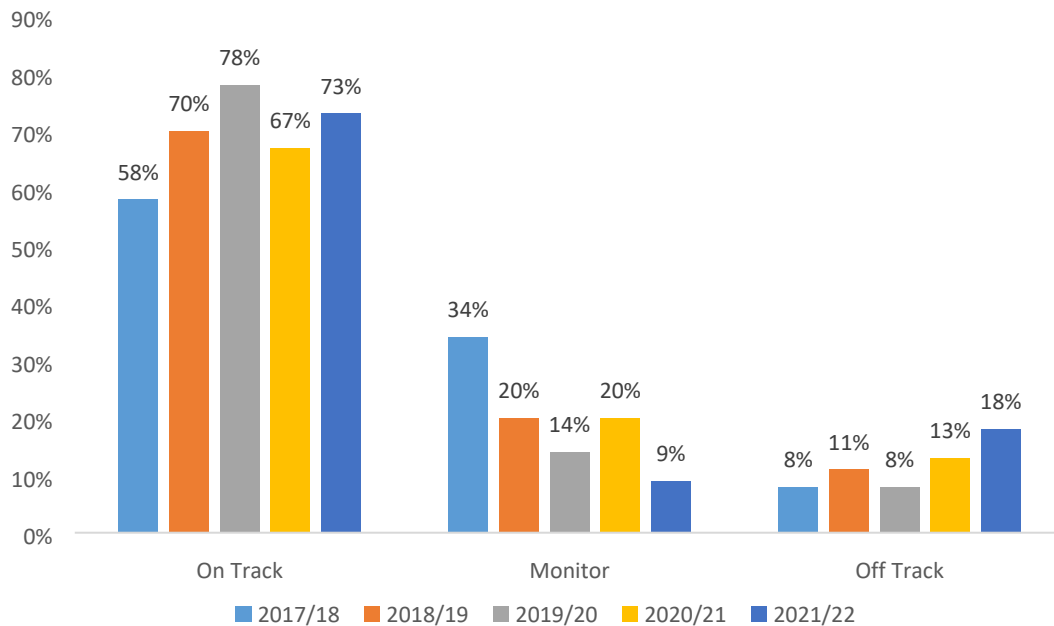
**Chart 3: Council Plan Outcome RAG Status 2021/22**



## Council Plan Performance Data Summary

The table below demonstrates a comparison of performance data from 2017/18 through to 2021/22.

**Chart 4: Percentage of Council Plan Measures Against Target - 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22**



## Risk Management and Business Planning

In response to the pandemic, we invoked Flintshire Business Continuity Plans. These plans were designed to enable services to continue to function in the short-term. With response to the pandemic going on longer than short-term and changing to medium-term/longer-term, a new approach to business planning and recovery was developed. We developed business recovery plans based on an effective risk management approach which underpinned these plans. This approach embedded risk management into everyday activity and regular reporting of risk. Corporate Risk updates on recovery were shared at Recovery Committee between June 2021 and March 2022 as the response and recovery phases continued.

## Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Five Ways of Working

The following case studies are just a few examples of positive performance during 2021/22 and demonstrate how the Council considered the five ways of working.

### Case Study: Holywell and Area Fflecsi Bus Service



In July 2021, Flintshire County Council, working in partnership with Transport for Wales (TfW) introduced a new pre-bookable “Fflecsi” transport service in Holywell and the surrounding areas. Fflecsi is a different way to travel by bus and an exciting new service from Transport for Wales (TfW), which is being delivered in numerous locations across Wales in partnership with local authorities and local bus operators.

The aim of the new Fflecsi Service in Holywell and surrounding area is to develop the existing transport infrastructure and widen access to employment. By providing valuable transport links for residents in more rural areas the service enables travel to work, retail outlets, meeting with friends, appointments and connecting with other bus services for onward travel across North Wales and England.

Centred on linking communities to each other the Fflecsi service:

- Critical aim of eliminating transport poverty
- Providing isolated residents access to community events and facilities
- Encouraging residents to access bus travel instead of car use
- Providing younger residents with transport to after school and club activities.
- Embedding the benefits of Bus travel within communities

### **Long Term:**

The Fflecsi service will encourage behavioural changes towards bus travel as an alternative to car travel amongst residents.

The Fflecsi service will promote active travel and in turn, contribute to the Council's Climate Change agenda.

The flexibility of the service and ability to book journeys via a telephone app will encourage a new generation of bus service users, helping secure the long-term future of public transport services.

The success of the Fflecsi service in Holywell has encouraged the introduction of a similar service in Buckley, due to be launched in August 2022.

### **Prevention:**

The overarching aim of the Fflecsi service is to provide residents who were left without commercial transport services with the ability to connect to communities and services within their area. This will reduce the social isolation experienced by many and encourage a return to public transport services that have seen a steady decline in passenger numbers in recent years

### **Integration:**

The Fflecsi service is available to all residents of all ages within the service area and allows travel across that service area, encouraging community activities, social events and attendance of after school clubs. Furthermore, residents who were previously unable to attend community and social events due to lack of transport are now able to join in, promoting well-being and connectivity with other residents.

### **Collaboration:**

The Fflecsi service has been introduced in partnership with T.f.W and is operated by a local bus operator, providing local employment opportunities. (It has also been welcomed and supported by Town and Community Councillors.)

### **Involvement:**

The Fflecsi service has opened the doors to new opportunities in local communities such as walking groups and coffee mornings and continues to grow in passenger numbers as the service is promoted with residents as a vital transport link within their community.

Further information on the Holywell and Wales Fflecsi Services are available on the links below:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Roads-and-Travel/Bus-Timetables/Fflecsi-Leaflet.pdf>

<https://fflecsi.wales>

# Case Study: Early Years and family Services Capital Works Scheme

## Ysgol Derwyn



## Westwood





## Brynford CP



## Community Project Work at the Holway Centre



The aim of the Early Years Capital Works has identified opportunities to improve childcare settings within Flintshire. The childcare settings will be able to deliver the childcare offer, the offer provides 30 hours of Welsh Government-funded early education and childcare to working parents of 3 and 4 year olds for 48 weeks of the year. By having improved facilities, there will be an opportunity for increased capacity.

This project originally commenced in 2019 but was delayed due to Covid. New childcare settings will be delivered across nine childcare schemes and a Flying Start (FS) scheme at Aston in Shotton. The project is underway and is due for completion by March 2023. The sites where the new childcare settings will be located are:

- Ysgol Derwen, Kinnerton
- Glan Aber CP, Bagillt
- Westwood, Buckley
- Ysgol Bro Carmel, Whitford
- Ysgol Sydchyn, Northop
- Ysgol Merllyn, Bagilt
- Ysgol Erscoob, Caerwys
- Brynford CP

- Aston Family Centre, Shotton – Part of the Flying Start (FS) development

As of March 2022, the following sites have been completed:

- Westwood, Buckley
- Ysgol Derwen, Kinnerton
- Aston Family Centre, Shotton
- Ysgol Merllyn, Bagilt
- Brynford CP

### **Collaboration:**

The project has been enabled via funding from Welsh Government (WG). In order to deliver the expectations of the funding, Early Years have worked with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Property and Design Consultancy to appoint Wynne Construction as the principle contractor. Wynne's have then worked with the Council to engage and collaborate with each school and childcare setting to ensure that work is planned effectively with minimal disturbance to the children at school.

With the challenges of restrictions and access to sites, the communication and collaboration with all key stakeholders in the process has been essential to the delivery of the project to date.

There have been several opportunities to work with local training providers and sub-contractors to provide opportunities to school leavers, college students and under-graduates. Without this collaboration, some of these opportunities for young people to gain experience may not have taken place.

### **Integration:**

The schools that the settings are located on manage the building and hire it out to providers. This has created the opportunity for robust business plans to ensure all settings are sustainable.

The increased capacity contributes to the overall data profile when the Council completes the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA). This uses a range of data to ensure that the service being delivered meets the needs of the people of Flintshire and allows for the development of further opportunities.

Wynne Construction have worked with the Council to develop community benefits. Some of these are:

- An Employment and Skills Plan for Ysgol Brynford and Ysgol Croes Atti
- An Employment and Skills Plan for 11 Early Years Centres

### **Involvement:**

Throughout the project, one of the key aspects has been involvement. This is not just across the departments involved in the project but the school headteachers, school governing bodies and the managers of the settings. By taking this approach the project has been able to flourish and develop as it has gone on.

The next steps in terms of involvement will be with those accessing the setting to offer further understanding, future opportunities and the impact the project has made.



### **Long Term:**

In the long term, the settings will provide more opportunities for learn and play, be more self-sustaining in their running costs, and demonstrate the ambition the Council has to ensure that suitable childcare provision is available to those in need.

Having a dedicated childcare site located on the school site, with fantastic space and facilities will help the children who access the setting to learn, develop and thrive. The support that this can offer families is also invaluable as it will enable families the opportunity to thrive and potentially offer the children more opportunities away from the childcare or school setting.

With work opportunities being provided, the project has very much contributed to the development of young workers and enabled them to gain vital experience at the start of their career journey.

### **Prevention:**

By developing these schemes, there is now spaces that enable services to deliver a better experience to children to help them thrive and learn. It also enables the settings to expand their capacity to support more children. These positive aspects then help to support parents and families by reducing the strain on family income and ensuring that childcare is not a barrier to them undertaking employment opportunities.

## Social Value - Case Study

Below, is one example of many case studies highlighting the benefits that have been achieved through the delivery of social value programmes through contracts during 2021/22:

### Castel Alun High School extension



The contract comprised of a new three-storey art and design technology block within an existing school in Flintshire. Social value was a weighted component of the tender, and whereby real and tangible commitments to social value were contractualised through the procurement process.

Some of the key outcomes that have been achieved through the contract include:

- 30% (£1,361,830) spend with local supply chain partners within 20 miles supporting economic growth
- 43% of local labour within 20 miles
- Two full time employment opportunities provided to individuals who are rehabilitating ex-offenders through the Inside Connections employment programme
- One local person retained full time
- 6 hours supporting people into work through employability initiatives (over 24 years old)
- 31 apprenticeship weeks
- 40 trainee weeks
- 105 staff hours volunteering in local communities
- 6 weeks work experience placements
- 6 hours delivering educational initiatives with local schools
- 5 hours providing expert advice to local Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME's) and Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprises (VCSE's)

## Equality

During the past 12 months we have re-established our Corporate Equality Board, to oversee performance and progress to meeting our Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) and complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) including the socio-economic duty. We signed up to become a non-awarded member of the City of Sanctuary local authority network and have remained committed to welcoming people in need of safety as evidenced by our support for Refugees and people fleeing Ukraine. We have continued to participate in awareness events and days such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History month, Hate Crime awareness week and Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Council has recognised the importance of diversity and has made a commitment to becoming a Diverse Council and agreed a Diversity in Democracy action plan to achieve this aim.

## Welsh Language

We are pleased to report that we have continued to support Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam to celebrate Dydd Gŵyl Dewi and promote and share our Welsh heritage. This year more retailers than in previous years participated in the annual Saint David's Day themed window dressing competition, raising the visibility of Welsh culture across our towns.

The appointment of a full-time Welsh Language Community Officer within the Integrated Youth Provision services has resulted in an increased use of Welsh with children and young people. For example, the summer Play schemes actively used Welsh with children from English medium schools. The kit bags for future play schemes will now include resources to support Play Leaders use Welsh on all play sites, providing children and young people the opportunity to use the language outside of school. Further training will be available for the team to develop their confidence in using a little 'Cymraeg' on all sites.

We received one complaint about non-compliance with the Welsh language standards, this related to signage. We are now putting in place actions to ensure this does happen again. We have continued to make progress complying with the Welsh language standards, however, there have been some challenges with recruitment following the pandemic, in particular, the recruitment of Welsh speakers to some public facing posts. This impacts on the Council's capacity to deliver bilingual services.

## Partnership and Collaboration Activity

Flintshire has a longstanding and proud track record of partnership working. The communities it serves rightly expect the statutory and third sector partners to work together to manage shared priorities through collaboration. The Flintshire Public Services Board is at the heart of promoting a positive culture of working together, setting shared priorities and combining resources for the benefit of Flintshire, with an overall aim of improving local well-being.

The Flintshire Public Services Board is a strong and unified forum, formally established on 1st April 2016 as a result of the "Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015" coming into effect. The Board is made up of senior leaders from a number of public and voluntary sector organisations, including: Flintshire County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board,

Natural Resources Wales, North Wales Fire and Rescue Services (as statutory members); along with North Wales Police, Public Health Wales, Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, Coleg Cambria, Glyndwr University, National Probation Services Wales, Welsh Government and a representative on behalf of Flintshire Town and Community Councils (as invited PSB participants). Together these organisations have worked positively in implementing the [Well-being Plan for Flintshire 2021-22](#) and have worked together to deliver the in-year priorities to improve services and outcomes for local people.

Over the past 12 months, the Flintshire Public Services Board has focused their efforts in two main priority areas, priorities that were continued from the previous year. These being:

- Community Safety – People are Safe
- Healthy and Independent Living

The other previous priorities for the Flintshire Public Services Board (Economy, Environment and Community Resilience) were developed as follows:

- **Economy** – this priority is being led at a regional level by the Regional Economic Ambition Board with relevant projects and activities being delivered locally
- **Environment** – this priority is a blend of both joint work with Wrexham and locally delivered commitments
- **Community Resilience** – this priority is being led jointly with Wrexham Public Services Board as a result of a decision made by the regional Strategic Recovery Group (made up of key public service leaders)

The emergency situation/pandemic changed our home, work and social lifestyles and all public and third sector organisations have supported individuals and communities in ways which we could not have foreseen. We continue to support recovery from the pandemic by working in partnership.

Whilst retaining their separate Public Services Boards, in June 2020 the Flintshire Public Services Board and Wrexham Public Services Board formed a Joint Public Services Board, realising the value in sharing knowledge and resources to tackle common challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic. This arrangement, with focus on community resilience, continued in 2021-22.

Over the past 12 months, The Flintshire Public Services Board have developed, consulted upon and published “An Assessment of Well-being in Flintshire 2022” which will help inform the priorities and development of the next Well-being Plan for the period 2023-28.

## Regulation, Audit and Inspection

The Council is regulated by organisations throughout the year. These include, amongst others, Audit Wales (AW), Estyn for Education and the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

Audit Wales published a Summary Report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales called the Annual Audit Summary Report. This report summarises the outcomes of all work that AW have undertaken during the year. Overall, the Auditor General for Wales has reached a positive conclusion. “The Auditor General certified that the Council had met its remaining Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 duties for the financial year 2020-21, as saved by an order made under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.”

## Corporate Health and Safety

The Council is committed to its duties and responsibilities as an employer for health and safety. The management of workplaces that are safe to the health of all Council employees, sub-contractors, stakeholders and members of the public sits alongside our strategic priorities as our most important obligation. We take appropriate steps to seek to protect the health, safety and well-being of all our service users, visitors and employees in everything we do.

## Additional Background Information (Available upon request)

There are a number of related documents which support this Annual Performance Report. These documents are available upon request:

- Council Plan 2021/22 – Part 2
- Council Plan Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2021/22
- Flintshire Social Services Annual Performance Report 2021/22
- Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2021/22
- Annual Strategic Equality Plan Report

## Feedback and How to Obtain Further Information

Thank you for reading our Annual Performance Report for 2021/22.

Your views and suggestions about how we might improve the content and layout of the Annual Performance Report for future years are welcome.

**Please contact us on:**

**Email:** [PRM@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:PRM@flintshire.gov.uk)

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) Update Report
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive Chief Officer (Governance)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gave Ministers the power to create a new type of regional body called a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). Ministers have mandated the creation of four CJCs across Wales. They will each have the same four functions: economic well-being; preparing a Strategic Development Plan, transport and improving education. The precise governance arrangements for each CJC are to be settled by the body itself.

Progress has continued to be made in line with transitional plans and expectations and this report and more particularly the report at appendix B provides a detailed update on work to second the lead officer from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board into the CJC for a time limited period to support and drive forward work of the CJC

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Cabinet note the report and support the ongoing work to develop the regional CJC.
2	That Cabinet supports the proposed secondment of the EAB Portfolio Director from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board into the CJC up to March 2023.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE PROGRESS MADE ON CJC</b>
1.01	The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gave Ministers the power to create a new type of regional body called a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). Ministers have mandated the creation of four CJCs across Wales. They will each have the same four functions: economic well-being; preparing a Strategic Development Plan, transport and improving education. The precise governance arrangements for each CJC are to be settled by the body itself.
1.02	Cabinet received an update report on the 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 (attached at appendix 1) on the North Wales CJC which dealt in the main with transitional arrangements that needed to be progressed in order to set up the new CJC.
1.03	Since then progress has continued to be made in line with transitional plans and expectations and this report and more particularly the report at appendix 2 provides a detailed update on work to transfer the lead officer from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board into the CJC for a time limited period.
1.04	In addition, a letter at Appendix 3 from the Minister for Finance at Welsh Government provides an overview of a number of technical issues relating to vat, access to Prudential Borrowing and Corporation Tax noting that progress is being made in resolving these matters at Ministerial level.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The regional local authorities to the CJC each contribute an amount (a levy) to the CJC to cover the costs of managing and running the CJC. The contribution for financial year 2022/23 is £81,150.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>				
3.01	The inability to second into the post will lead to delays in the implementation and transition work streams of the CJC. Work to mitigate this has been undertaken through decision and subsequent agreement of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) to support the secondment from the NWEAB into the CJC.				
3.02	<p><b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long term</td> <td>No impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>No impact</td> </tr> </table>	Long term	No impact	Prevention	No impact
Long term	No impact				
Prevention	No impact				



Integration	Regional strategic planning will have a positive effect on integration
Collaboration	Greater regional working will have a positive effect on collaboration
Involvement	Regional working could be more remote and thus have a negative effect on involvement
<b>Well-being Goals and impact</b>	
Prosperous Wales	Regional strategic plans should positively benefit prosperity
Resilient Wales	Regional strategic plans should positively benefit resilience
Healthier Wales	No impact
More equal Wales	Improved regional transport should positively impact socio economic equality
Cohesive Wales	No impact
Vibrant Wales	No impact
Globally responsible Wales	No impact

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	The North Wales Economic Ambition Board was consulted on the content of the reports at appendix 1 and 3.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – Previous report to Cabinet, December 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Report to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board relating to the secondments of the NWEAB Portfolio Director to the CJC for a time limited period.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Letter from the Minister for Finance relating to outstanding matters regarding CJs.</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	All as included within this report.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Neal Cockerton, Chief Executive</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702101</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk">chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	CJC - Regulations were made by the Welsh Government on 17 March 2021 creating four Corporate Joint Committees in Wales, and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) was established on 1 April 2021. The CJC must exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning, and are also be able to promote economic well-being.



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Report Subject</b>	Establishing the Corporate Joint Committee for North Wales
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council (Governance) and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive Chief Officer Governance Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gave Ministers the power to create a new type of regional body called a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). Ministers have mandated the creation of four CJCs across Wales. They will each have the same four functions: economic well-being; preparing a Strategic Development Plan, transport and improving education. The precise governance arrangements for each CJC are to be settled by the body itself.

The CJC for North Wales was created on 1 April 2021 and its functions come into force on 30 June 2022. It must set its outline budget for its first year of operation by the end of January 2022. It is therefore necessary for the CJC to outline its governance arrangements now. The economic well-being function encompasses the purpose for which the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) was created. The strategic planning and transport functions will influence the NWEAB's role as well and so it is important that the new body takes account of and dovetails with the existing regional governance structures. Proposals for the governance structure are contained within the attached report (Appendix A).

The report is being considered by all six Councils and so is in a common format to ensure consistent presentation of the issues to each Council.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>Agree in principle that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) that the statutory framework that the Welsh Government are developing allows for the delegation of the relevant executive functions to a Corporate Joint Committee;</li><li>b) that the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee agrees to the establishment of a Sub-Committee, with membership to be agreed with the Councils, to undertake the functions of the Economic Ambition Board.</li></ul>
2	<p>This transition is proposed in order to achieve a streamlined governance model, avoiding duplication. A further detailed report on the framework for implementation will be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet.</p>

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE</b>
1.01	<p>Cabinet will recall that the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gave Welsh Government power to establish a new type of regional body called Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). These bodies have four immediate statutory functions as set out below, though more can be added at the request of the constituent councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) economic well-being;</li><li>2) approving a regional development plan;</li><li>3) transport;</li><li>4) improving education.</li></ul>
1.02	<p>The North Wales CJC was created by statutory instrument and came into being on 1 April 2021. Its immediate functions take effect from 30 June 2022. It must set an indicative budget for its first year of operation by the end of January 2022 and so it needs to start outlining its governance structure.</p>
1.03	<p>The economic well-being function encompasses the purpose for which the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) was created. The strategic planning and transport functions will influence the NWEAB's role as well. It is important that the governance arrangements take account of and dovetail with that body without adding bureaucracy or cost. The attached report contains proposals for the governance structure of the CJC that will accommodate the NWEAB.</p>
1.04	<p>The report (Appendix A) is being considered by all six Councils and so is drafted in a common format for each in order to ensure consistent presentation of the issues.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	These are addressed within the attached report. Welsh Government has contributed to the costs of establishing the CJC and the costs of the NWEAB are already included within the Council's budget.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>																								
3.01	<p>The risks associated with the governance structure are very low level, because the CJC consists of Leaders of the six Councils in North Wales who can control its constitution and actions. The existence of a body with seemingly overlapping function to existing governance structures does create a risk of duplication and complexity which is addressed directly within the design of the structure. The risk is discussed within the report in detail</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive the CJC is designed to work on issues of long term strategic importance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Positive. The CJC has the scope to co-opt private and other public sector members with voting rights.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive the CJC promotes regional working</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>Positive the CJC is designed to enhance economic well being</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> <td>Positive poor health is often associated with deprivation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> <td>Positive a more vibrant economy can help to reduce socio economic disadvantage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cohesive Wales</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vibrant Wales</td> <td>Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Globally responsible Wales</td> <td>Positive the CJC is designed to address transport issues in a sustainable manner</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	Positive the CJC is designed to work on issues of long term strategic importance	Prevention	Neutral	Integration	Positive. The CJC has the scope to co-opt private and other public sector members with voting rights.	Collaboration	Positive the CJC promotes regional working	Involvement	Neutral	Prosperous Wales	Positive the CJC is designed to enhance economic well being	Resilient Wales	Neutral	Healthier Wales	Positive poor health is often associated with deprivation	More equal Wales	Positive a more vibrant economy can help to reduce socio economic disadvantage	Cohesive Wales	Neutral	Vibrant Wales	Neutral	Globally responsible Wales	Positive the CJC is designed to address transport issues in a sustainable manner
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	The NWEAB and Leaders have considered the issues presented within this report, which reflects their views. The report needs to be considered at Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A – Report “Establishing the North Wales Region’s Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	Integrated Impact Assessment.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702344 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk">gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	None.

**Meeting:** Local Authority Cabinet (or Executive equivalent)

**Date:** \*\* December 2021

**Title:** Establishing the North Wales Region's Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)

**Purpose:** Further to Welsh Government legislation establishing the North Wales region's CJC, the 6 local authorities must make appropriate arrangements before holding the CJC's first meeting, and agree the CJC's 2022/23 budget by 31 January 2022, before initial CJC functions 'go live' on 30 June 2022.

**Cabinet Member:** Council Leader

**Contact Officers:** The Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer

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#### Decision Sought –

**Agree in principle that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee** on condition;

- a) that the statutory framework that the Welsh Government are developing allows for the delegation of the relevant executive functions to a Corporate Joint Committee,
- b) that **the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee agrees to establishment of a Sub-Committee**, with membership to be agreed with the Councils, **to undertake the functions of the Economic Ambition Board.**

This transition is proposed in order to achieve a streamlined governance model, avoiding duplication. A further detailed report on the framework for implementation will be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet / Executive.

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#### Background

1. Regulations were made by the Welsh Government on 17 March 2021 creating four Corporate Joint Committees in Wales, and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) was established on 1 April 2021.
2. The four CJs will exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning. They will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, the CJC is a separate corporate body which can employ staff and hold assets.
3. Our region's the CJC is already in existence as an independent corporate body, and its initial functions will come into force on 30 June 2022 ('go live' date for the North Wales CJC). In the past, reservations were expressed because CJs might lead to "another layer of bureaucracy", but now we have no choice other than to make it work.

4. Further regulations will follow. The Welsh Government are consulting on draft statutory guidance. Pinsent Masons LLP, who are advising several Welsh regions, are liaising with Welsh Government in the development of this detail. This report's focus is on regional implementation and transition - the establishment of the North Wales CJC.
5. Welsh Government grant funding of £250,000 has been approved, to enhance project management capacity and commission professional assistance (including legal advice) to support implementation of, and transition to the region's CJC during 2021/22.
6. Establishing the CJC is a legal requirement, but the timetable remains challenging, including the 'immediate duties' prescribed in the legislation (viz. regional Strategic Development Plan, Regional Transport Plan, and the economic well-being function), the need to balance legacy issues with new statutory requirements, the scheduling of initial meetings, and budget-setting in January 2022.
7. This report is submitted simultaneously to Cabinet (or similar Executive Committee) meetings at the 6 Councils: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham.

## **Principles**

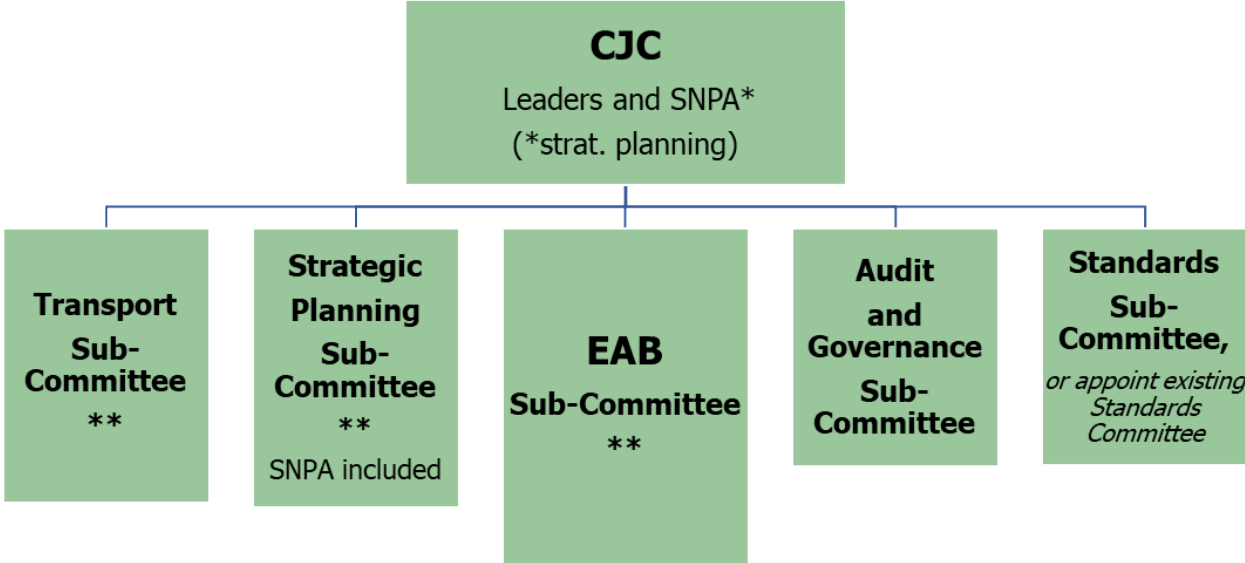
8. There is a consensus that the CJC should continue in the direction established by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (EAB), albeit possibly better supported in due course by the structures, powers and levers provided by the CJC legislation. Further, the 6 Council Leaders and Chief Executives are agreed that our CJC should be 'built' on the following aims and principles:
  - i. Clarity / simplicity
  - ii. Avoiding new bureaucracy and excessive cost
  - iii. Adding value to, not disrupting, existing regional governance
  - iv. Major Growth Deal decisions being protected by the 'reserved matters' rule
  - v. Subsidiarity (individual LAs make decisions on issues that affect them)
  - vi. Allowing new powers and opportunities to be devolved to the region
  - vii. Being 'future proof'
9. Faced with the challenging timescale, there is cross-border agreement that we should initially aim to establish a streamlined governance model, avoiding duplication while having due regard to subsidiarity. The first priority is to move the EAB to an empowered sub-committee of the CJC, noting that our local authority Leaders will be in control of this corporate body. Given approval to establish this governance model, we would ensure that we keep our options open with a high degree of flexibility to subsequently consider transition details (e.g. staff issues) on a 'case by case' basis.

## **Structure for the EAB in the CJC**

10. Pinsent Masons have considered operational structures available to the EAB going forward, in light of the establishment of the CJC, Welsh Government policy direction and the regionally agreed principles noted under paragraph 5 above.



- 11. Doing nothing, or 'co-existence' is insufficient, contrary to Welsh Government policy, and doesn't address how the Economic Ambition Board's functions are to be discharged by the CJC.
- 12. At first glance, a partial transfer to a 'hybrid' model retaining a host authority as accountable body, co-existing with the CJC, may appear to be attractive in terms of avoiding change from the current Economic Ambition Board model (despite the benefits of a CJC). However, this would require convoluted back-to-back agreements in respect of transactions entered into by project sponsors on behalf of the EAB. It lacks clarity, and provides no real advantage. Further, our region would still require a functioning CJC to undertake the Transport and Planning roles, which are vested directly in the CJC.
- 13. The most efficient and viable operational structure, which satisfies the requirement to transition to a CJC, is to transfer the Economic Ambition Board functions to an empowered sub-committee of the CJC. Consequently, transferring the functions to a sub-committee will retain core elements of the EAB, but provide a more robust and efficient delivery model directly via the CJC corporate vehicle. Crucially, the framework should allow a sub-committee governance model agreed with the CJC to confirm / continue the role of the Councils and Partners in relation to the "Reserved Matters".
- 14. Pinsent Masons have advised officers in detail on the advantages and some key issues, before we concluded that the transferring the EAB functions to a sub-committee provides the optimal structure for the CJC. As a separate corporate body, the CJC may naturally evolve over time and deliver wider initiatives, while building upon recent years of regional public investment under the EAB and continuing the trajectory established by Growth Deal.
- 15. The proposed CJC committee structure is shown in the following chart, including establishment of a subsidiary EAB delivery vehicle (sub-committee). This limits the extent of change and satisfies the 'immediate duties' in a consensual way –



\*\* Delegation to statutory sub-committees, which are also subject to the transparency requirements which apply to executive function bodies.

## **Decision-Making**

16. Pinsent Masons advise that decision-making, after transferring functions under the CJC, could operate to a large degree how decision-making currently occurs within the Economic Ambition Board, with local authorities retaining overall control over Growth Deal decision-making through robust delegation or novation arrangements. This will require amending legislation to allow for executive or Cabinet functions to be delegated to the CJC, as they are currently delegated to the EAB. It is understood from Pinsent Masons, further to their discussions with the Welsh Government, that this will be addressed in the forthcoming set of regulations.
17. The scheme of delegation from the local authorities to the CJC will clarify which matters remain decisions that are reserved for the local authorities as is currently set out in 'GA2'.
18. Snowdonia National Park Authority is an additional voting member of the CJC, but only on matters relating to the strategic planning function and its budget.
19. The 'Advisors' (college principals) are not original CJC members, but can be co-opted to the subcommittee and may be given voting rights if CJC so determines (and, if so, the current EAB model would continue).

## **Merits of transferring the Economic Ambition Board functions into the CJC forming a single corporate entity**

20. Having considered the approach to and implications of transferring the north Wales region's EAB and current Growth Deal arrangements (and where applicable, Growth Vision delivery) into the CJC, legal advice received from Pinsent Masons shows that simplicity and avoiding bureaucracy (two key principles identified under paragraph 5 above) may be achieved by fully utilising the potential of the CJC via direct contractual arrangements.
21. This view is strongly supported by the Cardiff Capital Region's experience, analysis and decision to 'lift and shift' their city deal (growth deal) operations to their CJC, forming a single corporate entity. Cardiff's 'go live' date for commencement of functions is 28 February 2022, four months before our CJC's 'go live' date, allowing us to be informed by precedents there.
22. Transferring the Economic Ambition Board functions to a single corporate entity will mean not using a host authority as the accountable body. However, individual local authorities could continue to provide officers and support services to the CJC / EAB by agreement, or individual local authorities could agree to 'lead' on one of the specific 'immediate duties'. Also, individual partners could continue to lead on individual projects, of course.
23. The north Wales region's CJC must appoint statutory officers, i.e. a Chief Executive, a Monitoring Officer, and a Chief Finance Officer (CJCs have the same financial reporting and disclosure requirements as local authorities). However, the CJC could choose either to employ these directly, or enter into arrangements with constituent authorities for their officers to be placed at the disposal of the CJC.

24. Staff directly employed by the CJC may be minimised. Before the 30 June 2022 'go live' date, we will need to carefully consider transfer of Economic Ambition Board staff to be employed by the CJC, rather than the host authority. At the outset, any other employment shift could be limited by use of service level agreements with local authorities for services, or secondment of staff from local authorities. Subsequently, the CJC may make 'delivery' decisions with each individual function.

### **Added value for the EAB within the CJC as a single corporate entity**

25. Using a host authority as the accountable body has been successful in establishing the EAB. However, continuing with this contractual agency / services agreement approach ("co-existing" with the CJC henceforth) would eventually mean both the EAB and the host authority being mired in "back to back agreements" which will be required on individual projects.
26. Over circa 6 years, this has put increasing strain on Cardiff Council as the accountable body for their region's city deal. As we have grant funding to support such transition now, Gwynedd and north Wales should take cognizance of our opportunity to take the benefit of Cardiff's experiences now, in order to avoid the time and cost of changing later. We have a timely opportunity now to learn from the Capital Region's experience. Many more loan and contract agreements would need to be novated or retained by the accountable body (depending on the nature and complexity of the individual projects) if north Wales switched our EAB model to a corporate entity further on down the road.

### **Sub-committees for Strategic Planning and Strategic Transport**

27. There is clear consensus (from recent discussions between the 6 Council Leaders and Chief Executives) that we need a governance structure with sub-committees for Strategic Planning and Strategic Transport, both being sub-committees of the CJC alongside, and not underneath, the EAB as a sub-committee in its own right.
28. These sub-committees could be inclusive of relevant cabinet members from the constituent authorities, alongside their leaders on the CJC. The CJC could appoint other members with voting rights from partner organisations, as required. This delegated governance model could enable us to have a lighter CJC meeting agenda, with sub-committees doing the heavy lifting. There are certain matters which cannot be delegated by the CJC in this context, particularly around governance structure, budget decisions, and certain key decisions in relation to the adoption of the statutory plans.
29. It has been suggested that there should be 'host authority' for strategic planning and a 'host authority' for strategic transport. There could be seconding-in of some existing capacity to do the strategic work on the 'immediate duties' which must be delivered for the CJC. While individual local authorities could be prepared to lead on planning or transport functions, they would not be an 'accountable body' as Gwynedd are for the EAB. The CJC, as a corporate entity, would make agreements with third parties as required. However, in principle, it may be practical for individual authorities to lead and deliver the planning and transport functions, with the CJC funding these authorities' increased capacity / regional responsibility.

## **Transition from Growth Deal Arrangements**

30. Several regulatory issues remain to be resolved with regards transition from current arrangements to the CJC – some of these need to be addressed through expected CJC regulations, etc. Clarification required includes possible novation of the Growth Deal funding agreement to the CJC (alternatively, subject to legislative changes to reflect Welsh Government’s direction of travel, local authorities could delegate or novate to the CJC). Clarification is also required regarding the scope of the CJC’s ability to borrow, invest and act commercially, tax and VAT status. The Welsh Government have stated that their policy intention is that CJCs should be subject to the same powers and duties as principal LAs in the way that they operate (including essentially the ability to borrow and reclaim VAT like unitary local authorities). Solutions to some issues are still a ‘work in progress’.
31. Legal advice is being received from Pinsent Masons on the approach to and implications of transferring the north Wales region’s EAB and current Growth Deal arrangements into the CJC. Initial legal advice and the challenging timescales means that the Welsh Government’s aim to transfer these arrangements into the CJC is more challenging and complex than anticipated. We will also need to consider the governance of our region’s CJC and potential sub-committees, which will require specialist input from the local authorities’ lawyers.
32. The Welsh Government’s stated policy direction is that the CJC should be afforded the requisite powers to be able to deliver the Growth Deal for the local authorities. Accordingly, following review of the current legislation and discussion with the Welsh Government, Pinsent Masons’ specialist lawyers conclude that there is not intended to be a material disparity in the manner in which the NWEAB currently operates and how the CJC could operate in respect of the Growth Deal / Growth Vision. It is anticipated that complexities regarding delegation to the CJC may be solved by further Regulations, allowing us to tailor operations to reflect the needs of the region, in line with the Economic Ambition Board and ‘GA2’.

## **Governance and Finance**

33. Transition of the Economic Ambition Board (with no material change to how it currently operates) to the CJC would require a formal decision by each of the local authorities, and in practice the consent of the other partners to GA2. The Welsh Government’s Corporate Joint Committees General Regulations have not yet addressed the issue of the role of scrutiny committees. The current scrutiny arrangements for the Economic Ambition Board are within the statutory framework for scrutinising executive decision making. GA2 includes a protocol for managing the relationship. Thus far, there is no statutory arrangement for scrutiny of the Corporate Joint Committees. However, the draft statutory guidance on CJCs emphasises the role of local authorities’ overview and scrutiny arrangements, as part of the governance and democratic accountability framework which needs to be established. There are further regulations to follow and we will need to develop a scrutiny framework and understand the basis for the arrangements.

34. In respect of the 'initial functions' (see below), the CJC will need to agree the budget and allocate contributions across the local authorities. Each local authority's representative on the CJC will be mindful of the guiding principles under the NWEAB's GA2 but, as the budget setting relates to the 'initial functions', the budget contributions will be determined and levied by the CJC itself.
35. There will be significant ongoing resource requirements on local authorities' capacity in administering and delivering CJC functions. These administrative burdens and professional resource requirements for the establishment of and servicing of the CJC are yet to be fully identified.
36. As part of the scheme of delegation to the CJC, the local authorities will be passporting the Growth Deal funding, which will be allocated and invested in strict accordance with the terms of the 'Outline Business Plan' (which was adopted when 'GA2' was signed). Any change impacting on the financial position of a local authority may be reserved for the local authorities to determine (rather than the CJC), thus ensuring this aspect operates as per the EAB.
37. Some additional statutory obligations are broadly in keeping with how the EAB functions, including:
  - the CJC to prepare a 12-month business plan setting out activities to be undertaken and the CJC's budget requirements;
  - the CJC to agree the CJC's budget requirements for its first financial year at a meeting of the CJC by 31 January 2022, and how this will be met (levied);
  - the CJC to appoint the chairperson and vice-chairperson at its first meeting; and
  - the CJC to establish a Governance and Audit Sub-Committee.

### **The 'Initial Functions'**

38. There are three initial functions prescribed to be discharged by the CJC, two are which are not currently carried out by the NWEAB:
  - preparing, monitoring, reviewing and revising of a Strategic Development Plan;
  - developing a Regional Transport Plan – policies for transport; and
  - economic well-being function – anything likely to promote economic wellbeing.
39. Planning policy managers in north Wales have looked at delivery options and cost implications for producing the north Wales region's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) (in addition to Local Development Plans).
40. Transport professionals are currently considering how a compliant and suitably robust Regional Transport Plan (RTP) could be developed.

41. Both the Councils and the CJC have concurrent powers in relation to promoting economic wellbeing - this one of the powers, amongst many, that the parties currently rely upon to deliver the Growth Deal. In due course additionality in the co delivery of this function may be considered based on the currently envisaged Growth Vision role of the Economic Ambition Board.
42. The regionally agreed principles noted under paragraph 5 above are consistent with a shared view that the proposals here are made on a 'no threat' basis to the local authorities. Thus, the CJC will set the direction and priorities, and is likely to need some concurrent functions, while its SDP and RTP will set a policy framework which the local authorities must have regard to. However, the individual local authorities will remain best placed to undertake local activity around economic development, planning, transport and other functions, with the CJC empowering and supporting local, regional and national delivery.

### **Recommendation**

43. The Cabinet / Executive are asked, subject to the Welsh Government putting the appropriate statutory framework in place, to adopt a streamlined governance model, avoiding duplication, by approving in principle the transition of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to be established as a sub-committee of the north Wales region's Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

### **Next Steps**

44. The following key tasks (this is not an exhaustive list) will require attention during late 2021, or during first quarter of 2022:
  - i. Regarding CJC membership, Snowdonia National Park Authority to nominate their representative.
  - ii. Set the date of the first CJC meeting.
  - iii. Agree the CJC's budget requirements for its first financial year at a meeting of the CJC by 31 January 2022
  - iv. Agree how the CJC's budget requirements will be met, i.e. authorities' contributions to be levied.
  - v. The CJC to adopt a sub-committee structure, and form a view on co-option, who, where, scope of participation, and whether voting or non-voting.
  - vi. Establish meeting governance and support arrangements for the CJC.
  - vii. Develop and establish a Scrutiny framework, when the Welsh Government's regulations on CJs provides the relevant basis for the arrangements.
  - viii. Establish the Governance and Audit Committee and Standards Committee, and appoint members.

- ix. Formal decision by the local authorities, together with the consent of the other partners in GA2, to transition the NWEAB to the CJC.
- x. Establish the Governance Agreement with the CJC in relation to the Economic Ambition Board functions, and any other "host authority" agreements, with the CJC required to implement the proposed arrangement.
- xi. Appoint statutory officers.
- xii. Prepare a 12-month business plan.
- xiii. Agree how the CJC's business transactions are established / hosted.
- xiv. Prepare and adopt CJC Standing Orders and basic governance documentation.

### **Financial Implications**

45. Approving the decision sought here regarding the governance model would not add any financial implication for the Council. However, there will be an unavoidable ongoing cost (administrative burdens servicing the CJC and professional resource requirements) for local authorities to be able to administer and deliver the CJC's statutory functions. These costs are yet to be fully identified, but the direction set by this report is to make the CJC work effectively while minimising the financial burden on the Council.

### **Wider Duties**

46. In developing the proposals regard should be had, amongst other matters, to:
  - the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards,
  - Public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics.
  - The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and is globally responsible.
47. Under the Welsh Government's Regulations, the CJC is subject to the Equalities Act, Future Generations Act, and other legislation, in the same way as local authorities.

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**North Wales Economic Ambition Board  
30 September 2022**

**TITLE:** North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)  
– Part-time Secondment of the EAB Portfolio Director as interim CJC Chief Executive

**AUTHOR:** Dylan J Williams, North Wales Councils' Lead Chief Executive for the Economic Ambition Board

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The report presents a request by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (EAB), to release part of their Portfolio Director's time to fulfil the CJC Chief Executive's role, initially on a temporary basis until 31 March 2023. This proposal is supported by all six North Wales Council Chief Executives.

**2. DECISION SOUGHT**

- 2.1. That the EAB consider the following recommendations and proposed arrangements:
- That the EAB supports the CJC's request to release the Portfolio Director's time for two days per week until 31 March 2023 on a part time secondment basis to undertake the Interim Chief Executive role.
  - That all associated employment and associated costs are covered by the North Wales CJC
  - To delegate authority to the Portfolio Director in consultation with Chair and Vice-Chair of the EAB to agree on the re-allocation of responsibilities within the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) in order to ensure that the proposed interim arrangements support the PMO priorities and responsibility to all the EAB partner organisations.

**3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1. Having regard to the in-principle decision of the Councils to transfer the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to assist the North Wales region in establishing the CJC, and to ensure that the EAB's interests are safeguarded as the CJC moves forward.

**4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1. At the 17 June CJC meeting, it was agreed to extend the CJC's statutory officer appointments made at the 14 January CJC meeting, i.e. the Chief Executive Officer (Dafydd Gibbard), Chief Finance Officer (Dewi Morgan) and Monitoring Officer (Iwan Evans) being provided by Gwynedd Council, and to approve the ongoing arrangements for Gwynedd Council to provide support services for the CJC.
- 4.2. The 22 July CJC meeting considered an options appraisal for filling the CJC's Chief Executive Officer role. It was agreed to submit a request to the EAB to release part of their Portfolio Director's time to fulfil the CJC's Chief Executive role on a secondment basis until 31 March 2023. This way forward considers an assumption that the EAB may be incorporated as part of the CJC in the future.

- 4.3. As noted in the September CJC Update (Appendix 1), there are a number of outstanding matters to resolve, along with the work required to operationalise the powers held by the CJC. This proposal presents a way forward which enables the EAB's Portfolio Director to play a key role in leading and influencing the work which will facilitate the assumed future transition of the regional PMO (including the Growth Vision and Growth Deal) currently being delivered by the PMO for the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, into the CJC.
- 4.4. The proposed interim secondment arrangement will help determine and set out the options to resolve the CJC's Chief Executive's role on a more permanent basis from April 2023. During the secondment period, progress can be made to establish the Planning and Transport sub-committees, and identify the resources required to discharge the CJC's initial duties.
- 4.5. The CJC recognise and support the need to make appropriate budgetary and operational arrangements to ensure that the work of the Portfolio Director in leading the PMO and delivery of the Growth Deal is not impacted by this proposed interim arrangement.

### **Opportunities and Risks**

- 4.6. The proposed way forward presents an opportunity to create cohesion between the EAB and the CJC and to ensure that the EAB's interests are represented and safeguarded as further development and implementation of the CJC moves forward. The key opportunities and risks to be managed are noted below:
  - An existing working assumption determines that the EAB and regional PMO could be incorporated within the CJC in future. The part-time secondment of the Portfolio Director would ensure that the Growth Deal and Growth Vision continue to be delivered during and after that transition, with turbulence minimised.
  - The EAB's Portfolio Director's involvement in establishing the CJC would be required with respect to co-ordinating the Economic Wellbeing function regardless, and therefore formalising this arrangement by means of the part-time secondment allows for that involvement to be focused and for duplication of resources to be avoided.
  - Releasing the Portfolio Director for two days a week to take on the interim CJC Chief Executive role will create a capacity challenge for the Portfolio Management Office that will need to be planned for and managed carefully.
  - The CJC will cover all employment costs for the proposed secondment which enables the EAB funding to be reinvested in appropriate backfill arrangements.
  - The backfill arrangements could provide development opportunities for those currently in the PMO by taking on additional responsibilities during the secondment period. Recruitment of additional short-term resource is likely to be necessary.
  - The potential capacity challenge may require the PMO to de-prioritise certain activities to focus on the core deliverables relating to the Growth Deal, however every effort will be made to avoid this.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The CJC has offered to fund the proposed back-fill required to undertake some of the Portfolio Director's duties. Hence, this proposed part-time secondment of the Portfolio Director would be net cost neutral for the EAB.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The EAB has been established pursuant to Governance Agreement 2 to act as the decision-making body for the partnership of local authorities and the education bodies to deliver the North Wales Growth Deal and the Growth Vision. It's functions and the outcomes it needs to deliver are defined by the agreement and the related Overarching Business Plan which was completed in tandem with the Growth Deal. It is also required to appoint the Portfolio Director to Lead the Portfolio Management Office.
- 6.2. Nevertheless, the advent of the Corporate Joint Committees was presaged in GA2 and is specifically referenced as a matter reserved to the Councils. There is a specific provision in the agreement which acknowledges the anticipated creation of CJC's and that a transfer of functions might occur. This is reflected in the in-principle decision of the 6 executives in December 2021 to transfer the functions of the EAB to the CJC provided that the model and the statutory framework was in place to achieve this. The CJC's have now been established and the statutory model is practically completed. However, at this point in time the work of creating the CJC as a functioning public body with appropriate governance and management arrangements is being moved forward. This work needs to reflect and prepare for the assumption of the role of the EAB into the CJC and its governing model.
- 6.3. In terms of GA2 the proposed secondment does not require that EAB resources and contributions are provided to support the CJC. There also provision in the interim for maintaining capacity for supporting the work of delivering the EAB's functions. It is also relevant that the transition of the EAB's functions to the CJC needs to be properly planned and resourced to ensure that when the functions transferred this can be achieved effectively and efficiently. Provided the EAB is assured of these matters then it can appropriately approve the secondment within GA2.

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## APPENDICES:

**Appendix 1**      CJC September Update

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## STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i.      **Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:**  
“I have advised on this matter and in particular the “Legal Implications” section of the report. The report properly advises the EAB on its functions and constraints. It also properly reflects the fact that although there may an element of common membership of the BUE and the CJC they are separate bodies with differing governance resourcing and, in the case of the EAB partnership requirements which need to be considered. The EAB needs to come to a decision this matter within its own governance framework and having regard to it's functions as set out in GA2.”
- ii.     **Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority's Section 151 Officer):**  
“I can confirm the accuracy of Part 5 of the report. The Finance Service will act to ensure that this arrangement remains cost-neutral for Ambition North Wales during the current financial year.”



**Title: The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)**

**Purpose: To update Authority Members regarding developments**

**Cabinet Member: Council Leader**

**Contact Officers: The Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer**

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Further to Welsh Government legislation establishing the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), the region's 6 Councils and the National Park have made appropriate arrangements, held four CJC meetings, agreed the budget for 2022/23, and are preparing to deliver the CJC's initial functions.

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### **Background**

1. Regulations were made by the Welsh Government on 17 March 2021 creating four Corporate Joint Committees in Wales, and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) was established on 1 April 2021. The CJC must exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning, and are also be able to promote economic well-being.
2. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, the CJC is a separate corporate body which can employ staff and hold assets. In the past, reservations were expressed because CJC's might lead to "another layer of bureaucracy", but it is here now and we have no choice other than to make it work.
3. There are three initial functions prescribed to be discharged by the CJC, two are which are mandatory, and one currently carried out concurrently by each individual local authority and by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board:
  - the CJC must prepare, monitor, review and revise a regional Strategic Development Plan;
  - the CJC must develop a Regional Transport Plan with policies for regional transport; and
  - the CJC may do anything which is likely to promote economic wellbeing (regional economic well-being is currently a function of the NWEAB).
4. In December 2021 / January 2022, the Cabinet (or equivalent) in each of the region's 6 Councils agreed in principle that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the CJC, when the CJC establishes a Sub-Committee, with membership to be agreed with the Councils, to undertake the functions of the Economic Ambition Board. This transition is proposed in order to achieve a streamlined governance model, avoiding duplication.
5. Further regulations will follow and the Welsh Government are liaising with the UK Government and HMRC, etc, regarding details of the CJC's VAT status, etc.
6. Establishing the CJC was a legal requirement, but the timetable remains challenging, particularly to discharge the 'immediate duties' prescribed in the legislation (producing a Regional Transport Plan, and a regional Strategic Development Plan).

7. Under the Welsh Government's Regulations, while developing proposals and discharging its duties, the CJC will be subject to the Equalities Act, Future Generations Act, language standards under the Welsh Language Measure 2011, and other legislation, in the same way as local authorities.
8. This update report is submitted simultaneously to elected members at the 6 Councils: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham, and members of Snowdonia National Park Authority.

### **Employment of Chief Officers and Staff**

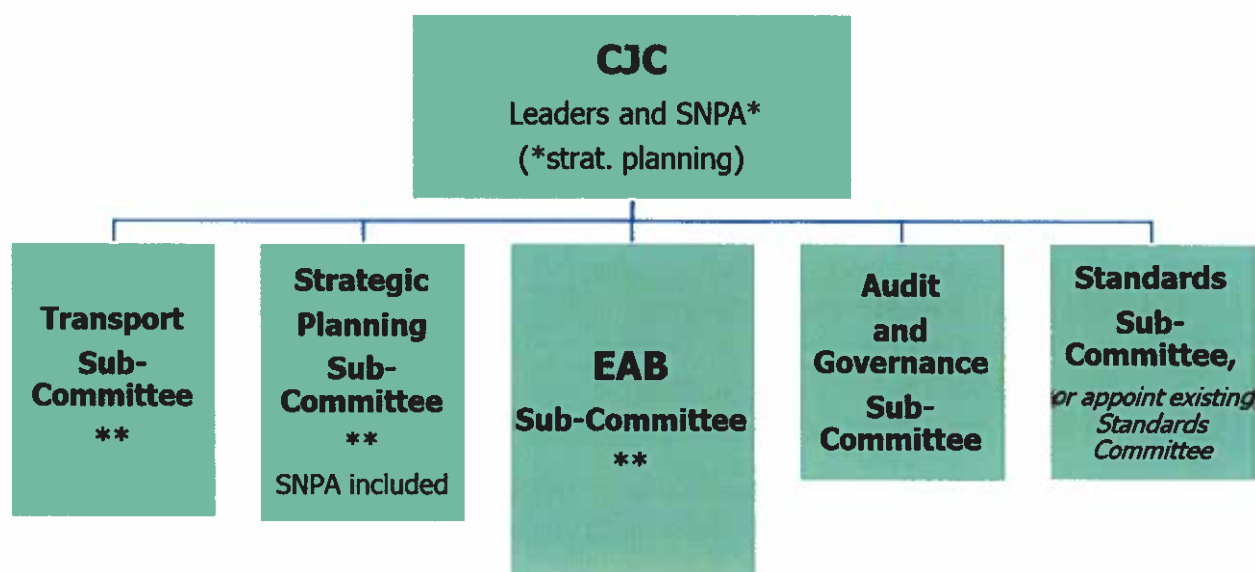
9. Staff directly employed by the CJC are currently minimised. The North Wales CJC must appoint statutory officers, i.e. a Chief Executive, a Monitoring Officer, and a Chief Finance Officer (CJCs have the same financial reporting and disclosure requirements as local authorities). However, rather than employing these directly, the CJC has made arrangements with constituent authorities for their officers to be placed at the disposal of the CJC.
10. At the 17 June CJC meeting, it was agreed to extend the CJC's statutory officer appointments made at the 14 January CJC meeting, i.e. the Chief Executive Officer (Dafydd Gibbard), Chief Finance Officer (Dewi Morgan) and Monitoring Officer (Iwan Evans) being provided by Gwynedd Council, and to approve the ongoing arrangements for Gwynedd Council to provide support services for the CJC.
11. The 22 July CJC meeting considered an options appraisal was for filling the CJC's Chief Executive Officer role on a more permanent basis. Bearing in mind the likelihood that the EAB will be incorporated as part of the CJC in future, it was agreed to submit a request to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to release part of their Portfolio Director's time to fulfil the Corporate Joint Committee's Chief Executive's role until 31 March 2023. The NWEAB will formally consider this request in September.
12. Subsequently, the CJC may make 'delivery' decisions on a case by case basis for each individual function, i.e. planning, transport, etc. The CJC could employ staff or there could be seconding-in of some existing capacity from the authorities to do the strategic work on the 'immediate duties' which must be delivered for the CJC. In principle, it may be practical for individual authorities to lead and deliver the planning and transport functions, with the CJC funding these authorities' increased capacity / regional responsibility. The CJC, as a corporate entity, could make agreements with third parties as required.

### **The CJC's Members and Committees**

13. The CJC's committee members are –

<b>Leader</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<i>CJC Role</i>
Clr. Dyfrig L Siencyn	Gwynedd Council	<i>Chair</i>
Clr. Mark Pritchard	Wrexham County Borough Council	<i>Vice-chair</i>
Clr. Llinos Medi Huws	Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Clr. Charlie McCoubrey	Conwy County Borough Council	
Clr. Jason McLellan	Denbighshire Council	
Clr. Ian B Roberts	Flintshire Council	
Clr. Annwen Hughes	Snowdonia National Park Authority	

14. The CJC's proposed committee structure is shown in the following chart, including the anticipated growth deal delivery vehicle (EAB sub-committee). The Snowdonia member is entitled to vote on matters to be decided by the CJC about strategic planning functions.



\*\* Delegation to statutory sub-committees, which are also subject to the transparency requirements which apply to executive function bodies.

### Sub-committees for Strategic Planning and Strategic Transport

15. There was clear consensus that we need a governance structure with sub-committees of the CJC for Strategic Planning and Strategic Transport (alongside the EAB as another sub-committee if/when it transfers).
16. At the 17 June CJC meeting, it was agreed to establish a Strategic Planning Sub-Committee and a Strategic Transport Sub-Committee, and to approve the membership and voting rights as follows –
- i. The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee with 7 voting members, one from each of the constituent authorities (6 Councils and SNPA).
  - ii. The Strategic Transport Sub-Committee with 6 voting members, one from each of the 6 Councils.
  - iii. Membership of the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee to be comprised of the relevant Cabinet member from each constituent Council who holds the portfolio for Planning Policy, and the SNPA representative.
  - iv. That the membership of the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee to be comprised of the relevant Cabinet member from each constituent Council who holds the portfolio for Transport Policy.



17. The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee and/or the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee could recommend that the CBC consider co-option of additional members from partner organisations in due course, as required.
18. Snowdonia National Park Authority will need to nominate their representative on the Planning Sub-Committee. See below the region's local authority Cabinet Members for Planning and Transport –

Cabinet Members for <b>Planning</b>	<b>Council</b>	Cabinet Members for <b>Transport</b>
Cllr Nicola Roberts	Anglesey	Cllr Dafydd Rhys Thomas
Cllr Emily Owen	Conwy	Cllr Goronwy Edwards
Cllr Win Mullen-James	Denbighshire	Cllr Barry Mellor
Cllr Christopher Bithell	Flintshire	Cllr Dave Hughes
Cllr Dafydd Meurig	Gwynedd	Cllr Dafydd Meurig
Cllr Terry Evans	Wrexham	Cllr David A Bithell

19. This delegated governance model should enable the sub-committees to do the heavy lifting, but there are certain matters which cannot be delegated by the CJC, around the governance structure, budget decisions, and certain key decisions in relation to the adoption of the statutory plans.
20. In respect of the two initial duties prescribed to be discharged by the CJC, it will set the direction and priorities, and it will need some concurrent functions, while the CJC's regional Strategic Development Plan and Regional Transport Plan will set a policy framework which the local authorities must have regard to. However, the individual local authorities will remain best placed to undertake local activity around planning and transport functions, with the CJC empowering and supporting local, regional and national delivery.
21. Planning policy managers in north Wales' local authorities will need to work with the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee to look at delivery options and cost implications for producing the north Wales region's Strategic Development Plan and the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee will need to make timely recommendations to the CJC in order to draft the CJC's 2023/24 budget.
22. Similarly, Transport professionals in north Wales will need to work with the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee to consider how a compliant and suitably robust Regional Transport Plan (RTP) could be developed. We understand that the Regional Transport Plan will have to be completed by the first half of 2024, so the necessary resources must be identified soon.
23. There are number of other statutory obligations, including the need for the CJC to establish a Governance and Audit Sub-Committee, and a Standards Committee. These will receive attention in 2022, along with scrutiny arrangements. The Chairs of the 7 standards committees in the 'constituent' authorities could form one Standards Sub-Committee for the CJC.
24. The current scrutiny arrangements for the Economic Ambition Board are within the statutory framework for scrutinising the CJC's executive decision making, and GA2 includes a protocol for managing the relationship. These arrangements could be adopted for scrutinising the CJC, bearing in mind that Welsh Government guidance notes the role



of local authorities' overview and scrutiny arrangements, as part of the governance and democratic accountability framework which needs to be established during 2022/23.

## Financial Arrangements

25. There is a statutory obligation for the CJC to agree its budget requirements for the financial year at a meeting of the CJC by the preceding 31 January, and how this will be met (levied).
26. At the 28 January CJC meeting, the CJC's Budget for 2022/23 was approved, with totals for Strategic Planning £87,950 and Other Functions including Transport £274,310. Also on 28 January, the CJC approved the Levy for 2022/23 on the each authority, allocated based on the relevant population, with each authority's amounts as analysed below –

	<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<b>Other functions</b>	<b>Total Levy</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Conwy County Borough Council	(14,270)	(46,220)	(60,490)
Denbighshire County Council	(12,030)	(37,530)	(49,560)
Flintshire County Council	(19,700)	(61,450)	(81,150)
Gwynedd Council	(13,090)	(48,910)	(62,000)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(8,750)	(27,290)	(36,040)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(16,970)	(52,910)	(69,880)
Snowdonia National Park Authority	(3,140)		(3,140)
<b>Total Levy</b>	<b>(87,950)</b>	<b>(274,310)</b>	<b>(362,260)</b>

27. As noted in parts 21/22 above, north Wales authorities' planning policy officers and transport officers will need to work with their relevant Sub-Committees to identify delivery options and cost implications to produce the region's Strategic Development Plan and the Regional Transport Plan, then the Sub-Committees will need to make timely recommendations to the CJC in order to in order to agree the CJC's 2023/24 budget before 31/01/2023.
28. Legislative clarification is required regarding the scope of the CJC's ability to borrow, invest and act commercially, and the CJC's corporation tax and value-added tax (VAT) status. The Welsh Government have stated that their policy intention is that the CJC should be subject to the same powers and duties as principal local authorities in the way that they operate (including essentially the ability to borrow and reclaim VAT like unitary local authorities).
29. Solutions to these issues are still a 'work in progress', but crucially Welsh Government officials have advised us that the Financial Secretary to the Treasury has confirmed the UK Government will legislate to admit the four CJs into the Section 33 VAT refund scheme, so that the CJC will receive a refund of the eligible VAT incurred from the date that the Order is made. Both Governments are engaged with HM Treasury regarding this Order, and they expect it will be effective from December 2022. Until then, the CJC will be unable to reclaim the VAT paid to local authorities or other suppliers of goods and services. Hence, it is currently 20% more expensive to receive support services from

Gwynedd Council, etc. Further, as it will be more expensive to second professional staff capacity from the authorities, or to pay consultants to do that work, until this is resolved there is a disincentive to rush ahead with work on the CJC's Planning and Transport duties.

30. Welsh Government officials have also advised us that they are engaging with the UK Government regarding the ability of the CJC to borrow from the PWLB at preferential interest rates like local authorities, and the CJC's status regarding corporation tax (it was mentioned that both Governments were considering a 'Section 150 Order' to tie-up loose ends), but these solutions would require UK Government legislation and no specific timeline was promised. As the terms of borrowing are key to the growth deal, until this is resolved, the CJC is unable to move ahead with transferring EAB arrangements of into the CJC.

### **Transition of Growth Deal Arrangements**

31. As noted above, solutions regarding some financial issues and some other regulatory issues are required before current Economic Ambition Board (EAB) arrangements may be transitioned into the CJC. Clarification is required regarding several matters, but the Welsh Government have stated that their policy intention is that the four regional CJs should be subject to the same powers and duties as principal local authorities in the way that they operate (including essentially the ability to borrow and reclaim VAT).
32. The aim is still to transfer the north Wales region's EAB and current Growth Deal arrangements into the CJC, avoiding duplication, but this is proving to be more challenging and complex than the Welsh Government originally anticipated, and solutions to some of the issues are still a 'work in progress'.
33. As well as the governance of the CJC and its sub-committees, we will need to further consider and moving on from the Economic Ambition Board's 'GA2', which will require significant specialist input from the local authorities' lawyers, even though there is not intended to be a material disparity between the manner in which the EAB currently operates and how the CJC could operate in respect of the Growth Deal / Growth Vision.
34. It is anticipated that various complexities may be solved by legislation, etc, allowing us to tailor operations to reflect the needs of the region, in line with the Economic Ambition Board and 'GA2', but transition of the Economic Ambition Board (with no material change to how it currently operates) to the CJC would require a formal decision by each of the local authorities, and the consent of the other partners to GA2.

### **Other Actions and Conclusion**

35. Other tasks will require attention during late 2022/23, including creating a website and branding for the CJC, but the current priorities are resolving the Chief Executive's role on a more permanent basis, establishing the Planning and Transport sub-committees, and identifying the resources required to discharge the CJC's initial duties.



Ein cyf/Our ref DC/RE/00664/22

All Chairs and Vice Chairs  
Corporate Joint Committees

27 September 2022

Dear Chairs and Vice Chairs,

I was very pleased to have opportunity over the summer to individually meet with the Chairs and Vice Chairs from each of the four Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). These meetings allowed me to hear about the continued progress being made and ambitions of each CJC following the local government elections in May. I am very grateful for all the hard work colleagues across Wales have already undertaken to establish these important new vehicles for regional collaboration.

CJCs provide a 'ready-made' consistent and accountable mechanism to support regional collaboration, and opportunity for existing arrangements to evolve and make use of the additional tools that a corporate body offers. Aligning economic development, transport and land use planning approaches in the CJC provides an opportunity to consider and capitalise on the interdependencies between them. I am confident this will allow you to deliver your regional ambitions, develop successful regional economies and encourage local growth. I was pleased to hear about the structures you are putting in place to take this work forward.

It is important to continue to stress the regulatory framework which underpins the work of CJCs is designed to provide you with flexibility and enable local discretion. How a CJC delivers its functions, and operates more generally, will largely be for determination by you and your members. It is important your CJC evolves to meet the specific needs, ways of working, and ambitions of each region—and I welcome this variation.

It is of course reasonable to expect there would be a small number of technical issues which emerge as CJCs are implemented, and some other questions were raised in these meetings that I thought all regions would appreciate clarification on to enable you to plan in confidence for the next financial year.

As you know, the UK Government has confirmed it will legislate to admit the four CJCs into the VAT refund scheme. CJCs will be eligible to receive a refund of the eligible VAT they incur from the date an Order is made.

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

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

UK Government previously indicated this change would take effect by the 1 December. HM Treasury have however informed us that following the tragic death of Her Majesty the Queen they have amended Parliamentary timetables to take account of the period of mourning. They now estimate this change to VAT rules will come into force by 1 March. Whilst this delay is disappointing, this should still allow CJsCs to plan with confidence to operate with increased budgets next financial year.

Legislation to address remaining issues which relate to other non-devolved areas, including providing for CJsCs to have direct access to borrowing via the Public Works Loans Board and changes in relation to Corporation Tax, is also being planned. Whilst I understand the frustration felt by partners, unfortunately I do not yet have a definitive timetable for these changes to be made. I want to reassure you however it remains a priority.

Under current legislation, CJsCs are not exempt from Corporation Tax. My officials are in discussion with HMRC and HM Treasury to establish whether exemption is possible, but for the time being, you should assume Corporation Tax will apply. A CJC would only be eligible to pay Corporation Tax on any profits made. As HMRC would not expect the first Corporation Tax returns and accounts from CJsCs until 2024, we still have time to seek to obtain an exemption.

However, while these are issues that I know you need clarity on for future planning it is less clear these are issues which constitute immediate barriers to progress. I am therefore grateful for the offers you made to share details about the specific immediate issues your CJsCs would face until you are exempted from Corporation Tax. This will inform the discussions my officials are having with UK Government to explore whether, in advance of the required legislative changes, it might be possible to agree in the meantime that certain activities which CJsCs might undertake could be exempted from Corporation Tax.


CJsCs are not currently able to borrow from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLb). Until the UK legislation is amended to provide for this, regions will be able to identify a lead principal council to obtain loans to undertake regional activities at the favourable rate provided by the PWLB. Whilst I know this is not ideal, involving as it does underlying agreements between constituent councils of the CJC, this is obviously the approach which has previously been taken under the City and Growth Deals.

I also undertook to provide further clarity on the role of National Park Authorities (NPAs), specifically in relation to the approach to determining NPAs contributions to budgets. The CJC must agree its budget requirements, including from the relevant NPA in relation to the strategic planning function. There is deliberate flexibility to allow you to determine arrangements appropriate for your area. However, there may be value in discussing and comparing approaches you have adopted to determining the contribution provided by NPAs. I understand your officers are engaging on the common issues and challenges they face in establishing CJsCs and this could be a useful area to consider. My officials have also recently shared a note via the WLGA in relation to the role of NPAs within a CJC which I hope has been of use.

I know each region is carefully considering how their CJsCs will operate, including potentially how they will be 'branded' to build on rather than lose the reputations established by the city and growth deals. For example, colleagues in South-East Wales already refer to themselves as the Cardiff Capital Region CJC. I welcome this type of activity which could help ensure each CJC is more closely aligned to the collaborative history, ambition, and identity of the region.

Whilst significant progress has been made, I do not underestimate the challenges you face to transition existing arrangements into your CJC and to begin to exercise your functions. My officials stand ready to provide advice to support your ongoing implementation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol  
Minister for Finance and Local Government





## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Asset Management Plan 2022 – 2027
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Manager, Capital Programme and Assets
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report introduces the refreshed Corporate Asset Management Plan 2022 - 2027 which replaces the previous plan which ran from 2020 to 2026.

The primary reason for updating the previous plan is the Welsh Government Policy for Net zero carbon Public Sector by 2030, the Welsh Government's Future Generation Act and as a consequence the Council's Climate Change strategy which was adopted by the Council in February 2022.

As with the previous plan, it sets the Council's medium-term strategy for managing its assets and moving towards an optimal portfolio of assets. The report explains the need for the Plan, its purpose, objectives, key aims, and content.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve the Asset Management Plan 2022 – 2027 so that it can be adopted as the principal document for managing the Council's corporate property and land resource assets.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022 - 2027</b>
	<b>Introduction</b>
1.01	<p>The Council's assets, primarily land and property, are a significant and valued resource with a value of circa £780.553m in March 2022. Over the last three years in excess £3.8m of capital receipts have been generated through the sale and disposal of surplus land and property.</p>
1.02	<p>There is a need for a comprehensive and structured strategy which sets out the Council's framework for asset management planning. The objective of the strategy is to set out the optimal asset portfolio the Council requires in the medium term to deliver its corporate objectives, the services it is responsible for providing, the statutory functions it is responsible for fulfilling, efficiently and considering overall value for money.</p>
1.03	<p>The key aims of the Strategy are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a clear context within which proposals for capital expenditure are evaluated to ensure all capital investment is targeted to deliver the Council's priorities as set out in the Council Plan.</li><li>• Sets out how the Council identifies and prioritises capital requirements and proposals arising from various strategies including Council Plan, Portfolio Business Plans, and other corporate strategies and how they will be managed within the limited capital resources available.</li><li>• Contribute to the Welsh Government's Net Zero Public Sector by 2030 and manage assets to adapt to the changing climate as well as fulfilling our duties to enhance biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems.</li><li>• Challenge our current estate, continue with the programme of asset rationalisation, ensuring that assets retained are effective, efficient and sustainable to deliver services.</li><li>• Maximise capital receipts, whilst balancing the need for land retention for carbon sequestration purposes.</li><li>• Identify and consider options available to fund capital expenditure that minimises the ongoing revenue implications of historic capital expenditure and of any new investments.</li><li>• Use partnerships, both public and private, more effectively to support our overall strategy.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish effective arrangements for managing capital projects including assessment of outcomes and achievement of value for money.</li> </ul>
1.04	The document, which is in final draft is structured into a number of sections which are briefly explained below.
1.05	<p><u>The key facts</u></p> <p>Section explains the types of assets the Council has, how many and asset condition information.</p>
1.06	<p><u>The bigger picture</u></p> <p>Section explains how asset management planning fits in with national strategic context, regional strategic context and the local strategic context. Including how the Strategy ties in with the Council Plan, Portfolio Business Plans, the Capital Programme, and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p>
1.07	<p><u>Where we want to be</u></p> <p>Section explains what the Council’s optimal portfolio of assets is. It seeks to identify what we want our capital resources to deliver over the medium term.</p> <p>This high-level strategic document makes reference to the more detailed asset management plans developed within portfolios for example; Schools modernisation, Highways Asset Management Plan, Housing Asset Management Plan, Corporate Property, Industrial Estate, Agricultural Estate and the Digital Strategy.</p>
1.08	<p><u>The Challenges</u></p> <p>Section explains the challenges that we face in delivering the optimal portfolio of assets identified.</p>
1.09	The AMP and covering report were shared with Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CROSC) on the 23rd September 2022 for comment, observations and general support.
1.10	There was a healthy debate on the AMP and questions and clarifications were sought from the committee in summary around agricultural estate, carbon strategy, clarification of tables, County Hall & condition of school estate. In addition, it was noted that there was an inconsistency in words around the capital receipts paragraph and table which has now been rectified.
1.11	The Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee, resolved that the Asset Management Plan 2022-2027 be supported, in order that it can be adopted as the principal document for managing the Council’s corporate property and land resource assets.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Implications for assets and financial implications as set out within the report. Other resource implications include Officer time in delivering the Strategy and associated capital programme which is not considered to be a significant change.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
3.01	Decisions made which involve the Council's assets and its Capital Programme often have very large and long-term financial implications. The purpose of the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan is to set a clear framework within which such decisions can be made mitigating the risks involved.	
3.02	<b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b>	
	Long-term	Positive in that it supports the delivery of modernised and efficient assets.
	Prevention	Creates sustainable and energy efficient assets
	Integration	Integrates developments within local communities to create and support the sustainable and resilient communities' agenda
	Collaboration	Positive in that it supports other public sector and community based organisations deliver services through shared space.
	Involvement	Through the engagement and consultation with our communities in our assets their development and the role they play within our communities.
	<b>Well-being Goals Impact</b>	
	Prosperous Wales	Contributing to the wealth and prosperity of Wales through the programmes of work attached to the capital programme developing the skills to deliver locally.
	Resilient Wales	Creating a skills base within the construction industry and wider to develop increased resilience.

	Healthier Wales	Quality accommodation and facilities to support a healthier Wales.
	More equal Wales	Provision of spaces and environments that respond positively to equality and gender.
	Cohesive Wales	The transfer of assets to our communities to create resilience and develop knowledge and skills in the management of such assets.
	Vibrant Wales	Activity which stimulates the local economy and builds upon and adds to the Welsh economy.
	Globally responsible Wales	The development of carbon neutral environments and decarbonisation of our existing estate where practicable.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	The AMP and covering report were shared with Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CROSC) on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2022 for comment, observations and general support.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Final Draft Asset Management Plan 2022 – 2027.

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

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Damian Hughes, Corporate Manager, Capital Programme and Assets <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704135 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk">damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p><b>Asset Management Plan</b> - A plan maintained by an authority of the condition and suitability of its assets, updated regularly and utilised to assess future capital needs.</p> <p><b>Capital Expenditure</b> - Expenditure on the acquisition of <b>Non-current Assets</b> or expenditure that extends the life or value of an existing asset.</p> <p><b>Capital Programme</b> - The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.</p> <p><b>Capital Receipt</b> - Receipts (in excess of £10,000) from the disposal of an asset.</p> <p><b>Capital Scheme</b> - An individual capital project which is monitored and managed in isolation. The aggregate of all schemes comprises the <b>Capital Programme</b>.</p> <p><b>Capital Strategy</b> - A corporate document providing clear strategic guidance about an authority's objectives, priorities and spending plans, demonstrating the link to key corporate and service objectives. May be combined with the <b>Asset Management Plan (AMP)</b> to form a single document.</p> <p><b>Disposal</b> - The decommissioning or transfer of an asset to another party.</p> <p><b>Financing</b> - The process of allocating resources to meet the cost of capital expenditure, which can be done on a project, asset or whole programme basis. This contrasts with making the invoice payments relating to capital expenditure, which should be managed within the authority's overall treasury management policy.</p> <p><b>Non-current Asset</b> - A resource controlled (but not necessarily owned) by an authority, from which economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the authority for more than 12 months.</p> <p><b>Whole Life Costs</b> - The costs of acquiring or creating an asset, operating it, maintaining it over its useful life and finally any costs of disposal (i.e. the total cost of ownership).</p>

# Corporate Asset Management Plan



2022 - 2027

# Contents

## Foreword

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2. Achievements to date
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# Foreword

The Council's assets are vital to the effective delivery of our priorities and services. The provision of the right asset in the right place at the right time is a fundamental core principle of effective asset management planning.

The unprecedented and sustained financial constraints, which all Local Authorities and other public sector partners continue to experience means that innovation and the efficient use of resources are at the forefront of our thinking to ensure effective and resilient service delivery.

Through our previous plans, we have made significant progress in collaboration and partnership working, rationalisation of the estate and have continued to protect front line services whilst maintaining service delivery to our customers whilst using fewer buildings, more efficiently.

This modernised document sets out an integrated plan for the future management of the Council's assets. As with previous versions, it interfaces with the Council's business planning process, facilitates effective management of our assets and capital resources and contributes to the Capital Strategy to ensure that the provision of resources and future investments are prioritised appropriately and effectively.

The revised plan also links to the Welsh Government Policy for Net zero carbon Public Sector by 2030 and with the Welsh Government's Future Generation Act. As a consequence the Council's Climate Change strategy was adopted by the Council in February 2022. As a Council, we have already invested in energy reduction measures and renewable energy schemes for a number of years, and by working collectively through the strategic goals we will make a positive contribution to tackling climate change and support Welsh Government's aim to be a net zero carbon nation by 2050.

We will continue to seek and utilise technological advancements as and when they become available and we will continue to work flexibly to complement the ever changing customer service landscape.

This evolving landscape provides both opportunities and challenges within our property and land estates requiring us to constantly review the basis for holding assets in the locations they are in, seeking new opportunities to partner with other public sector organisations and to increase the pace, scale, ambition and the way we deliver services both now and in the future.

**Cllr Billy Mullins**  
Cabinet Member

## 1. Introduction

### **Key Aims and Principles**

The Council's Asset Management Plan is a fundamental component in the effective delivery of our corporate priorities and strategies. The provision of the right asset in the right place at the right time will ensure the effective and efficient delivery of a comprehensive range of high quality public services.



The unprecedented financial constraints, which all Local Authorities and other public sector partners continue to experience means that we have to be ever more efficient in the use of our scarce resources. This involves developing a culture of innovation and co-operation. We have made significant progress already and we have demonstrated that a reduction in the running costs of our assets and the provision of enhanced customer service is achievable and we will continue to develop this approach. Ultimately our overarching aim is to use fewer buildings but use these far more efficiently and in partnership where possible. This document sets out an integrated plan for the future management of the Council's assets and its capital programme. It facilitates a seamless interface between business planning within the Council and the management of our assets and capital resources. This will ensure that the provision of resources and future investment are prioritised and targeted into areas of greatest need or where our assets will bring the greatest benefit to our communities and citizens. It is a key document which runs alongside the Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and provides the framework for ensuring the effective and affordable management of our assets.

The document also ensures appropriate linkages to the Welsh Government's ambition for Net Zero carbon Public Sector by 2030, the Welsh Government's Future Generation Act and the Council's Climate Change strategy.

### Key Aims

- Provide a clear context within which proposals for capital expenditure are evaluated to ensure all capital investment is targeted to deliver the Council's priorities as set out in the Council Plan.
- Sets out how the Council identifies and prioritises capital requirements and proposals arising from various strategies including Council Plan, Portfolio Business Plans, and other corporate strategies and how they will be managed within the limited capital resources available.
- To contribute to the Welsh Government's Net Zero Public Sector by 2030 and manage assets to adapt to the changing climate as well as fulfilling our duties to enhance biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems.
- Critically challenge our current estate, continue with the programme of asset rationalisation, ensuring that assets retained are effective, efficient and sustainable to deliver services.
- Maximise capital receipts, whilst balancing the need for land retention for our own carbon sequestration purposes.
- Identify and consider options available to fund capital expenditure that minimises the ongoing revenue implications of historic capital expenditure and of any new investments.
- Use partnerships, both public and private, more effectively to support our overall strategy.
- Build on our arrangements for managing capital projects including assessment of outcomes and achievement of value for money.

### Principles

- The basic principle for managing our assets is to ensure that the right asset is in the right place to support Council priorities and enable efficient service delivery. In so doing we will identify and seek to dispose of surplus assets and those where retention provides no economic benefit to the Council.
- By understanding our future requirements and our current asset base we can map out a strategy for delivery. This will inform our capital programme for the medium term which is split into three sections; a reduced core programme of schemes that are regulatory / statutory in nature, a retained asset programme to improve or enhance the life of existing assets, and a larger investment programme in schemes linked to the Council's strategic priorities.
- To decarbonise assets, by designing and constructing new buildings to low carbon and investing in an infrastructure first strategy for existing buildings to reduce energy use.
- Set a capital programme split into three sections; a reduced core programme of schemes that are regulatory / statutory in nature, a retained asset programme to improve or enhance the life of existing assets, and a larger investment programme in schemes linked to the Council's strategic priorities.
- Schemes included in our investment programme will be subject to completion of a business case to include a thorough appraisal of options, sensitivity analysis and carbon reduction assessment, with the schemes that generate efficiencies for the MTFS being favoured.



- Whole life analysis and Net Present Value (NPV) calculations will be applied to major schemes in the investment programme linked through to the MTFs.
- With Capital and Revenue resources under pressure innovative and creative solutions to procuring capital assets will be sought.
- Assets surplus to requirements will be disposed of when appropriate in order to generate the maximum capital receipt for the Council.

## 2. Achievements to Date

We have achieved many of the objectives we set out in the previous asset management plan including:

- We have progressed our office rationalisation programme and reduced the occupied space in County Hall by 50% and have moved staff to our newly refurbished office in Ewloe. In doing so have made efficiencies in building costs, utilities, maintenance as well as reducing the rateable value.
- We have demolished phases 3 and 4 of county hall and propose to move forward with the redevelopment of the campus when market conditions dictate.
- Implemented the regeneration of Flint Town Centre by utilising our land and property to facilitate the development of a new Extra Care scheme and Medical Centre.
- The Council has significantly increased the provision of affordable housing. Our Housing investment programme has provided 149 new homes through the SHARP programme, 173 affordable homes, through a combination of SHARP and NEW Homes.
- We have progressed our programme of Community Asset Transfers. Since embarking on the programme five years ago we have transferred 17 assets which has resulted in revenue savings for the council.
- Flintshire County Council is committed to providing high quality services for adults with a Learning Disability. To support this commitment, the Council has delivered a new £4 million learning disability community hub (Hwb Cyfle) This flagship facility provides the highest quality environment for day care support and activities. The 'Hwb' specialises in social care services for vulnerable adults and aims to provide improved health and well-being for people supported, helping them to achieve outcomes by developing skills and supporting them to live more independently
- The Council is committed to reduction of CO2 emissions from energy use across our buildings. Energy reduction schemes across these assets over the last five years has included: installation of mounted solar photovoltaics (PV) on ten of our buildings including eight schools, LED lighting refurbishment in twenty four of our buildings, Air Conditioning upgrades, and installation of pool covers in two pavilions. We have also utilised land to develop four Solar Farms across the county with potential energy generation of 4mWh based on 85% generation. These measures have seen an estimated 1.3million kWh p/a reduction in energy use, saving approx. £377,425 and 311,376 KgCO2e per kWh saving.
- Extension to Residential Care Home, Marleyfield – Buckley - This capital investment project was developed through a joint Integrated Care Fund (ICF) budget arrangement with Betsi Cadwalder University Health Board (BCUHB) and has provided additional services, beds (increased from 32 to 64) and multidisciplinary support in a community setting. The facility provides permanent residential beds, as well as beds which prevent hospital admissions, expedites hospital discharges and allows appropriate assessment to reduce care packages to support people in the long term.
- Childcare Programme – The Welsh Government made capital grants available to councils for the purposes of childcare provision across Wales. The objectives of the programme is to provide 30 hours of government-funded early education and childcare for up to 48 weeks of the year to all three and four year olds of eligible working parents. The programme includes different capital funding packages to maximise investment in a number of school sites and is formed from the following funding streams; WG Childcare Grant, WG Welsh Medium Grant, 21st Century schools, Flying Start and Flintshire County Council's own capital funding. Twelve projects are being progressed within the programme, which will all be complete in 2022/23 financial year.

- The Council has been successful in securing grant funding for both revenue and capital projects. It has an ambitious programme valued at £85m for the sustainable communities programme (Band B). It has secured funding through the Small and Rural Schools Grant, Infant Class Size Grant, Welsh Medium and Childcare grants. Together with Council funded contributions forms the core of the capital investment strategy for schools.
- The Council currently has an estimated Repair & Maintenance (R&M) backlog of approximately £12m ( 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022) in the Schools portfolio, this is a substantial improvement from the £35m backlog reported back in 2010.

### **Sustainable Communities Programme ( 2019-2025)**

The Welsh Government have rebranded the former 21st Century Schools Programme to Sustainable Communities Programme. The Council submitted its Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) to Welsh Government in 2017 and secured an in principle funding envelope of £85m. The programme is subject to both Council approval and Welsh Government Business case submission on an individual project basis and is intrinsically linked to the Council's Plan, MTFS and the Council's recently adopted Climate Change Strategy. However the Council also use other external and internal funding streams to optimise strategic investment in the schools portfolio, to date the following progress has been made:-

### **Connahs Quay High School – Phase 2**

The £4.3m investment, followed on from Phase 1 in Band A and was completed in late 2019. The project provided new administration area, demolished the former administration block, new cladding to sports hall and main façade upgrades, improved car park and existing access road works, kitchen and dining alterations, provided general refurbishment/remodeling/new windows and also encompassed additional IT and accessibility compliance works.

### **Queensferry Campus Project**

The Campus project was in excess of £11m was completed in spring 2022 and provided a remodelled and refurbished 3-11 primary school for up to 180 full time, removal of split site Pupil Referral Unit provision and new build Pupil Referral Unit (Plas Derwen) for up to 111 vulnerable learners from 4-16 who experience difficulty accessing mainstream education and require specialist intervention for their behavioural, social and emotional challenges. It also delivered provision of a new community hub (Ty Calon) with funding from the WG Community Learning Grant, Flying Start and a contribution from the Welsh Rugby Union.

### **Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt**

The Council obtained a £1.3m grant for Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt under the WG infant class size fund, which was added to the £997k investment agreed in the Councils Capital programme. This enabled a larger £2.7m extension and refurbishment project to proceed and completed during Spring 2020 .

### **Ysgol Castell Alun, Hope**

The £7.6m project to construct a new build three storey Art, Design Technology (DT) & classroom block was completed and occupied at the start of September 2021 as planned, external works for which refurbishment and resurfacing of existing All Weather Pitch followed.

### **Ysgol Glanrafon, Mold**

The project at Ysgol Glanrafon was funded primarily via external Welsh Government funding through the Childcare and Welsh Medium Grants with the balance secured through the Council's Repair and Maintenance allocations, S106 contributions and a small amount of Salix finance through the Council's energy team to support energy efficiency measures. Construction of the £4.2m project commenced on site November 2020 and was completed in late spring 2022.

### **Ysgol Brynffordd**

This is a council funded project for extension and remodelling of the existing school with an investment of circa £1.090m in the school which was completed earlier than anticipated in January 2022. The project has delivered an extension to the school hall, community room and storage, a new reception/nursery class, library and staffroom, and toilet provision. The project has also reconfigured existing space to form a new Head's room and Additional Learning Needs space.

### Agricultural Estate

Following a review of our Agricultural Estate in 2011 we have continued to dispose of our farms and small holdings in line with our disposal policy as and when they become vacant and have in the past five years generated in excess of £7m in capital receipts from such disposals. However there are emerging national discussions in relation to the Agriculture Bill Wales, which may impact on our current strategy. Therefore, this situation will be monitored and if the Bill is brought forward, by Welsh Government, the Council will need to review its future policy and disposal considerations.

# 3. Asset Management Planning in Flintshire - The Key Facts

### Property Asset Management

Flintshire County Council (FCC) manages a property portfolio of over 7,845, of which 7,315 are homes managed through its Housing team portfolio and 530 properties, managed through its Valuation and Estates team which consists of two distinct property types:

### Operational Properties

Operational properties are those that are used to directly support Council service delivery such as schools, service centres and depots together with those operated by partner organisations such as AURA Leisure and Libraries. There are currently 161 operational property assets.

### Non - Operational Properties

Non - Operational Properties are those used to enable the council to support local business space and economic development, indirectly support corporate/community planning objectives and provide the council with a revenue stream.

The Council is committed to managing property assets efficiently and effectively to support the delivery of services and priorities. Property Maintenance Services compile and monitor the following indicators to assist in the management of the property portfolio.

A rolling programme of maintenance has been produced based on initial condition surveys which will be reviewed cyclically not less than every 5 years.

Buildings are categorised according to their condition with priority levels in accordance with the WG performance indicators.

### Condition Categories

A	B	C	D
Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor

### Priority Categories

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Urgent – Prevent Closure	Essential – Work required in 2 years	Desirable – work required in 5 years

### Operational Property Condition Information

Property Use/Type	Sites	Condition				Priority 1 Urgent	Priority 2 Essential	Priority 3 Desirable	Total Priority 1 - 3
		A	B	C	D				
Behavior Unit	3	2	1	0	0	£1,259	£4,450	£0	£5,709
Community Centre / Youth Centre	16	0	11	5	0	£65,355	£342,878	£291,456	£699,689
Libraries (Partnership)	6	0	3	3	0	£65,665	£103,447	£82,185	£251,297
Sports Pavilions	7	0	6	1	0	£0	£70,722	£15,858	£86,580
Leisure Centres & Swimming Baths (Partnership)	4	0	4	0	0	£0	£802,508	£533,559	£1,336,067
Primary Schools	65	4	54	7	0	£119,154	£3,580,657	£4,187,722	£7,887,533
Secondary Schools	11	1	8	2	0	£122,650	£1,498,246	£1,506,649	£3,127,545
Special (Other) Facilities	5	4	1	0	0	£5,900	£4,450	£202,217	£212,567
Offices and Admin Buildings	6	0	6	0	0	£17,691	£544,604	£5,578,260	£6,140,555
Depots	1	0	1	0	0	£0	£10,503	£0	£10,503
Theatres	1	0	0	1	0	£328,900	£3,596,110	£4,635,661	£8,560,671
Residential Care Homes	3	2	1	0	0	£16,003	£9,085	£113,300	£138,388
Adult Learning Centre	7	2	5	0	0	£16,695	£278,249	£271,823	£566,767
Environment	8	0	5	3	0	£70,928	£328,635	£306,309	£705,872
Farms	16	6	9	1	0	£3,948	£300,772	£173,539	£478,259
Property Holdings	2	0	1	1	0	£0	£111,959	£22,659	£134,618
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£834,148</b>	<b>£11,587,275</b>	<b>£17,921,197</b>	<b>£30,342,620</b>

### Summary Asset Data (PI CAM Status Report) as at 01 Apr 2022

### Operational Assets

Summary Asset Data (CAM Status Report) as at May 2022 The Council has a diverse range of operational assets as listed in the table below:

Property Type	Number
Schools	81
Pupil Referral Unit	1
Caretakers Houses	3
Misc Property	31
Libraries	6
Youth Centre	9
Community Centres	13
Community Centres - Other	1
Swimming Baths	3
Work Opp Centre	1

Day Centres	2
Residential Homes	3
Public Conveniences	6
Cemeteries	13
Civic Amenity Sites	7
Depot	1
Council Offices	9
Misc Operational	2
Children's Residential Homes	3
Markets	1
Educational Establishments	8
Leisure Sports Centre	7
Sports Grounds/Club	19
Parks and Open Space	5
Playing Fields /Recreational land	72
Play Areas	159
Amenity Space	46
Allotments	13
Ancient Monuments	11
Bowling Greens/Clubs	23

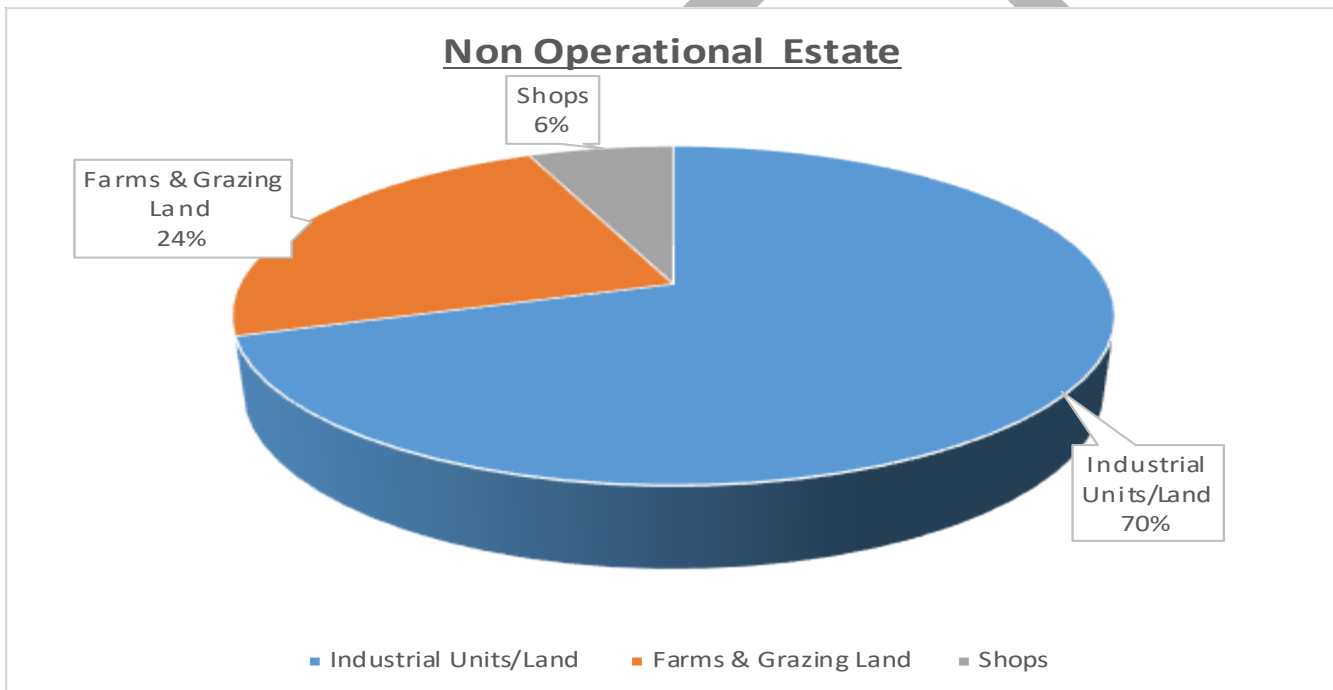
With regard to our schools the Council has an up to date Asset Management system and data from the system which is used as a tool to assist in determining priorities for capital investment in the schools network.

Condition Surveys are undertaken through a framework agreement with the private sector and condition surveys are undertaken by RICS qualified surveyors on a rolling five year cycle. Welsh Government have recently introduced standardised methodology, Flintshire will introduce this into its rolling cycle.

All asset information is shared and verified with individual schools. In the future, the aspiration is that this will be through a Cloud based Asset Management System, when the existing system is modernised.

### Non-operational Estate

The Council also holds a significant commercial portfolio as detailed below.



These non-operational properties currently provide an annual income of circa £1.5 million. We will be undertaking a detailed review of our industrial portfolio, which will assist in determining the most economically beneficial strategy for each of the estates. This review will be completed in the 2023/2024 financial year.

### Capital Receipts

The Council seeks to dispose of surplus assets to generate capital receipts. Over the last six years we have sold assets totaling almost £9 million. In addition, we have used our Council land to invest and develop new social and affordable housing delivered through the SHARP programme.

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
(2,099,329.91)	(2,921,427.20)	(2,296,013.34)	(1,618,000.00)	(1,292,616.00)	(894,000.00)

## 4. Assets Strategy - The Bigger Picture

### National strategic context

The Welsh Government has set out its programme of well-being objectives which are set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

In 2019, the Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency in Wales, setting plans for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030. 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' sets out the Welsh Government's approach to cutting carbon emissions from this sector. The Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2021 proposes further ambitious climate targets for Wales becoming a net zero nation by 2050. In terms of biodiversity, the Council continues to comply with its Section 6 duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, by maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and promoting the resilience of ecosystems. This also links with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 maximising contributions to the Well-being goals. Other national policies and plans include the National Nature Recovery Action Plan, Action Plan for Pollinators and Climate and Nature emergency declarations. These Regulations and Acts will need to be considered along with other factors when we review and consider land use.

From an asset management perspective the Welsh Government has established Ystydau Cymru (formerly National Assets Working Group) which encourages excellence in active management of the Welsh public sector estate by the promotion and facilitation of strategic opportunities across geographical and organisational boundaries.

The impact of Brexit and the pandemic has brought significant challenges to the our investment programme, with labour, supply chain issues and unprecedented inflationary issues in construction costs. However, despite these challenges the Council continues to deliver its planned investment plans.

### Financial Context

The ongoing and challenging financial environment continues to create issues for the Council. The revenue budget remains under significant pressure and in the context of the Capital programme, the ability to generate capital receipts through the disposal of Council land and property assets is constrained as opportunity to dispose of its own land reduces. This scenario creates issues for the delivery of any programme and requires a case by case review of the projects contained in the programme to determine the availability of capital resources or whether other funding mechanisms should be actively pursued, such as Prudential Borrowing.

## 5. Regional Strategic Context



### Corporate Joint Committees

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committee's (CJC's) . The Act provides for the establishment of CJs through Regulations.

Regulations creating four CJs in Wales ("the Establishment Regulations") were made on 17 March 2021 and CJs were established on 1 April 2021, based on the geographical areas requested by local government and reflecting existing regional collaborative arrangements.

Each region in Wales now has a CJC, The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is made up of the following LA's; Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire & Wrexham. The CJS is a mechanism for doing things differently with a regional focus in the designated areas of Transport, Strategic Planning and Economy. It offers opportunities to streamline existing collaboration arrangements, such as those under Growth deals.

The model also enables the separate regional arrangements that had been proposed for Strategic Development Planning and Regional Transport Planning to be brought under a single model - aligning economic development, transport, and land use planning approaches to develop successful regional economies and encourage local growth.

### Ambition North Wales and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board

The Economic Ambition Board was established by local authority partners as a joint committee in 2019 and is the decision-making body for the North Wales Growth Deal, as well as holding responsibility for leading on regional economic collaboration. In November 2021 a new brand called Ambition North Wales was launched to represent the board's work.

The Final Deal is the contract between the UK Government, Welsh Government and the Economic Ambition Board for the delivery of the £1bn Growth Deal and was secured on the basis of a Portfolio Business Case and five Programme Business Cases securing the total investment of £240m (£120m by UK Government and £120m by Welsh Government).

Having secured the Final Deal, the partners agreed to enter into a second Governance Agreement which supports the partnership through the implementation phase of the Growth Deal's projects and further development of the Growth Vision for North Wales.

Information about progress on all of the Growth Deal's projects can be found [here](#)

# Regional Capital Projects

Joint Archive Facility, Flintshire and Denbighshire Councils:

This proposed scheme recognises and responds to the need and demand of the two local authorities archive services. Both services occupy old buildings, unfit for purpose. They lack suitable public spaces and appropriate storage, are too full to accept new collections and are listed buildings lacking scope for adaptation, requiring expensive maintenance. The proposal is to construct a new building on the County Hall campus, creating a cultural hub, to house both the physical archives and the new service operations.



# 6. Local strategic context

## **Council's Climate Change Strategy 2022- 2030**

The Climate Change strategy was adopted by Council in February 2022. The strategy sets the commitment to become a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2030. To achieve this, the Council must reduce the amount of carbon it emits and increase the amount of carbon it absorbs (sequesters). Our assets play a major contribution to this due to the carbon emissions from energy we use to heat and power our buildings, and the opportunities to utilise land for both renewable energy and planting to offset the carbon emissions we can not remove. The effects of climate change are internationally recognised, and therefore we also need to plan our assets for the changing climate – utilising natural heating and cooling, place based design of residential and town centres, and access for all to green spaces. The strategy looks to further manage and improve land for biodiversity net gain while incorporating natural flood risk mitigation.

The Climate Change strategy seeks to:

- Reduce the amount of carbon being emitted from its buildings through electricity, gas, oil, LPG, biomass and water. This can be achieved by improving the energy efficiency of our current buildings and converting buildings to low carbon heat solutions and rainwater harvesting. We can design and construct all new buildings to low carbon in operation standard while adapting to future climates, and ensure embodied carbon is also low to minimise impact on supply chain. Rationalisation of underused buildings can also support this.
- Increase the amount of energy that can be generated through renewable technologies both within its building and land assets with preference to schemes where our buildings can benefit from the generated energy.
- Increase carbon sequestration from land the Council owns and operates through additional planting to existing land and acquisition of new sites where necessary. This can be achieved by reviewing the decision making process when land is being rationalised to the benefit of larger scale planting schemes, flood risk management and biodiversity net gain.

## **Flintshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2015-2030**

The Council published its Deposit LDP for consultation in the autumn of 2019 and following consideration of the comments the plan remained unchanged and was submitted for Public Examination by the Council in October 2020. The 20 Examination hearing sessions took place between April and May 2021 with two further specific follow up sessions in September and November 2021 to deal with a large site at Warren Hall Broughton, and the issue of Phosphates. A delay has been caused to the LDP by the new issue of the need to reduce the levels phosphates from new development entering special Area of Conservation protected rivers which in Flintshire's case is the River Dee, via its tributary the River Alyn. The Council resolved these Matters with the Inspector by February 2022 but then had to await the Local Government Elections before progressing to the final stage of the Plan.

The Council published final changes to the LDP known as Matters Arising Changes (MACs) resulting from the Examination process, for public consultation between the 17<sup>th</sup> June and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The responses received will be sent to the Inspector for her consideration during August 2022. Following this it is anticipated that the Council will receive the inspector's report on the Examination in September 2022 and it then has 8 weeks within which to consider the report and adopt the plan. The Inspector's report is binding on the Council. The plan should therefore finally be adopted by the end of October 2022 and will then replace the UDP and set the context for how and where development takes place, and form the basis of decisions at Planning Committee.

## **Council Plan (2023 – 2028)**

Which is currently being developed, in summary, will set out the Council's priorities for the duration of the plan and highlight what we aim to achieve. As with previous plans, it will use key themes with specific objectives and actions where we aim to make an impact.

## **Flintshire Housing Strategy & Action Plan (2019 -2024)**

Our Housing Strategy sets out how we intend to achieve this through working collaboratively with our strategic partners in an intelligent and innovative way to deliver our ambition. The Strategy details our key priorities and actions for delivery going forward as well as acknowledging our progress to date.

### **Schools Modernisation Strategy**

The Council has a responsibility to review and modernise all school provision, to ensure that we are providing the best possible opportunities for learners, so that they can achieve their full potential.

Therefore, we need to review our school provision to:

- ensure our education provision is both high quality and sustainable;
- improve the quality of school buildings and facilities; and
- provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations.

Key Drivers for Schools Modernisation:-

- Educational improvement
- Resilient School Leadership
- Suitable Buildings
- Unfilled places
- Diminishing Resources

### **Digital Strategy**

Is an ambitious plan which sets out how we will improve and simplify our services. Its not just about making more services available online, it about changing the way we deliver our services to provide the best experiences for everyone

### **People and Organisational Development Strategy (2022-2025)**

Whilst, the Asset Management Plan, is a document which really relates to Land and buildings, we should reference the People and Organisational Development Strategy, as our employees are our single biggest asset (and cost) and without whom we are unable to deliver services to communities. The Council flexible and agile work policies directly impact areas like the council's accommodation strategy, also promoting the Council as a great place to work and assisting in both recruitment and retention of staff.

### **Urban Tree and Woodland Plan**

The Urban Tree and Woodland Plan sets a target of achieving an urban canopy cover of 18% by 2033 from the current 14.5% (2013), the seventh lowest in Wales. Trees are emblematic of the natural world because of the critical role they play in mitigating climate change, habitat creation and increasing biodiversity. From a human perspective it is widely accepted that trees have a positive effect on our mental and physical health, particularly in urban areas. Actions in the Section 6 Biodiversity Plan directly support targets within the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan. **Section 6 Biodiversity Plan** "[Supporting Nature in Flintshire](#)" is Flintshire County Council's second biodiversity duty plan which outlines how, as an organisation, we plan to address our biodiversity duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. All major threats to nature including climate change, over-exploitation, habitat loss, and invasive species, can be addressed by living more sustainably which is at the heart of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. This is why all actions within the Plan are in line with the sustainable development principles also known as the "5 ways of working" outlined in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. This plan impacts on how we consider land use within the Council.

### **Economic Development Strategy**

An Economic Development Strategy is currently being developed which supports Business Sector Growth and Regeneration, it is hoped that this will be complete by March 2023.

### **Highways Asset Management Plan**

The Council's strategy for the management and maintenance of the highway asset is based on the "Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure" code of practice, which was published by the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG) in October 2016, which was commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT).

Highway assets that are considered in this process include carriageways, footways, structures, street lighting, traffic management systems and road-markings. The focus is primarily on those elements that are considered to be of high value or risk. These principles are followed as part of the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) and monthly meetings are held to agree strategies for investment in highway asset groups, and ensure improved highway asset management and best value for highways investment is achieved.

### **Portfolio Business Plans**

Chief Officers as part of business planning at Portfolio level will include medium term capital and asset requirements – this will provide a clear link mapping out and supporting strategic thinking and identifying specific areas where there will be capital requirements or asset related issues to consider. Including capital and asset implications in Portfolio business plans will involve services giving much earlier consideration to their requirements which can then be considered on a Council wide priority basis, clearly linked to portfolio business plans, the Council Plan and other strategic plans over a medium term time frame.

### **Cross Portfolio Working**

A Capital planning group is in place and meets regularly, it is made up of representatives from Council portfolios, this ensures an appropriate strategic corporate overview and also enables sharing of information which maximises the efficiency of strategic investment to both individual projects and areas.

### **Capital Programme**

There is a great deal of overlap between asset planning and capital planning, at both the strategic and the operational level. Capital planning is about capital investment or expenditure, as distinct from revenue expenditure or running costs. Capital expenditure can be defined as expenditure on assets that will provide a benefit to the organisation beyond the current financial year. This includes expenditure on:

- purchase of new assets
- creation of new assets
- enhancing and/or extending the useful life of existing assets.

The way in which assets are managed on a day-to-day basis can have significant implications for the capital programme. Inadequate levels of routine maintenance and capital investment can increase the revenue cost of reactive maintenance which is expensive and the capital expenditure that is required in the long run. A good example of this is highways maintenance, where cutting capital budgets tends to result in increased revenue expenditure on filling potholes. Inadequate levels of routine maintenance and capital investment also reduce the value of capital receipts that can be achieved from the disposal of assets. Asset Management Plan's should therefore be based on an integrated approach to the day-to-day management of assets and the longer term plans for those assets based on the asset strategy. An asset may be in good condition, but no longer suited to the purpose for which it exists. For example, a school might be in good condition, but it may have multiple classrooms of unsuitable size and shape and or accommodation deficits when compared to the relevant school building bulletin guidance, making it an unsuitable environment for 21st century education provision.

# 7. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The MTFS forecasts funding levels and resource requirements over the medium term, identifies the gap between the two, and enables specific actions to be identified to balance the budget and manage resources.

Any asset investment plan that results in a capital project will have consequences for the revenue budget, both positive and negative. These may be savings to running costs, schemes that generate income or resultant revenue costs of servicing any borrowing associated with the scheme. It is therefore essential that the capital and revenue budget cycles are aligned to ensure that these revenue implications are properly costed and fed into the MTFS.

## Capital and Assets Programme Board

The Capital and Assets Programme Board comprises a group of senior officers from each Chief Officer portfolio who have an interest, proactive approach and enthusiasm around the development and management of work streams relating to the councils capital programme and wider asset base. The Board will manage and oversee the following activities:-

- Capital Receipt Planning (manage the delivery of capital receipts to maximise resources for the capital programme);
- Capital programme forward planning (to provide a forward look and anticipate likely work items for future capital programmes and to understand the potential revenue implications)
- Principal capital programme management (to ensure key principal programme items run to plan and deliver the Councils Core Programme and other agreed programmes of work – Portfolio Business Planning and Investment Plans);
- Consider reports to Cabinet, Council, or Scrutiny Committees regarding capital programme delivery;
- Capital and Asset Management Strategies (to develop and maintain the strategy ensuring strategic linkage into the MTFS);
- Public sector shared asset planning (develop partnership solutions to strategic asset delivery through shared resources);
- Estate depreciation planning and management (effective management of assets, retention, disposal strategies and plans)
- Section 106 planning agreement strategy and management and any other contributions to capital schemes
- Regeneration and market stimulation (by considering proposals for wider regeneration, linkages to SHARP and the contribution the Councils land and property makes to this activity acting as a catalyst or lever).
- Creative capital funding solutions (regularly explore opportunities for innovative funding solutions which reduce the burden of interest charges and revenue impact);
- Prepare reports for consideration relating to land disposals, acquisitions and lettings;
- Contribute proactively to the delivery of the Councils Community Asset Transfer strategy and where applicable Alternative Delivery Model strategies

# 8. Asset Management Planning in Flintshire - Where we want to be

The aim of our long-term corporate Asset Strategy is to move towards an optimal portfolio of assets and to maximise income. To achieve an optimal portfolio of assets we have considered what assets we need to deliver the Council's corporate objectives efficiently. This Asset Strategy directly relates to the Council's purposes: the services we are responsible for providing and the statutory functions we are responsible for fulfilling. It links the assets we require in order to provide services and fulfil our functions.

The optimal portfolio is not simply the assets that the Council would ideally like to have if resources were unlimited, but those assets that best enable corporate objectives to be delivered, taking into account overall value for money and the needs of our local communities.

This high level strategic document makes reference to the more detailed asset management plans developed within portfolios for example; Climate Change Strategy, Schools modernisation, Highways Asset Management Plan, Housing Business Plan, Corporate Property, Industrial Estate, Agricultural Estate and the Digital Strategy.

At a high level for the varying categories of assets the strategy includes our plans for:

- Low carbon in operation and increased carbon sequestration across our assets
- purchasing and constructing new assets to low carbon or net zero carbon standards and as a vehicle to increase carbon sequestration and reduce our energy costs.
- investing in and replacing existing assets.
- transferring assets to other organisations. I.e. Community Asset Transfers.
- disposing of assets that are surplus to requirements.
- Sets out the long term modifications required to the Council's portfolio of assets to deliver efficient services in the future.
- Links with various other Council strategies including the Council Plan, Portfolio Business Plans and other corporate strategies to identify changes required to the Council's portfolio of assets.
- In conjunction with the Capital Strategy manage the levels of investment required within the limited capital resources available.
- Determine what assets are required for effective service delivery.
- Seek to maximise opportunities to generate sustainable income levels, through rent for example, whilst reducing the Council's liabilities.
- Critically challenge our current estate, continue with the programme of asset rationalisation, ensuring that assets retained are effective, efficient and sustainable to deliver services.

## Key Aims

Following consultation with service areas and consideration of requirements within the context of the capital strategy, the following potential projects have been identified.

These schemes contribute directly to identified priorities within the Council Plan ( 2023- 2028)

### Local Development Plan (LDP)

The Flintshire Local Development Plan (2015-2030) is approaching the end of the Examination process following the consultation on Matters Arising Changes. It is anticipated subject to the Inspector in issuing the binding Report, the Plan can be adopted in Autumn 2022.

The LDP provides a total of 124.97 hectares of employment land and potentially some 8-10,000 jobs. It makes provision for 7870 new dwellings in order to deliver the housing requirement of 6,950 dwellings, through a built-in flexibility allowance. In the first 5 years of the Plan period a total of 2,609 dwellings have already been completed, and the Plan is on track in terms of housing delivery. The remaining housing will be delivered through a mix of housing commitments (sites with planning permission), allowances for unidentified small site and large site windfalls, the strategic mixed use allocation at Northern Gateway and a further 11 non-strategic housing allocations. Both the Northern Gateway and the 11 non-strategic sites have developer interest ensuring that they are capable of being delivered within the Plan period in accordance with the Plans housing trajectory. The Plan also has a second strategic allocation at Warren Hall Broughton, which seeks to deliver a high quality B1 and B2 business park with hotel.

The Plan's provision for growth is accompanied by a framework of policies which seeks to ensure appropriate and necessary infrastructure improvements are secured alongside new development. Policies also seek to protect the natural environment and bring about improvements, particularly through the provision of green infrastructure in connection with new housing development.

### Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly the WG 21st Century Schools investment programme)

The current iteration of Sustainable Communities for Learning programme (Band B) is due to end by 2024/25. As each of the remaining schemes is proposed for approval, a decision will need to be made taking into account its affordability in the context of the position on the MTFS. The Flintshire funding element of the Sustainable Communities for Learning will need to be funded from Prudential Borrowing.

Welsh Government had approved the Council's submission of its Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme (Band B) in principle in 2017, in doing so agreed a funding envelope. The programme is currently funded with an agreed WG/council intervention rate. The WG intervention rate for the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is currently as follows:

- Community schools WG 65%/Council 35%
- ALN/PRU 75%/Council 25%
- Voluntary Aided Schools WG 85%/15% Governors and finally
- Mutual Investment Model (MIM) a revenue based, lifecycled product, WG 81%/Council 19%.

Currently the Council is progressing with the following school investment projects:-

**Ysgol Croes Atti, Glannau Dyfrdwy site** - This proposed project is funded through the Welsh Government Childcare Grant and Welsh Government 21st Century school investment programme. It forms part of an extended work package which will see an investment of circa £1.1m in the Glannau Dyfrdwy site, improving provision for Welsh medium education in the Shotton area - an important strand of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategy. The construction commenced on site in January 2022 with the anticipated completion in Autumn 2022.

**Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint** - This proposed project replaces the existing school on a new site in Flint. The Project will cater for 240 pupils, will include early years provision and wraparound. The Project will be constructed to Net Zero Carbon and will also be Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated A and Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellent. This will be the Council's first new build Welsh Medium School provision.



**Buckley/Mynydd Isa Area** - The Council have successfully submitted an expression of interest for additional Welsh Government Welsh Medium (WM) Capital and Revenue funding. The submission highlighted the need for new Welsh Medium start up provision within Buckley/Mynydd Isa area, as identified within the Council's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP). This will now be progressed accordingly.

**Mynydd Isa – 3-16 Campus, Mynydd Isa** - The proposed project replaces Mynydd Isa Argoed High School and Mynydd Isa C.P. which is the last remaining primary provision operating on splits sites (separate infants and junior provision). This is Wales's first Mutual Investment Model (MIM) and is also a Welsh Government pathfinder project. The Project will be the Council's first Net Zero Carbon (NZC) school in both construction and in operation. The new campus will also be lifecycled for a 25 year period, again a Council and Wales first. It is anticipated that the new campus will be operational by September 2024.

**Drury C.P.** - The proposed project removes mobile classrooms and deals with suitability issues by extending and modernising the existing school to cater for an increased capacity of 180 pupils.

**Penyffordd C.P.** - A new primary school was constructed to replace the former infant and junior school with the school taking occupation of the new facility in September 2019. The original planning approval for the new school at Penyffordd included a planned two classroom extension which would increase the capacity of the school to 375 pupils. This project is now being brought forward due to local demand and is funded in the main from a combination of Section 106 developer contributions to education and topped up by the Council's own capital programme.

**Buckley Elfed** - This investment project has been identified in the Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategic Outline Programme to Welsh Government and also in the Council's MTFS and will progress should funding be available.

Other projects included in the Sustainable Communities for learning included in the Council's SOP (Band B) to Welsh Government are Hawarden High school, Flint High School and Mold Alun High School. However, information suggests that the Welsh Government are moving away from prescriptive timing on it's onward investment programme as Local Authorities and Further Education Institutes in Wales have made differing progress in their schools and college investment programmes. Instead Local Authorities and Further Education Institutes in Wales will be asked to bring forward their five year investment programmes based on local timing and funding. The intervention rates for the WG onward investment programme is currently unknown.

High level Strategic feasibility studies have been undertaken on masterplanning the current primary and secondary mainstream and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) sites in Flint, encompassing, Flint High School, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, Flint Gwynedd and Ysgol Pen Coch. This study also considers, the changing ALN demographics, possible integration of Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) unit and accommodation suitability and condition issues identified with the schools as part of a site wide investment strategy.

### **Social Services Investment Programme**

The care sector in Flintshire is working within an increasingly challenging environment as a result of a range of factors, including the complexity of need, an ageing population, rising costs, increasing expectations, regulation and difficulties with recruitment and retention of high quality staff. As a result of these pressures there is limited resilience and Flintshire is particularly challenged with only a small number of independent providers who are part of a reducing and fragile market. As a Council we are taking a positive approach to rebalancing the care home provision, creating resilience, taking a lead as a local authority to develop care homes that value older people and provide good quality support that places the Council in a good position for the future.

**Croes Atti, Flint Residential Care Home** - A proposed project which replaces and extends care provision in Flint to meet the needs of the increasing client base and the regulatory standards for care provision is included in the Council's capital investment programme. The proposed new facility will be located on the former the old cottage hospital site, located in Flint and is in the early stages of design development.

**Llys Gwenffrwd, Holywell Care Home Review** - The Holywell locality has the fewest number of care home placements available and is not fit for purpose, therefore would benefit from a new build facility on a more accessible site - this will require further consideration. As a very popular care home the bed placement position remains a challenge for the health and social care economy. It is therefore an aspiration that a capital investment project for modernisation of the care home provision in the Holywell area forms part of the Council capital programme in the future.

**Ty Nyth Children's Assessment Centre** - This is a Flintshire and Wrexham collaborative project that is redeveloping the purchased Ty Nyth property, and other buildings on the site in Mold. This will provide a new bespoke children's accommodation and assessment centre for north east Wales. The main Ty Nyth building will provide options for self-contained short term supported accommodation, emergency beds for young persons at risk to avoid inappropriate hospital admissions to the paediatric ward, or for short term parent and child assessment placements. There is potential to have a separate registered provision in the semi-detached properties which could be used as long term placements and/or for parent and child assessment provision. Welsh Government Integration Care Funding (ICF Capital) of £1.751m has been secured by Flintshire and Wrexhams Council's to deliver the project.

**Maes Gwern, Mold** - This proposed capital development will provide a centrally located integrated service hub in Mold, Flintshire to provide sustainable and high quality day services for people with learning disabilities. This will enable the relocation of an existing day services base at Tri Ffordd in Bretton to a new build bespoke hub. Social Services will work closely with service delivery partner Hft to design and develop the new hub. BCUHB Health colleagues will support the provision of integrated social care and health services. There are also plans for Mental Health Services team to support the use of volunteers in day service provision.

### Levelling Up Fund

The UK Government Levelling Up Fund Round Two opened in May 2022. In line with the bid strategy agreed at Cabinet in January 2022, the Council submitted a bid on behalf of each parliamentary constituency as follows:

**Delyn** - A bid for £14.64m has been submitted to the UK Government for the development of new industrial units at Greenfield Business Park, the demolition of two derelict units, and the refurbishment of one unit..

**Alyn and Deeside** - A bid for £10.52m has been submitted to UK Government which includes the following proposals:-

1. the redevelopment of Connah's Quay Docks;
2. construction of a new centre for the Sea Cadets at Connah's Quay Docks;
3. improving sports and community facilities at the former Corus Social Club site Shotton; and
4. renovating the Clocktower in Sealand.

In addition, Transport for Wales has submitted a strategic transport bid on behalf of the Council and the wider region for improvements on the Wrexham to Bidston railway line. The bid includes goods siding improvements to facilitate an increased service frequency on the line for passenger trains and a new station to serve Deeside Industrial Park.

### The Shared Prosperity Fund

The Shared Prosperity Fund will deliver £2.5bn of investment until March 2025 across the UK. The aim of the programme is "to build pride in place and increase life chances". UK Government have allocated £126m to North Wales to deliver the programme between 2022/2023 and 2024/2025, with £10.8m allocated to Flintshire for the core programme which can cover both revenue and capital costs.

The programme is to be managed by local government across the UK. Funding is allocated to local government and no competitive bids are expected. A regional Investment Strategy setting out the approach to delivering the programme was required order to release the funding and was submitted in early August with approval estimated for October 2022.



The programme will be managed regionally, in line with UK Government expectations, but with local authorities retaining responsibility for approving funding from their allocations. Local government is expected, in developing the programme, to engage stakeholders including from the third sector and business community and to provide opportunities for organisations to secure resources from the programme to deliver against its priorities. The expectation is that most of the programme funding will be allocated through open calls for project proposals and a transparent selection process. However, due to the timescale of the programme it is expected that the bulk of the funding available in 2022/23 will be allocated by the Council through direct award.

Further work is now required to develop the regional and local governance for the programme and the criteria and processes by which projects will be selected.

### **County Hall Campus**

The requirement to take forward the redevelopment of the site so to address the future needs of the Council and other public sector partners; to provide a range of options and an integrated approach around the Courts, Theatr Clwyd and joint Archive service together with a wider site development.

### **Industrial Estates**

The council has a wide ranging portfolio of industrial units and land which produces a rental income of circa £1.5 million per year. However, the built estate is ageing and has received little investment. To this end, a review programme has commenced which will look at the future viability of each estate.

The initial review has focused on the council holdings in Greenfield and Flint within the context of potential access to the Levelling Up Fund.

Thereafter, there is a need to continue reviews, on a site by site basis to enable a detailed strategy which considers each sites viability, whether to invest or dispose and or seek an alternative use.

### **Highways Asset Management Plan**

The core Capital Programme includes £1m per annum for the HAMP. In 2021/22, as in previous years, this has been supplemented by additional WG grant. It has been estimated that the investment required to maintain current network performance is £3.2m per annum, an increase of £2.2m per annum. The Council received confirmation from WG that the Public Highways Refurbishment Grant will not continue from the 2022/23 financial year onwards. The Council received confirmation of additional General Capital Grant in February 2022, of which a proportion of this has been allocated to replace the loss of grant income for 2022/23.

### **Digital Strategy**

Our Digital Strategy champions the use of digital technologies in order to deliver better, simpler, and more cost effective services to residents, businesses and visitors. The programme contains eight main themes and a planned programme of projects which are prioritised and reported against at corporate management meetings and via the Digital Strategy Board.

One of the themes is Digital Delivery and its aim is to *“deliver the secure, reliable, resilient and cost effective digital infrastructure and systems required to underpin delivery of the other workstreams and facilitate organisational change”*. The capital programme is used to provide this digital infrastructure used to facilitate the delivery of IT systems. It also funds the technologies and devices required to access those business systems whether they are hosted at Flintshire or in the Cloud.

### Theatr Clwyd Redevelopment

The Theatr Clwyd building is at the end of its life and needs updating to ensure it is safe for public and employment use. Funding from the Arts Council of Wales has been used to complete a feasibility study into the potential for future capital development.

The outcome of the feasibility study indicated that the main two theatres work extremely well and are the right size for audiences, however, the infrastructure supporting the building is in need of replacement and without this the Theatr is not sustainable. The scope of the project has been reduced in line with agreed key business plan objectives and will deliver the following:-

- The complete strip-out and refurbishment of the existing buildings and the new build construction of a timber foyer extension and carpentry workshop.
- The much needed refurbishment of Theatr Clwyd will revitalise the theatre for the next generation. It will provide a new home for the local community and prevent the much loved building from possible closure.
- A new timber extension at the front of the building provides a new, welcoming foyer space at three floors and contains a new double height restaurant, bar and café, as well as a meeting room and Green Room. Largely glazed, the foyer provides improved views out over the landscape of the surrounding hills, and is shaded by a large timber canopy to the south side.
- Two new rehearsal rooms are provided, including a full height room that can take a rehearsal for the Anthony Hopkins Theatre stage, the Clwyd Room is refurbished with the floor raised to all one level, and a series of designated flexible rooms for community groups are created for creative engagement, kids play and Health and Wellbeing. A sensory garden and kids play area are provided on the east elevation.
- Auditoriums are improved technically, with minor improvements to seating planning and control rooms.
- Backstage areas are refurbished and internal layouts rearranged where necessary to meet requirements of different departments. A new workshop extension at the back of the site provides a facility that is currently offsite, allowing all departments to be located at the theatre. A viewing gallery is created to allow the public to view backstage facilities.
- Accessibility will be improved throughout, with level access to all front of house areas, 5 new passenger lifts, accessible toilets throughout the building and showers in back of house areas, and new wheelchair positions in auditoriums.
- The thermal envelope of the building will be improved, and renewable energy sources including PV panels and air source heat pumps utilised to improve energy consumption. All services and theatre equipment are replaced throughout the building.

The Council will receive significant levels of external funding for the construction stage of the scheme, with £22m awarded from WG, £5m from the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) and £6m from Theatr Clwyd. Without this significant investment the Theatre building is unsustainable

### Leisure Centres

Deeside Leisure Centre (DLC) is 50 years old and reaching the end of its economic useful life. It is the largest sports facility in the County at 15,000m<sup>2</sup> and is of strategic importance regionally and locally in terms of sports participation and health and wellbeing. It is an ageing building occupying too large a footprint with inefficient energy systems. The building is not sustainable beyond the medium term.

The Council, and its strategic partner Aura, has undertaken a feasibility study and business case of options for the leisure centre going forward, and will review the impact this may have on the Capital Programme and any future potential revenue savings.

### **SHARP Programme**

The Council have aligned with the Welsh Procurement Alliance for the next phases of our development programme in order to secure even greater impact of our investment in new social housing for training and jobs in Wales through the supply chains and direct and indirect contractors.

The Welsh Government (WG) have embarked upon an ambitious programme of social housing development for the next five years. The aim is to build 20,000 new social rented homes across Wales to zero carbon emissions standards. A revised Welsh Development Quality Requirements (WDQR) standard has been adopted from October 2021. A new Social Housing Grant (SHG) has been implemented with variable grant rates dependent on scheme viability. The funding for new homes has been vastly increased. To illustrate this for Flintshire the allocation of funds has increased from around £4 million in 2020/21 to over £10 million in 2021/22. Significantly for the Council SHG is now available to Local Authorities as well as RSL's (Registered Social Landlords).

The Council will develop a SHARP 2 programme to cover and monitor the next phase of our development programme.

### **Homelessness – Young Persons Hub**

Responding to the needs of young people and particularly those who maybe at a risk of homelessness is a key focus for the Council. Consideration needs to be given to not only accommodation needs but also support to assist young people with the key life skills needed to live independently and reduce risks of homelessness. When looking at best practice in this area of work, there are a number of examples of positive practice which seek to not only provide accommodation, but also co-ordinate support and service delivery.

Over the next twelve months the Housing & Prevention Service is to consider opportunities for the development of a Young Persons Hub which will seek to provide a number of units of self-contained accommodation with support onsite. This could potentially extend to provision of housing and homelessness advice and support and offered local facilities for colocation of services within a "housing hub". A feasibility study will be considered to inform this approach which may provide office and community space to ensure a joined up approach within a multidisciplinary team model.

Subject to the outcome of feasibility works, capital funding may be required to deliver on this agenda. External funding streams will also be considered in order to maximise opportunities to develop the Young Persons Hub.

### **Homelessness - Hub**

In late 2019, the Council undertook work to develop an Emergency Bed provision for people who are homeless and may otherwise face the prospect of sleeping rough. Significant works were completed within the Glanrafon Resource Centre in Queensferry to transform the building into a Night Shelter offering up to 12 Emergency Beds. The Council, as the owner of the building, completed refurbishment works and then partnered with The Wallich, to deliver the support required to safely operate the Night Shelter.

The Glanrafon hub was always seen as a medium term solution for those who were homeless with other approaches to be developed in future years with a commitment to provide a wider range of support.

### **The Standard Industrial Estate Waste Transfer Station (WTS), Buckley**

This receives all of the kerbside recycled material from every residence in Flintshire and is now operating at its maximum capacity. It lacks the space and equipment to be able to take in more material or any additional recycling streams required for processing. The WTS also operates across two sites in the same location and on separate sides of a public access road to the industrial estate, which can cause logistical difficulties with collection vehicles, on site plant and haulage vehicles. At peak times of the year, the site already struggles to cope in terms of space and room

for processing, depositing and storage of materials. Without further development of the facility, there is a risk that the rise in the quantity of the materials collected will start to compromise the quality of the recycled product. Consequently, the facility is at a critical point and further investment in infrastructure is required to ensure the continued viability of the site and accommodate future growth in processing capacity.

DRAFT

# 10. Asset Management Planning in Flintshire - The Challenges

## Climate Change - Carbon Reduction & Sequestration

The Welsh Government's mandate for a net zero Public Sector includes the decarbonisation of buildings. There is a newly mandated requirement for new build schools, extensions and refurbishments to be built to net zero standard, and the expectation that extension and refurbishments of assets, will also obtain good environmental and energy ratings. However, guidance around a set standard for existing buildings has not yet been determined, therefore, in the interim, the Council will look to best practice from elsewhere in the sector to ascertain the most effective method to decarbonise these assets. The implementation of low carbon methodologies/technologies, both within new build and retrofit, can cause significant increases in cost. This increase will need to be analysed against the benefit over longer term both in terms of financial savings and carbon-related gains.

The Welsh Government's mandate also requires us to consider our land assets for larger renewable energy schemes and carbon sequestration planting schemes. This requirement may conflict with other priorities around land management and disposal of assets for financial gain, and therefore a clear decision making process must be adopted so that the most appropriate options are taken for both existing land assets and those we procure.

## Construction Market

There has been significant materials price escalation since May 2020. Price increases started to be seen in 2021 due to a combination of factors, including:

- Commodity price increases were seen as industry around the world has restarted following lockdowns during the pandemic
- Major economies saw increases in demand as they tried to revive their economies e.g. timber (USA), steel (China), which contributed to shortages and price inflation.
- Lockdowns saw a dramatic increase in demand for DIY and garden project materials across most G7 countries
- COVID-19 cases caused operating restrictions and interruptions where workers needed to self-isolate
- Shortages in shipping containers driving up shipping prices and a widespread shortage of HGV drivers has increased delivery costs and extended delivery times
- With a shift to renewable energy and electric vehicles there is increased demand for materials such as copper and aluminium.
- Labour Shortages – Brexit Impact
- Ukrainian War.

As well as price increases there have been issues with the availability of materials and products and extended lead-in times which are also adding to the continuing pressures on construction projects.

## Agricultural Bill

The Government has recently consulted on a proposed new Agriculture Act. The proposals include preventing local authorities disposing of any farms or smallholdings in their ownership. In accordance with our Farm Disposal Policy we have sold 13 farms and realised £7m+ in the last 5 years. If we were to be prevented from selling any more this would also have an impact on the funds available in the capital programme.

### **Modern Energy Efficiency Standards**

The Government has introduced legislation which prevents commercial properties being let or re-let to the same tenant if their EPC grade is below E. This will be widened from 1 April 2023 to capture all let properties even if there has been no change in tenant, and it is proposed minimum requirements will increase to grade B by 2030. This may have implications on the income we receive, may influence our disposal strategy and there may also be investment required to bring the properties up to standard.

### **Funding**

The Council has limited capital resources from Welsh Government to support Council priorities, needs and liabilities; however, it has the powers to fund Capital schemes by borrowing, but this is temporary and ultimately the cost and repayment of any borrowing is charged to the Council's revenue budget. Schemes funded by borrowing are carefully considered due to the long term impacts on the Council's revenue budget.

### **Economic Impacts**

In recent years much of the Council's programme has been funded from capital receipts. However, the Council's ability to generate significant capital receipts is more challenging and is almost exhausted. Although the Council will wherever possible seek to identify assets for sale (as appropriate) to fund the Capital Programme. However, this needs to be balanced against the need for Land use for carbon sequestration.



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP), Update Report
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report aims to inform members of the progress of SHARP six years in and to set the strategy for new affordable homes for the next five years. The Council entered into a five year partnership with Wates to help develop new council housing in 2016 and to date have delivered 149 new council homes, 173 NEW Homes properties, the Maes Gwern development and further 77 in the pipeline.

The report updates the situation since last reported in February 2021, outlines progress under the new welsh procurement framework partnership and also the net zero carbon working group, highlights changes in the WG new build priorities, the new funding regime and its implications for Flintshire and NEW Homes. It also suggests an outline programme for further development for the next five years.

The report also covers changes to the criterion for registration with Tai Teg, the regional affordable housing provider.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet to note progress with SHARP to date.
2	Cabinet to note the changes in WG funding for social housing
3	Cabinet to note the changes to the criterion for registration with Tai Teg for affordable rented housing



4	Cabinet to note the outline development programme SHARP 2
5	Cabinet to support the re-allocation of £121K budget for scheme investigation and feasibility works to support new delivery routes.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE STRATEGIC HOUSING AND REGENERATION PROGRAMME (SHARP)</b>
1.01	The Welsh Government's 'Prosperity for All: the national strategy' recognises the central importance of affordable homes, and the role which housing plays in society. In recent times, both the Council and stakeholder partners have stepped in to address the impact of many families struggling to afford food during lockdown the devastation caused by repeat flooding and the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. All of this work has taken place while continuing with the ever-present challenges of delivering social and affordable housing, high quality care and support services and activity to, or regenerate local communities.
1.02	Flintshire was one of the first local authorities in Wales to re-commence building social and affordable housing through its Strategic Housing And Regeneration programme (SHARP) with the aim of delivering up to 500 new Council Social Rented and Affordable Rented properties over a five year period, along with a number of broader economic and regeneration strategic priorities. The Council is working with Wales Construction under a strategic partnership relationship as defined within the Overarching Agreement for SHARP dated 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2016.
	<b>Welsh Government SHG</b>
1.03	The Welsh Government (WG) have embarked upon an ambitious programme of social housing development for the next 5 years. The aim is to build 20,000 new social rented homes across Wales to zero carbon emissions. A revised Welsh Development Quality Requirement (WDQR) standard has been adopted from October 2021. A Social Housing Grant (SHG) has been implemented with variable grant rates dependent on scheme viability. The funding for new homes has been vastly increased. To illustrate this for Flintshire the allocation of funds has increased from around £4 million in 2020/21 to over "£13 million in 2021/22. Significantly for FCC Social Housing Grant (SHG) is now available to Local Authorities as well as RSL's (Registered Social Landlords).
1.04	Additionally there is an enhanced requirement for LA's administering and developing PDP (Planned Development Programme) and the requirement to produce an annual housing prospectus which summarises the local needs and demonstrates how the PDP will meet that need. It is also evident from the new grant framework that additionally subsidy cannot be used in conjunction with SHG. We will need to devise strategies to address the impact of this on both FCC and NEW Homes.



1.05 All housing for Wales shall meet the Welsh Government's Development Quality Requirements (DQR). The requirements of the DQR shall take precedent over the general specification provided with the ITT where relevant and shall be considered when pricing works under the framework. Any future schemes must be in line with the DQR or subsequent requirements set by the Welsh Government following its recent consultation process. Fossil fuels should not be used for social housing for all schemes approved hereafter. The guiding principle should be fabric first to produce very high energy efficiency.

**Current Position SHARP**

1.06 The table below summarises the current position with SHARP.

<b>SHARP Property Numbers as at May 2022.</b>	
Completed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Social Rent	149
Completed NEW Homes (Affordable Rent)	93
Completed Private Sales (Maes Gwern Wates)	106
On-Site Low Cost Home Ownership (Shared Equity) (Maes Gwern Wates)	22 (17 sold)
On-Site Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	30
On-Site NEW Homes (Affordable Rent)	0
On-Site Private Sales as yet unsold (Maes Gwern Wates)	6
Cabinet Approved	41
Awaiting Cabinet Approval	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>
<b>NEW Homes (outside SHARP i.e. gifted, section 106, package deals</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>527</b>

1.07	<p>These schemes will be the final schemes which the existing arrangements allow through the Overarching Agreement with Wates which should have ended in April 2021. However the impact of Covid lockdown and other factors have seen three schemes delayed in their completion. These are: Maes Gwern due to complete around August 2022: Mostyn (30 homes for social rent) now on site and due to complete December 2022/January 2023: Gronant (41 new homes) has not commenced on site following delays in planning discharges, an agreed decision to defer beginning the project in the winter as the build out entailed a massive earth movement at the project commencement. At present we are discussing revised pricing from the contractor.</p>														
	<p><b>Homes delivered outside of the SHARP</b></p>														
1.08	<p>In addition to SHARP, the Council and NEW Homes in partnership have delivered a further 148 social (9) and affordable (139) homes. These have been delivered by North East Wales Homes as detailed below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><b>Non-SHARP Property Numbers as at 21st January 2021 (Completions)</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Social Rent "Gifted" properties</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Purchase of Right-to-Buy Properties</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Completed NEW Homes (Affordable Rent) Section 106 "Gifted" properties</td> <td>61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Completed NEW Homes (Affordable Rent) Section 106 "Purchase" properties</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEW Homes Board Approved</td> <td>63</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>148</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Non-SHARP Property Numbers as at 21st January 2021 (Completions)</b>		Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Social Rent "Gifted" properties	4	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Purchase of Right-to-Buy Properties	5	Completed NEW Homes (Affordable Rent) Section 106 "Gifted" properties	61	Completed NEW Homes (Affordable Rent) Section 106 "Purchase" properties	15	NEW Homes Board Approved	63	<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>
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1.09	<p>Appendix 1 lists the schemes delivered thus far. It also sets out a programme of future delivery spread out over the next 3 years SHARP2. Many of the schemes are indicative at this stage. As we own many of the sites listed we will not benefit for grant for the acquisition. It should also be noted that for LA's grant is only payable after work has actually commenced and been invoiced.</p>														
1.10	<p>We need to allow time for the various regulatory steps such as WG technical approval, which is sought before planning is applied for. There are currently issues outside our direct control which may impact on the process such as the new flood maps across Wales (now to be implemented from July 2023) which is affecting the proposed development of the former Canton depot at Mostyn, or the phosphate issues affecting sites draining into the Alyn/Dee.</p>														

1.11	The schedule for the last quarter of 2022/23 is ambitious and is very likely to slip given the processes to be achieved. This will require close monitoring and an open and honest dialogue with WG, as they will need to manage the overall budget, and transfer budgets within LA's, regions and across Wales. However we are very confident that any slippage into next year, and next year's proposed programme can achieve all the necessary regulatory steps in order to take up the allocations in the PDP thereafter. Moreover the strategy should be to prepare as many schemes as possible up to and including planning and Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) permissions as well as Cabinet and NEW Homes Board approvals in order to not only spend our agreed allocations of SHG, but to have "ready on the shelf" schemes to absorb underspends elsewhere across Wales. "Deliverability" is clearly key to WG.
	<b>Section 106 Gifted</b>
1.12	These properties are transferred to NEW Homes as "unencumbered assets" and have been an important source of growth for the company during its formative years and has helped it reach a total of 159 properties. The positive working relationship which has evolved between the Council, NEW Homes and construction partners through the development of this product has facilitated the rapid delivery of a high quality product in communities where the availability of Affordable Rent properties has enabled local people to remain within their community.
1.13	NEW Homes currently has 61 Section 106 Gifted units and are anticipating to receive a further 12 homes from developers meeting their affordable housing provision obligations through Section 106 Agreements.
	<b>Section 106 Purchase</b>
1.14	NEW Homes has built on the positive relationship it has developed with local contractors by purchasing Section 106 units. These require minimum resource and are bought at a maximum of 70% of the open market value of the properties. To date, 15 units have been purchased using this approach and up to a further 7 are under negotiation with Wates to acquire unsold equity share homes at Maes Gwern.
	<b>Buy Back of Former Right to Buy Properties</b>
1.15	In addition to NEW Homes, the Council's Housing Revenue Account has also purchased five former Right to Buy homes. We are reviewing the options for this approach both for NEW Homes and FCC stock.
	<b>Package Deals with housing associations and private developers</b>
1.16	The NEW Homes Board had approved the delivery of 47 properties to be delivered through package deals although a number have not been able to proceed.
	<b>Delivering Net Zero - Project Summary</b>
1.17	<u>Purpose</u> – The project social landlords have come together to develop a standardised specification/pattern book for the next generation of high

	<p>performing, off-site manufactured, low carbon homes. This specification/pattern book will be used by the member social landlords to help build out their pipeline of new affordable homes. The project will use the aggregated pipeline demand for new zero carbon homes from the member social landlords to agree practical plans to strengthen local supply chains, green skills and resident involvement.</p>
1.18	<p><u>Background</u> - This project builds on the foundational work of Home Grown Homes and Crisp Innovation project funding. It is closely aligned to Welsh Government plans to build 20,000 new net zero affordable homes.</p>
1.19	<p><u>Project Membership</u> - The Delivering Net Zero project membership comprises 17 social landlords. 11 Welsh councils who have retained their council housing (Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Isle of Anglesey, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Swansea, Vale of Glamorgan and Wrexham) and 6 housing associations (Caredig, Cartrefi Conwy, Coastal, Homes, Monmouthshire Homes, Tai Tarian and United Welsh).</p>
1.20	<p><u>Phase 1 Deliverables</u> – To understand the new social housing pipeline requirements of the project members to ensure that the project meets their needs.</p> <p>A supplier will be procured (through an Innovation Partnership) to work with project members and other key stakeholders (including Welsh Government, funders, manufacturers, installers and citizens) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design a standardised timber fabric solution which can be applied to a number of standard pattern book designs that meets the needs of the member social landlords</li> <li>○ Test the designs</li> <li>○ Achieve a system warranty</li> <li>○ Produce a quality assured manual for the manufacture and assembly of the homes</li> </ul>
1.21	<p><u>Phase 2 Deliverables</u> – To support project members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Let contracts, using the pattern book designs agreed in phase 1, to supply new homes using competent and accredited/qualified Welsh based manufacturers and installers.</li> </ul> <p>The precise approach (for example using regional frameworks) will be agreed through dialogue between project members, supply chain and business support stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deliver quality and affordability</li> <li>○ Strengthen manufacturer and installer SMEs</li> </ul>
1.22	<p><u>Support and Funding</u> – The project is wholly funded by contributions from each of the 17 participating social landlords. Powys County Council are holding the project funds on behalf of the steering group. The project is supported by Welsh Government - including previous Collaborative</p>

	Research and Innovation Support Programme (CRISP) Innovation grant and through hosting the Delivering Net Zero project staff team comprising 1 full time Project Team Lead and 1 part time Technical Team Lead.										
	<b>Current Housing Need in Flintshire</b>										
	<b>SARTH Housing Register</b>										
1.23	<p>Demand is rising significantly. As March 2022, there were 2401 (previous figure 1985) households on the social housing register (SARTH). The highest demand areas are Flint, Mold and Mynydd Isa, Buckley, Connah's Quay, Queensferry and Shotton.</p> <p>The incidence of homelessness is also increasing with over 1300 applications made in the year end March 2022 and over 100 households in emergency and temporary accommodation.</p>										
	<b>Tai Teg Affordable Housing Register</b>										
1.24	Tai Teg advertises properties as they become available for purchase/ rent. Individuals apply for these properties through Tai Teg and are assessed based on eligibility criteria. This attracts interest in the areas where development is identified but not surprisingly it often doesn't generate demand generally. Both FCC and Tai Teg have sought to promote the service through social media etc.										
1.25	There are currently over 600 applicants registered for purchase in Flintshire and over 700 applicants registered for rent. The highest demand areas for rent and purchase are Buckley, Mold and Mynydd Isa, Connah's Quay. The majority of applicants require 2 and 3 bed houses.										
1.26	Tai Teg have recently reviewed its criterion for admission onto the register for affordable housing having had an independent review equalities impact assessment. Previously it had made being in full time employment and affordability a key factor in the criterion and the impact assessment cast doubt over the legality of this approach in respect of rented homes. This obviously impacts on NEW Homes applicants potentially. A copy of the impact assessment is appended to the report.										
1.27	<p>The revised criterion are set out below and are based purely on affordability;</p> <p><b>Current criteria</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1 bed</th> <th>2 bed</th> <th>3 bed</th> <th>4bed +</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Income required</b></td> <td>£16,000 - £20,000</td> <td>£20,500 - £22,500</td> <td>£22,600k - £26,500</td> <td>£27K - £45K</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4bed +	<b>Income required</b>	£16,000 - £20,000	£20,500 - £22,500	£22,600k - £26,500	£27K - £45K
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4bed +							
<b>Income required</b>	£16,000 - £20,000	£20,500 - £22,500	£22,600k - £26,500	£27K - £45K							

1.28

**Proposal to amend to make it easier for the applicant to understand**

	<b>1 bed</b>	<b>2 bed</b>	<b>3 bed</b>	<b>4bed +</b>
<b>Income required</b>	£16,000 - £45,000	£20,500 - £45,000	£22,600k - £45,000	£27,000 - £45,000

- **Age** - you must be over 18 years of age.
- Income threshold of £16K - £45K for Intermediate rent.
- Income being :-
  - Income from Employment
  - Carer’s Allowance – weekly in advance or every four weeks
  - Child Benefit - usually every four weeks or weekly if the claimant is a single parent or they receive certain other benefits
  - Disability Living Allowance – usually every four weeks
  - Personal Independence Payment – usually every four weeks
  - Tax Credits, such as Working Tax Credits – every four weeks or weekly
  - Universal Credit – every month including housing element
  - Child Maintenance – would not require legal confirmation. If the payment is frequent and noted in the bank statements that all agreed that this would be ok.
  - Private Pension – rent ONLY
- **Affordable** - – you are unable to meet the affordability requirements for properties on the open market.
- **Accommodation** - the current home is unsuitable and does not meet your family's needs e.g.
  - due to family size - (evidence of overcrowding)
  - affordability - (current rent is unaffordable)
  - specific needs - (reviewed on a case by case)
  - in need due to relationship breakdown and need to leave the rented property.
- **Local Connection** - you will be required to have a local connection with the area based on the allocation policy of the local authority /Registered Social Landlord e.g. live, work or with close family connections:- Parents, Grandparents, Brother & Sister or Adult Children.

1.29

The new criterion therefore no longer makes being in full time employment an essential requirement. Applicants can also include some benefits within their income calculation. This addresses the potential equality impact identified in the report to Tai Teg. However in practice in order to qualify for

	affordable rented products, the vast majority of applicants will need an income which can only be achieved by being in employment.
	<b>Specialist Housing Register</b>
1.30	<p>There are 44 households on the Specialist Housing register requiring an adapted property e.g. wheelchair accessible/ level access or a larger family house (i.e. 4 bed plus).</p> <p>Housing Strategy is working with social services and housing allocations to enhance collaborative working and improve the housing opportunities within the new build programme for different cohorts of people who have specific housing need e.g. care leavers, people with learning difficulties, adaptations etc.</p>
	<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan</b>
1.31	The Council's HRA business Plan has a prudent target of 50 new social units per year based upon the existing funding regime which is self-financed by the Council. All of the units delivered to date have been delivered without the availability of Welsh Government capital grant. However since SHG became available to local authorities last year, we have modelled our potential schemes to include SHG using the WG standard viability model. (SVM)
1.32	By way of explanation SHG was previously only available to RSL's and had been set at 58% of the eligible scheme costs. From 2021/22 a variable grant has been introduced taking into account the acquisition costs, build costs, running and future repair costs, costs of borrowing netted off against future rents set at social rent levels over 50 years discounted back to a present day value. The difference between the two is the assumed grant. The SVM has itself been adjusted again this year following consultation with LA's and RSL's. FCC has been active in contributing to this debate pointing out some assumptions about interest rates impacting on LA's borrowing negatively and future maintenance assumptions.
1.33	The amount of grant can vary quite significantly depending on the scheme costs and the mix of dwelling types and land acquisition costs (most of our schemes we already own the land). Generally smaller unit sizes will attract less grant. We therefore need to consider this when planning future schemes. Overall the model distributes the resources reasonably well. Rather than expending effort to argue about the minutia of specific schemes the bigger picture is whether the costs of net zero carbon neutral homes without using fossil fuels for heating and hot water can be met from within the current resources across Wales to develop 20,000 social rented and affordable homes.
	<b>Welsh Government Land Release Fund (LRF)</b>
1.34	As reported previously FCC was successful in attracting Welsh Government funding from its Land Release Fund Programme. The purpose of the funding is to help local authorities and Registered Providers bring forward "stalled" sites for residential use (Pre Construction Activity).

	<p>Two Bids totalling £213.5k were submitted for two sites in Connah's Quay at Glynne Street (£48k) and Ffordd Llanarth (£165.5k). The latter will shortly be considered for a bid under the SHG programme for technical approval.</p> <p>The purpose of the funding is to bring together a Project Design Team to oversee the development of two inter-dependent schemes intended to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring forward stalled sites utilising Modern Methods of Construction (MMC);</li> <li>• Develop homes that are certified as Passivhaus and adopt Active Building design principles;</li> <li>• Maximise positive impact on the local economy by using local contractors for example through the North Wales Construction Framework;</li> <li>• Integrate renewable energy generation and storage technologies;</li> <li>• Undertake enhanced energy modelling throughout the design process</li> <li>• Adopt an enhanced data based approach to building monitoring and control</li> <li>• Ensure integration of electric vehicles such as cars, bicycles and buses</li> </ul> <p>A further successful bid was made this year totaling £100k plus to demolish the former Pennyffordd school site in preparation for a community open space and new social housing scheme hopefully to come forward for 2023/2024.</p>
	<p><b>North East Wales Homes Development Strategy</b></p>
<p>1.35</p>	<p>NEW Homes growth strategy has focused on building 50 units a year through the following streams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gifted S106 units</li> <li>• Developer S106 purchase</li> <li>• Land and build package deals</li> <li>• Partnership sites with the Council.</li> </ul> <p>A number of schemes have unfortunately not transpired as hoped (for example schemes not achieving planning approval, change of land ownership) and the hiatus in the partnership sites with FCC.</p>
<p>1.36</p>	<p>An underlying issue for NEW Homes was always whether it would be able to access SHG. In the absence of any Welsh Government capital subsidy, NEW Homes growth strategy has been partly funded through the availability of commuted sums and shared equity monies which the Council has received through the delivery of new market sales schemes. Whilst approximately £600K has been allocated to future schemes by NEW Homes, there is no guarantee further sums on this scale will be available in the future to maintain the current pace and scale of new developments. The NEW Homes board has reviewed and revised its scheme criterion earlier this year.</p>



1.37	<p>With the advent of SHG for LA's as of last year, we have been in conversation with WG over whether NEW Homes could access SHG also. As wholly owned company with FCC being the sole shareholder we asked whether grant could be given to NEW Homes with FCC effectively the guarantor to WG?</p> <p>WG queried why FCC would wish to continue using NEW Homes as a delivery vehicle for affordable housing as they believed that FCC could under the new legal framework and revised HRA guidance create such tenancies themselves. Our response was that it wasn't clear FCC could do this, and the product being produced (high quality affordable housing at 90% of market rents) was clearly meeting need.</p> <p>The WG response to the request following taking their own legal advice was as follows:</p> <p>SHG was payable to RSL's and LA's only. As NEW Homes was neither WG could not give SHG to NEW Homes. They went on to add it was up to FCC to take legal advice to satisfy itself it had the power and authority so to do. This advice has been shared with the NEW Homes board and the Council. It is ultimately for the Council to determine whether it wishes to pursue this matter and take further advice on powers it has to create and manage other types of tenancy and whether it has the power to use SHG to develop affordable housing products under the banner of its solely owned company.</p> <p>A further report on this issue will be developed for future consideration.</p>
	<b>Self-Build</b>
1.38	<p>Self-Build Wales is delivered on behalf of the Welsh Government by the Development Bank of Wales. WG views self-build as a complementary approach to housebuilding and they would like to see all Local Authorities offer the scheme as it can provide a meaningful contribution to housing supply.</p> <p>Self-Build Wales seeks to encourage individuals, families or communities to build their own homes and provides an alternative route into home ownership. The scheme aims to remove developer profits and provides the opportunity to build a home that is tailored to needs, lifestyle and at a more affordable budget. Homes will be sustainable, high quality and with good design, built using local labour and materials, keeping expenditure in Wales.</p> <p>The financial model is administered by the Development Bank of Wales to help provide a loan to purchase the plot and complete the construction of the house. This is repaid when the house is complete the individual can then mortgage the property.</p> <p>Local Authorities, Housing Associations and private land owners can contribute land to the scheme and provide build ready 'plots' (with services and planning permission in place). The plots are made available for people</p>

	<p>to purchase at open market value. Once purchased the individual is supported through the Development Bank to complete the construction process. The Council can define an eligibility criteria for those wishing to purchase e.g. local connection/ key workers etc. Individuals apply for the scheme and plots through the Self Build Wales website.</p> <p>The Council is exploring opportunities to provide a small number of self-build plots within an existing development to trial the scheme.</p> <p>More information can be found at: <a href="https://selfbuild.wales/">https://selfbuild.wales/</a></p>
	<p><b>Housing Construction North and Mid-Wales Framework Agreement / WPA Welsh Procurement Alliance</b></p>
1.39	<p>With the partnership with Wates coming to a close the Council has joined the WPA as its main procurement vehicle to promote greater partnership working through local and regional procurement frameworks, to support local supply chains. This has seen the establishment of the Housing Construction North And Mid-Wales Framework Agreement. This framework has been established by the Welsh Procurement Alliance (WPA) who were asked by all North and Mid-Wales local authorities and zoned housing associations across the region for assistance to make the procurement of new-build housing developments more efficient and in compliance with public sector procurement rules.</p>
1.40	<p>A core principle is the need to encourage as many local contractors to bid to be on the framework as possible. The framework needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure compliance with public sector procurement rules</li> <li>• provide a quick and easy procurement process</li> <li>• allow for early engagement with local contractors</li> <li>• deliver value for money offer measurable community benefits</li> <li>• Maintain the quality of the developments.</li> </ul> <p>At the same time the solutions offered by the framework needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be mindful of energy efficiency and the decarbonisation agenda</li> <li>• take into account the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 201</li> <li>• provide a collaborative approach with shared expertise and resources</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Framework and Specification</b></p>
1.41	<p>The framework will be used for the building of all types of housing, including bungalows, flats and apartments, care homes and sheltered and shared accommodation, covering all forms of tenure.</p>
1.42	<p>It also provides for the delivery of associated community buildings to residential developments (such as hubs and sporting facilities e.g. meeting places, health and care centres, recreational facilities and libraries) plus, any associated commercial facilities such as car parks and retail units.</p>

	<p>However, whilst scope for this associated development is included, bidders were not substantively evaluated on this aspect of development, and clients seeking to commission such developments (permissible only as incidental to a residential scheme) will be advised to carry out a mini competition. Capability to compete such developments was also not criteria for selection.</p>
1.43	<p>The framework is divided into four work streams across different geographical areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects of up to 5 units on single or multiple sites</li> <li>• Projects of 6 to 15 units on single or multiple sites</li> <li>• Projects of 16 to 49 units on single or multiple sites</li> <li>• Projects of 50+ units on single or multiple sites.</li> </ul>
1.44	<p>The hiatus in development schemes has resulted in only one contract let using this method thus far at the homeless units at Park Lane Holywell and Duke Street Flint. What is clear however from our current partner and feedback from other RSL's is that the sector is facing a very challenging time. Covid, Brexit, and now the conflict in Ukraine have put severe pressure on supply chains, vastly inflated material costs, labour shortages and sub- contractor pricing. More than one partner has seen contractors withdrawing from established contracts because of financial viability issues. This is likely to continue and be a risk factor whilst we seek to ramp up our delivery output.</p>
	<p><b>Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) Offsite solutions</b></p>
1.45	<p>The tenderer's contracting package may include an offsite system and works offered shall satisfy the performance requirements set out in the framework specification (Section DD3). Where an Appointed Company proposes to use an offsite system for use in the construction of buildings under the framework, they shall provide full details of the proposed suppliers. The construction of the system shall be in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions using an appropriately trained or qualified workforce.</p>
	<p><b>Community Benefits</b></p>
1.46	<p>The tender process, as with the partnership with Wates included evaluation of suppliers in relation to general corporate, social responsibilities, delivery of community benefit projects and social value initiatives. WPA also encourage our clients to include project-specific community benefits initiatives in their call-off contracts. As a not for profit organisation, WPA intends to re-invest any surplus income generated through its procurement activity to support community benefits projects and social value initiatives in the local communities we serve.</p>
	<p><b>Scheme investigation and feasibility Works</b></p>
1.47	<p>The Council currently has an annual budget of £121K allocated for scheme investigation and feasibility for schemes in the SHARP. This needs to be</p>

	maintained for future feasibility assessments and developing projects through the regulatory and procurement phases.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The SHG programme is now around £13 million per year for the next three years, so is a massive enabler for social impact across the county.
2.02	The revenue direct cost is around £120k per year together with staffing resources charged to HRA capital funding.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
3.01	<p>The key risks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not meeting local affordable housing need - The provision of affordable housing ensures that all of the county's residents have a greater opportunity access their own home. If we do not meet this need, homelessness will increase impacting on the Council's budget.</li> <li>2. Not maximising the impact of commuted sum income in addressing the affordable housing shortage in Flintshire – the Council has its own delivery targets to ensure efficient delivery of affordable housing in areas of greatest need.</li> <li>3. The environmental impact - This is considered and mitigated during the construction phase. All affordable homes built will meet modern standards for sustainability and energy efficiency and the Flintshire Housing Standard.</li> </ol>	
3.02	<p>All housing schemes delivered through the SHARP are considered and approved by Cabinet. Oversight and monitoring of the SHARP is done through the Housing and Regeneration Programme Board.</p> <p>All schemes are financially assessed to ensure they meet agreed financial parameters for additional borrowing in the HRA and NEWH.</p> <p>WG are also working in partnership with all Councils with HRA stock to ensure borrowing prudential indicators are monitored with their business plans to ensure sustainability of borrowing in the HRA.</p>	
3.03	<b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b>	
	<b>Long-term</b>	Positive - more affordable homes will be provided in the right location.
	<b>Prevention</b>	Preventing - preventing people becoming homeless through ensuring there is relevant services and accommodation available.

<b>Integration</b>	Positive – the delivery of a range of affordable homes will contribute to Integration within communities.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Positive – the proposed financial arrangements will facilitate greater collaboration between the Council and the local communities which it serves.
<b>Involvement</b>	Positive - the Council has consulted extensively with the local community on the proposed scheme.
<b>Well-being Goals Impact</b>	
Prosperous Wales	Providing good quality affordable homes, aiming for low / zero carbon. Also ensuring the homes are in the place that people need them and will meet their housing needs. Maximising local employment and training opportunities for local people.
Resilient Wales	Positive - Developing low / zero carbon homes though adopting modern methods of construction and other relevant technologies.
Healthier Wales	Positive - Ensuring our homes are fit for purpose and will enable people to stay in their home for longer, and ensuring we have homes that meet the needs of all people in our society including those who are most vulnerable supporting their wellbeing.
More equal Wales	Positive - Providing good quality and decent homes for the most vulnerable people in society including temporary, single household, adapted etc.
Cohesive Wales	Positive - Contributing to attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities through promoting good design and collaborative delivery.
Vibrant Wales	Positive - Ensuring our communities are diverse through good communication of housing opportunities and support.
Globally responsible Wales	Positive - The outcomes of the strategy will contribute to improving the economic,

		social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	None
4.02	The report was presented to the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 where Members supported the recommendations.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 : SHARP completed units and programme 2022-2025 Tai Pawb Equality Assessment Tai Teg Affordable housing

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	The North & Mid Wales framework information is at:  <a href="https://welshprocurement.cymru/frameworks/housing-construction-north-and-mid-wales/">https://welshprocurement.cymru/frameworks/housing-construction-north-and-mid-wales/</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Paul Calland, Housing Programmes Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 701436      07825377623 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Paul.calland@flintshire.gov.uk">Paul.calland@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<b>Strategic Housing And Regeneration Programme (SHARP)</b> – Flintshire County Council House Building Programme.  <b>Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)</b> - Flintshire County Council will be spending £111 million over six years on a major refurbishment and maintenance programme of works bring its 7,200 Council homes up to the Welsh Government’s Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) new properties across the Council during the next five years.

**Welsh Development Quality Standards (WDQS)** - This sets the minimum requirements for new housing development covering space standards, energy rating standards and now latterly net zero rated heating and hot water standards excluding fossil fuels.

**Standard Development Scheme Assumptions** - agreed allowances for voids; maintenance costs; rental income levels (including CPI etc.) and will be used to assess all potential future development schemes to determine Scheme feasibility and viability.

**HRA** – Housing Revenue Account.

**SVM** – Standard Viability Model.

**PDP** – Planned Development Programme.

**SHG** – Social Housing Grant.

**RSL** – Registered Social Landlord or Housing Association.

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## Appendix 1 – SHARP Cabinet Completed and Approved Schemes

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Council Social Rented Units</b>	<b>Affordable Rented Units</b>	<b>Affordable Low Cost Home Ownership Units</b>	<b>Private Sales Units</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Custom House, Connah's Quay</b>	12	0	0	0	Completed
<b>The Walks, Flint</b>	30	62	0	0	Completed
<b>Redhall, St Mark's Connah's Quay</b>	5	0	0	0	Completed
<b>Heol y Goron, Leeswood</b>	5	0	0	0	Completed
<b>Maes y Meillion, Leeswood</b>	8	0	0	0	Completed
<b>Ysgol Delyn, Mold</b>	16	0	0	0	Completed
<b>Former Dairy, Connah's Quay</b>	6	0	0	0	Completed
<b>Former Melrose Centre, Shotton</b>	9	0	0	0	Completed
<b>Maes Gwern, Mold</b>	8	18	22	112	Due for completion August 2022

<b>Nant y Gro, Gronant</b>	41	0	0	0	Target start date April 2021 but Discharge Planning Conditions delays and a strategic decision to delay a winter start. Now awaiting re-pricing.
<b>Former Council Depot, Dobshell</b>	13 (2 properties remain to be handed over)	9	0	0	Completed
<b>Llys Dewi, Penyffordd, Nr Holywell</b>	23	4	0	0	Completed
<b>St Andrews, Garden City</b>	12	0	0	0	Completed
<b>Ffordd Hiraethog / Ffordd Pandarys</b>	30	0	0	0	Target start on site date May 2021 but delayed for planning discharge and right of access issues.
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>112</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>447</b>			
<b>NEW Homes Non-SHARP</b>		<b>80</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>527</b>			

## SHARP 2 Proposed Schemes

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Council Social Rented Units</b>	<b>Affordable Rented Units</b>	<b>Affordable Low Cost Home Ownership Units</b>	<b>Private Sales Units</b>	<b>Planned Programme subject to approval from Cabinet and Homes Board And Commentary</b>
<b>Ty Mair Mold</b>	26	10	0	0	Quarter 4 2022/3 for planning approval and acquisition
<b>Borough Grove Flint</b>	0	4	0	0	Quarter 4 2022/3 for start on site
<b>Ash Grove Shotton</b>	2	0	0	0	Acquired Quarter 2 2022/3 with WG larger homes grant
<b>Park Lane Holywell and Duke St Flint</b>	6	0	0	0	Started on site March 2022 with WG homeless grant, completion Quarter 3 2022/3 now funded by SHG
<b>High Street (former old music shop) Connah's Quay</b>	6	0	0	0	Package deal for completion Quarter 4 2022/3
<b>Former Hebron Church Mostyn</b>	4	0	0	0	Acquisition subject to planning approval quarter 4 2022/3
<b>Wirral View Hawarden</b>	4	0	0	0	Quarter 4 2022/3 start on site subject to planning permission
<b>Alyn Road Buckley</b>	5	0	0	0	Quarter 4 2022/3 start on site subject to planning permission
<b>Maes Gwern, Mold</b>	0	6		0	Package deal with Wates for 6 unsold equity share homes quarter 2 2022/3

<b>Station Road Queens Ferry</b>	4	0	0	0	Quarter 4 2022/3 subject to planning approval
<b>Pandy Oakenholt</b>	16	?	0	0	Quarter4 2022/3 acquisition subject to planning approval and contract to build out 2023/24
<b>Sub Total 2022/23</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total 2022/23</b>		<b>87</b>			

**Future Pipeline subject to Cabinet/New Homes Board Approval subject to planning etc and WG grant approvals**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Council Social Rented Units</b>	<b>Affordable Rented Units</b>	<b>Affordable Low Cost Home Ownership Units</b>	<b>Private Sales Units</b>	<b>Planned Programme subject to approval from Cabinet and NEW Homes Board And Commentary</b>
<b>Ffordd Llanarth Connah's Quay</b>	14	6			2023/24 Marquee scheme in respect of energy efficiency and meeting the new WG standards
<b>Altami Buckley</b>	14				2023/24
<b>Canton Depot</b>	50?	?	0	0	Site previously scheduled for completion earlier however Natural Resources Wales flood risk designation hampering progress 2023/2024?
<b>Pennyfford School Site</b>	20?	0	0	0	Commitment for part of the site for community use. Land release

					funding agreed for demolition. Extensive consultation required. 2023/24
<b>Sub Total 2023/24</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>6</b>			
<b>Total</b>		<b>104</b>			
<b>Pipeline 2024/25</b>					
<b>Rhydymwyn former school site</b>	20	0	0	0	Rural needs survey planned for 2022 to inform plans for the site. 2024/25
<b>Trelogan former bowls club site</b>	15?	0	0	0	Rural needs survey planned for 2022 to inform plans for the site. 2024/25
<b>Croes Atti</b>	20?	0	0	0	Feasibility work planned for 2023 for submission 2024/25
<b>Bryn Tirion Shotton</b>	10-15?	0	0	0	Feasibility work planned for 2023 for submission 2024/25
<b>Sub Total 2024/25</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total 2024/25</b>		<b>70</b>			

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Disabled Facilities Grant
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Housing & Communities)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 places a mandatory duty on Local Authorities to provide Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG). The grant is available for adapting or providing facilities for a disabled person in a dwelling.

Due to the current climate since Brexit and Covid19, there has been an increase in costs in the construction industry. Although a new Discretionary Policy was developed last year it has been recognised that a review of the policy is required to ensure we are still meeting the needs of the customer.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	Cabinet support the updated DFG policy and note the ongoing work to improve the service.
2	Cabinet to note the amendment to Appendix 2 in the policy for removal of the means test for medium sized adaptations.
3	Cabinet to note the changes to Land Charges, whereby they now only apply to large adaptations in-line with Welsh Government Revised Housing Standards, previously they applied to any adaptation over £20,000.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT</b>
1.01	<p>Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 places a mandatory duty on Local Authorities to provide disabled facilities grants (DFGs). The grant is available for adapting or providing facilities for a disabled person in a dwelling.</p>
1.02	<p>A DFG is a capital grant which is utilised to help individuals living with a disability with financial support towards the cost of adapting their homes to enable them to continue living at their home with the maximum amount of independence.</p>
1.03	<p>The statutory limit for any DFG is set by the Welsh Assembly Government and is currently £36,000 per application within a five year period.</p> <p>However, further applications can be made within this period if the customer's medical condition has changed. This case would then be reviewed with the Occupational Therapist upon application.</p>
1.04	<p>A DFG is available to owner occupiers, private tenants and local authority tenants. For persons living in social housing with a registered social landlord, the tenant is required to request any adaptations directly with their landlord.</p>
1.05	<p>Where the application is for a child, or the applicant is in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, there is no means test and the cost of the adaptation up to the maximum grant will generally be awarded.</p> <p>DFGs for Local Authority tenants are not means tested.</p>
1.06	<p>For other applications the amount of the grant will vary from zero to the maximum grant depending on the cost of the approved works and the financial circumstances of the applicant.</p> <p>A means test will be carried out to establish, based on the financial circumstances of the applicant, whether the applicant will be required to make a financial contribution to the adaptation costs.</p>
1.07	<p>The Welsh Government Housing Adaptations Service Standards (revised March 2021) provides all Local Authorities DFG teams with the guidance on the level of service expected including adaptation categories, timeframes and performance measures to ensure consistency in approach.</p> <p>As such the applicant must own the property or be a tenant and intend to live at the address during the grant period (currently 10 years).</p> <p>In the case of private tenants the landlord may apply for the grant if they have a tenant who is disabled.</p>



1.08	<p>The council must satisfy itself that the work is necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the disabled person; that it is reasonable; and can be done – the age and condition of the property must also be considered.</p> <p>In order to do this, the property is assessed by a surveyor and an occupational therapist and appropriate considerations will determine the best option for the individual taking into account their needs and the most cost-effective solution.</p>
1.09	<p>The council must ensure that any adaptation works will provide the most effective long-term solution to meet the needs of the disabled person.</p>
1.10	<p>The current policy has an agreed limit of £10,000 for non means testing of medium sized adaptations. This discretionary grant was created to meet the request of Welsh Government in the revised Housing Adaptations Service Standards.</p> <p>However, due to the current climate and rise in costs in the construction industry, this now seems unreasonable as we cannot deliver the majority of medium adaptations, especially when there are a combination of medium adaptations, within this cost limit.</p> <p>Therefore, to fully remove the means test for all medium sized adaptations would not only meet Welsh Government guidelines, but would also be more equitable and consistent.</p> <p>As this is a Discretionary Grant it will still be at the discretion of the DFG Manager to determine whether to means test a case or not particularly if the works are complex in nature resulting in a combination of medium adaptations which are comparable to the cost of large scale works around £20,000 or above.</p>
1.11	<p>There may be instances where the disabled person’s existing home is not suitable for adaptation, and with the agreement of all parties, the council may decide to assist the household to move into more suitable accommodation.</p> <p>For owner occupiers and private tenants the Council can offer a Relocation Grant up to the value of £20,000 to assist with the moving and legal costs. This can be considered even if the alternative accommodation needs some minor adaptations to make it fully suitable.</p>
	<p><b>Private Sector DFG Delivery &amp; Performance</b></p>
1.12	<p>The following table shows the numbers of medium and large adaptations delivered by the Private Sector DFG team over the past 6 years:</p>

		<b>Number Completed</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Days to deliver (average) Target 209</b>
	<b>2016/17</b>	105	£1,044,440	209
	<b>2017/18</b>	61	£ 817,372	234
	<b>2018/19</b>	40	£ 386,978	220
	<b>2019/20</b>	45	£ 354,035	185
	<b>2020/21</b>	41	£ 477,000	231
	<b>2021/22</b>	89	£ 1,175,000	278
1.13	<p>Please see below a review of each year to explain the increases and decreases in the figures above;</p> <p>2017/18 – Work on DFGs was ceased during late Autumn which meant that applications and works were delayed until April 2018 due to budget constraints in the service at that time.</p> <p>2018/19 - There was a reduction in the numbers of applications received for an adaptation and some resource issues around staffing levels.</p> <p>2019/20 – Due to resource issues it was decided with certain types of adaptations previously delivered via DFG were to be delivered via Care &amp; Repair.</p> <p>2020/21 – Covid19 meant all jobs were stopped in March 2020 apart from priority cases, most of these were small adaptations which increased due to hospital admissions/returning home. Work restarted late 2020, but a lot of clients were still unhappy to restart works due to some clients still self-isolating or being in the high risk category.</p> <p>2021/22 – All jobs restarted and most that were previously on hold are now completed or have commenced. However, due to the Covid delay and some jobs being outstanding prior to the pandemic, there has been an adverse impact on the average number of days to complete the work. There was also an issue whereby many of our contractors were extremely busy after Covid19 and therefore we had a number of jobs with delayed start dates.</p>			
1.14	<p>Care and Repair currently deliver all the small adaptations for the private sector. Please see below information on the number completed and the total costs. These have not previously been recorded and this year we intend to include number of days to complete.</p>			

		<b>Number Completed</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
	<b>2020/21</b>	349	£ 78,000.00
	<b>2021/22</b>	531	£ 185,000.00

	<b>Service Improvements</b>
1.15	<p>The team previously consisted of temporary/agency staff which did not provide any stability or resilience. New permanent team members have now been recruited.</p> <p>Implementation of new Procurement system and contract management is currently being processed, with an expected start date early 2023.</p> <p>Performance reporting is now being monitored more closely to ensure targets are being met.</p> <p>Service delivery should start to improve, Covid19 caused a delay for all works, however the 58 cases that were on hold in 2020 have now been completed except 2 cases which are due to commence imminently. There were 78 cases that had been received since April 2021, of these there are still 8 cases outstanding, however all but one has either now commenced or is due to commence. The one case pending is currently with the Planning Service.</p> <p>Recycling of equipment – new processes have been created to ensure we recycle as many stair lifts and ceiling track hoists as possible.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>												
2.01	<p><b>Capital:</b> The removal of means testing for medium sized adaptations should not have huge implications for the approved capital programme for the current year or for future financial years.</p> <p>It has been calculated that we only had a few cases that were means tested and were not entitled to any assistance. These jobs equated to around £60,000, therefore going forward these cases would be approved, but would not have an adverse effect on the capital budget limit.</p> <p>Figures are included below for last year's spend and this years projected budgeted spend which includes providing the Discretionary grant;</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>Budget</b></th> <th><b>Spent</b></th> <th><b>Projected Spend</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>2020/21</b></td> <td>£1,898,000</td> <td>£1,561,609</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>2021/22</b></td> <td>£1,898,000</td> <td>£581,406 (up to 01/08/2022)</td> <td>1,743,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Projected Spend</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	£1,898,000	£1,561,609		<b>2021/22</b>	£1,898,000	£581,406 (up to 01/08/2022)	1,743,000
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>																			
3.01	<p>Under the five delivery principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act the revised Disabled Facilities Grant Policy can have the following impacts:</p> <p><b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive impact on longer term solutions to enable disabled people to remain in their own home for longer.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Positive - Enabling the grant will have a significant positive preventative impacts for people.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Positive- The Grants policy and the wider best practice group that reviews and aligns best practice is a positive example of integration across sectors.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive - As above.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Positive - The policy has been through a consultation process and user/customer satisfaction is built into the process to ensure user involvement in shaping improvements to service.</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Well-being Goals Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>No Impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>No Impact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> <td>           Positive - The Disabled Facilities Grants are there to support disabled people to be in a position to live safely and more comfortably in their own home for longer.             The revised policy sets out the process for disabled facilities grant in a clear and easy to understand way.         </td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> <td>Positive - By supporting disabled people to live more comfortably and safely in their own homes will also contribute to enabling</td> </tr> </table>		Long-term	Positive impact on longer term solutions to enable disabled people to remain in their own home for longer.	Prevention	Positive - Enabling the grant will have a significant positive preventative impacts for people.	Integration	Positive- The Grants policy and the wider best practice group that reviews and aligns best practice is a positive example of integration across sectors.	Collaboration	Positive - As above.	Involvement	Positive - The policy has been through a consultation process and user/customer satisfaction is built into the process to ensure user involvement in shaping improvements to service.	Prosperous Wales	No Impact	Resilient Wales	No Impact	Healthier Wales	Positive - The Disabled Facilities Grants are there to support disabled people to be in a position to live safely and more comfortably in their own home for longer.  The revised policy sets out the process for disabled facilities grant in a clear and easy to understand way.	More equal Wales	Positive - By supporting disabled people to live more comfortably and safely in their own homes will also contribute to enabling
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More equal Wales	Positive - By supporting disabled people to live more comfortably and safely in their own homes will also contribute to enabling																			

		them to fulfil their potential no matter what their background.
	Cohesive Wales	No Impact
	Vibrant Wales	No Impact
	Globally responsible Wales	No Impact
	<p>The revision of the Disabled Facilities Grants Policy, when implemented will contribute to the Council's Well-being objective of 'Caring Council' through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of appropriate interventions (i.e. support or adaptations) to assist people to remain in their homes wherever possible</li> </ul>	

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	The report was presented to the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 where Members supported the recommendations.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Policy.
5.02	Appendix 2 – Revised Housing Standards.

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

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Jen Griffiths, Service Manager, Housing, welfare and communities  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702929  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jen.griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk">jen.griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p><b>Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)</b> – A statutory grant of up to £36,000 to help individuals living with a disability with the cost of adapting their homes to enable them to continue living at their residence with the maximum amount of independence.</p> <p><b>Small Adaptations</b> - anything which is not classed as medium or large. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grab Rails</li> <li>• Small Ramps</li> <li>• Stair/Mop stick Rails</li> <li>• Key Safes</li> <li>• Additional electrical sockets or accessible taps, etc</li> </ul> <p><b>Medium Adaptations</b> - anything which is not classed as small or large. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level Access Showers</li> <li>• Stair lifts</li> <li>• Ceiling Track Hoists</li> <li>• Large ramps</li> <li>• Or a combination of these adaptations installed as one job</li> </ul> <p><b>Large Adaptations</b> - these are works which will require specialist assessments, statutory approvals and major adaptations to a property such as extensions and through floor lifts. An Occupational Therapists assessment will be required and planning permission may be needed. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building an extension to provide a downstairs bedroom and/or bathroom</li> <li>• Through floor lift</li> <li>• Significant internal structural modifications e.g. relocate bathroom or kitchen</li> </ul>

# **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING**

# **DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS POLICY**

**August 2022**

Version Number	Author	Purpose/Change	Reviewer	Date
1.0	Robin Davies	Revised Mandatory Grant conditions. Implemented Discretionary Grant. Revised Discretionary Grant Conditions and Amount.	Neal Cockerton	22/09/21
2.0	Robin Davies	Revised Discretionary Grant conditions to remove means test.		01/08/22



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### **1. Introduction**

Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide grant aid to assist with the delivery of adaptations for a disabled person in a dwelling. An applicant must first apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant if

they are a homeowner, a tenant renting from a private landlord, a resident of a park home or living on a houseboat. Discretionary assistance for adaptations in addition to, or instead of, a mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant may be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

For the purpose of the grant, a person is considered disabled if one of the following applies:

- Sight, hearing, or speech is substantially impaired;
- Having a mental disorder, or impairment of any kind;
- Are substantially physically disabled by illness, injury, impairment present since birth, or otherwise;
- Are registered (or could be registered) disabled with the Social Services Department.

#### Resource implications

Generally, the Council will resource the Policy through a combination of the following: -

- Capital allocations received from the Council's Capital Programme.
- Specific complementary funding made available by Welsh Government from the Enable support for independent living fund.
- Support to deliver smaller adaptations through the Care and Repair charity, utilising their resources to provide a whole house approach to care and support.

#### Review and revision

This Policy shall remain in force until it is required to be reviewed and revised accordingly in-line with any Welsh Government review of Housing Adaptations Service Standards.

The Council will advise members of the public of any amendments to this Policy, for example due to minor legislative changes, via our website as appropriate.

#### Equality and diversity

This Policy produces significant positive outcomes for vulnerable groups and those with disabilities. It reduces inequalities experienced by those groups in respect of health, housing and income.

We aim to continuously improve the quality of our services for our customers and are committed to giving an equal service to all members of the public regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, gender or sexual orientation.

#### Appeals and applications for assistance falling outside the Policy

Although this Policy will be the primary consideration in determining applications for assistance, all such applications shall be dealt with on an individual basis, based on the merits of each particular case. The Council will not refuse to consider an application that falls outside this Policy.

It is recognised that there will always be exceptional circumstances. Exceptional cases will be considered for Welsh government provided Enable funds by the Disabled Facilities Manager, and the Service Manager in conjunction with representatives from Social Services and the Lead Occupational Therapist.

## **2. Alternative Assistance**

The Council works in partnership with Care and Repair North East Wales, which is a Community Benefit Society with charitable status that provides advice and support on adaptations and delivers minor adaptations to properties.

Care and Repair can carry out a provisional test of resources if requested, to see if an applicant is eligible for a grant or provide alternative solutions if the applicant is not eligible. They can assist with completing application forms and obtaining evidence required for the means test.

Care and Repair have a wholly owned subsidiary company called For You Property Services Ltd which provides property repairs, maintenance and adaptations service if required.

Care and Repair can be contacted:

- Via telephone on 01352 758700 or 03001113333 or online on [www.careandrepairnew.co.uk](http://www.careandrepairnew.co.uk)
- Via email at [enquiries@careandrepairnew.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@careandrepairnew.co.uk) or by post at Care and Repair North East Wales, Place for You, Rowley's Drive, Shotton, Flintshire, CH5 1PY

It has been agreed until further notice that when a customer requires modular ramping, this will be processed by Care & Repair to utilise their recycled stock, this is more environmentally friendly and cost effective.

## **3. General conditions**

All forms of assistance referred to in this Policy document are subject to a number of general conditions.

We provide every customer with confirmation of our terms and conditions, the following list is not exhaustive;

- All applications for assistance must be made on the Council's official adaptation request forms.
- All applicants will be required to have their property registered with HM Land Registry.
- The payment or part payment of grants is conditional on the eligible works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Council and the receipt of an acceptable invoice for the works and any ancillary or professional fees.
- One application can only be made within a 5 year period, unless the customer's condition has changed, this would be reviewed with the OT upon application.
- Where applicable the grant may require repayment if the applicant disposes of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. See conditions in Appendix 1-6 below.

Unless stated otherwise, any additional funding utilising a grant will be secured as a local land charge against the property where breach of the conditions would require repayment of all or part of the financial assistance. This charge will not be removed until either the conditions expire or until the financial assistance is repaid.

No grant assistance will be awarded for works that have commenced prior to the date of formal notification of grant approval.

- Where it is ascertained that an application for assistance has been determined on the basis of inaccurate or incomplete information, the Council can withhold or demand repayment of monies from the applicant.
- If an applicant knowingly makes a false statement, in respect of any information they provide as part of an application for financial assistance or payment, including details of income and savings, the Council may refer the matter to the Police with a view to prosecution.
- In exceptional cases, where the property must be vacated in order for works to be carried out, the Council may be able to assist in finding temporary accommodation. Applicants must be unable to arrange temporary accommodation privately e.g. with family or friends and will be liable for the cost of any rent, removals or furniture storage costs incurred. However, if the applicant would suffer undue hardship, the Council may be able to provide discretionary assistance.

#### Exceptions to repayment conditions

It is recognised that there will be certain situations where it would be inappropriate or unreasonable for a disabled person to be required to repay the grant on disposal of their dwelling. A written request for a repayment waiver must be made to the Council, explaining the circumstances of the case and the reasons why repayment of grant would cause undue hardship. The particulars of each individual case will be considered on their own merits and the applicant will be notified of the outcome in writing.

Where a property is vested in another individual's name under a will or intestacy, the death of the owner will trigger repayment, unless the property was the inheriting person's main residence at the time of application. In this case the condition to repay the loan or grant assistance and occupy the property will transfer to the new owner.

#### Revisions after grant approval

Where, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the applicant, the eligible works cannot be completed for the estimated costs submitted with the application, the Council will continue with the work without considering any additional charge to the client.

#### Adaptations falling outside grant assistance

In the event the cost of the adaptation is in excess of the total assistance available by the Council, the applicant may choose to relocate or be placed on the Council's Specialist Housing Register.

## **4. Legislation**

The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 is the legislative framework governing the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants. Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide grant aid to assist with the delivery of adaptations for a disabled person in a dwelling. In July 2002 the Government made significant changes to housing grant legislation, introducing Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002. This order allows local

authorities to formulate their own flexible financial assistance policies to their funding to address specific local needs and priorities.

In April 2021 Government amended the Housing Service Standards to remove mandatory means testing for all medium adaptations and transferring powers to local authorities under the Regulatory Reform Order to be able to create their own discretionary policies.

Consequently, it is incumbent upon Local Authorities to ensure that their financial assistance policy is updated to reflect the terms of this scheme and any other assistance offered.

In addition, the Local Government Act 2000 created a discretionary power referred to as 'the well-being power' which enables Local Authorities to do anything that they consider is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area and/or persons in it, provided that they are not restricted from doing so by other legislation.

Section 25, Local Government Act 1988, states that consent from the Secretary of State or Minister is required for provision of financial assistance, unless the assistance or benefit is provided in exercise of any power conferred by Article 3 of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002.

Consequently, the broad nature of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002 and the general 'well-being' powers contained in the Local Government Act 2000, means that Local Authorities will be able to provide financial assistance through the provision of discretionary grants and loan schemes to the full range of applicants and can attach such conditions or terms that they consider appropriate in the circumstances.

## **5. Purpose of Grant**

Prior to a Disabled Facilities Grant being approved, Flintshire Council needs to be satisfied that the works are necessary and appropriate to meet the long term needs of the disabled customer, and that it is reasonable and practicable to carry out the works having regard to the age and/or the condition of the building. To establish this, the Disabled Facilities Team will assess the application in consultation with the Occupational Therapy Team.

The property is inspected to assess the proposed works are technically feasible, that there are no other reasonable alternative solutions, and there are no health and safety issues.

Based on the above inspection, a decision will be made in consultation with the applicant as to whether to proceed to a Disabled Facilities Grant, a Disability Relocation Grant, or to explore alternative housing solutions.

In order for a Disabled Facilities Grant to be made available, one or more of the following reasons must be established:

- Help a disabled occupant with access to and from their premises (such as widening doors or installing ramps);
- To allow access to internal rooms, specifically a main living room, bathroom, bedroom or kitchen facilities (such as by providing a stair lift);
- To have easier access and movement around the home to enable the disabled person to care for someone dependent on them, who also lives there (such as a child, husband, wife or partner);

- To make the building safe for the disabled occupant or other people living with the disabled occupant;
- To improve any heating system in a dwelling to meet the specific specialist needs of the disabled occupant. In the event a heating system is not in place or is not suitable, to provide a suitable heating system;
- To allow access to and from a garden by a disabled occupant or making a garden safe for a disabled occupant.

The relevant works are limited to, or include, such works as is believed to be necessary to achieve the purposes stated above.

## **6. Grants Application Process**

To make an enquiry or an application for a Disabled Facilities Grant, an individual should contact the Single Point of Access team, the Social Services Duty Team, Social Services on 01352 702642. The Social Services Duty Team will be able to advise whether an applicant meets the criteria for assessment by an Occupational Therapist.

In the event an assessment has been completed and it is deemed an adaptation is required, the Occupational Therapist will complete an Adaptation Recommendation Form and will advise the client of the process which will be followed. Disabled Facilities Grants may be subject to a 'means test', see conditions below. Applicants will be asked to provide financial information to help calculate whether they are eligible for a grant and whether they are required to make a contribution towards the cost of the work.

A Building Surveyor and the Occupational Therapist will discuss the recommendations to ensure the work can be reasonably and practicably carried out. There may be a requirement to inspect the property to facilitate this assessment.

Information leaflets are provided to client which provide a summary of the types of assistance available, including details on eligibility criteria, levels of assistance and any conditions that apply. This information is also available on the Council's website [www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk) under the Housing Grants section.

### Utilisation of Own Contractors

On occasion, applicants may request to utilise their own contractors. In order for this to be facilitated, the contractors will need to join the Council's Tendering System. This will ensure the contractors are bona-fide, have all the appropriate insurances, and are financially stable. This will also facilitate the payment for the works completed directly to the contractors.

### Payments

Grant payments will be made directly to the main contractors, subject to the work being completed to a satisfactory standard and supported by an accurate invoice. Interim payments can be made on the larger works, subject to conditions.

Upon notification of completion of the works, a full inspection will be undertaken. The final payment will only be released when all works have been completed satisfactorily and all relevant invoices, guarantees and certificates have been received and conditions met. In cases of dispute between the applicant and the contractor over the satisfactory completion of grant works, the Council

reserve the right to adjudicate and release payment to the contractor if deemed appropriate, however, the contractual arrangement for quality and warranties is between the client and the contractor.

## **7. Financial Assistance**

In terms of assessing potential contributory funding to the property adaptations, eligible applicants may be means tested, unless they are in receipt of one or more of the following passported benefits: -

- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit (excluding single persons discount)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Working Families Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Pension Credit Guarantee
- Universal Credit
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance

In some circumstances the Council facilitates the lending of money to home owners in exchange for a share in the value of the property. There are no regular repayments or interest added to the grant. The Council recovers its money either when the property is next sold or transferred to a new owner within a set period of time. This is completed through the placement of local land charges. The charges are removed after the set period of time has elapsed and the property has not been sold or transferred. No monies are due to be repaid at this time.

## **8. Disabled Facilities Assistance**

The council has a duty to consider all applications for Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) which are administered under Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (HGC&RA). The council also provides discretionary assistance in the form of a fast track grant for smaller adaptations. Other products for disabled facilities assistance are also provided on a discretionary basis. All applications for assistance will be subject to an assessment by the Social Services Occupational Therapy Team.

This policy provides criteria to ensure grants are awarded fairly and consistently. The council's intention is to meet performance targets and service standards as set out by Welsh Government

for the delivery of disabled facilities assistance.

### 9. Appendix 1

<b>MINOR ADAPTATIONS</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	Minor adaptations as classed in the Welsh Government Housing Adaptations Service Standards, these are dealt with directly by Care and Repair North East Wales in-line with the Service Level Agreement.
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	Referral to Care & Repair by Occupational Therapist confirming that works are necessary and appropriate.
<b>Conditions</b>	None
<b>Amount</b>	Usually less than £1000

### 10. Appendix 2

<b>MANDATORY DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	DFG's are available to adapt a property to suit the particular needs of a disabled person who resides at the property.
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<p>Referral by Occupational Therapist confirming that works are necessary and appropriate. Adaptation is the most satisfactory course of action subject to a reasonable and practicable assessment.</p> <p>Available to homeowners, tenants renting from a private landlord, a resident of a park home or living on a houseboat.</p> <p>Amount of Disabled Facilities Grant depends on the income and savings of the disabled person and his or her partner, even if the disabled person is not the applicant for the grant (such as when an application is made by a landlord with a disabled tenant).</p> <p>If the income and savings are below the test limits, a contribution will not be required.</p> <p>If the income and savings are greater than the test limits, a contribution will be required towards the cost of the works.</p> <p>There is no requirement for a means test for all Children's Disabled Facilities Grants (under the age of 19).</p> <p>There is no requirement for a means test if an applicant is in receipt of any of the following passported benefits:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Income-based Employment and Support</li> <li>• Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance</li> <li>• Guarantee Pension Credit</li> <li>• Housing Benefit</li> <li>• Council Tax Reduction</li> <li>• Universal Credit</li> <li>• Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit provided that the annual income for the purposes of assessing entitlement to the tax credit is less than £15,050</li> </ul>
<b>Conditions</b>	<p>Any grant classed as a large adaptation will require a Local Land Charge to be placed against the property.</p> <p>As set out in the Housing, Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, the grant will only be paid when the Council are satisfied that the work is being completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval.</p> <p>Repayment of any grant for a large adaptation requires a maximum repayment amount of £10,000 in accordance with HGC&amp;RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.</p> <p>Where a property is vested in another individual's name under a will or intestacy, the death of the owner will trigger repayment, unless the property was the inheriting person's main residence at the time of application. In this case the condition to repay the loan or grant assistance and occupy the property will transfer to the new owner.</p> <p>Adaptations made at a property for a private tenant will require the approval of the private landlord prior to a decision on the adaptation being made.</p>
<b>Amount</b>	<p>Maximum of £36,000.</p> <p>If the Council is managing the adaptation construction works on behalf of the client then any unforeseen costs that cause the cost of the work to exceed the grant maximum of £36,000 will be met by the Council. This will not apply where the client is managing the works themselves or where the extra costs arise from additional items requested by the client which did not form part of the original grant agreement with the Council.</p>

### 11. Appendix 3

DISCRETIONARY ADAPTATIONS	
<b>Purpose</b>	The eligible works of a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant are extensive, however it is considered prudent that monies be set aside to enable,

	<p>enhance, or provide more cost effective solutions, where it is reasonable and practicable to do so, to a particular disabled persons assessed needs. For example; The provision of smaller scale adaptations with a less bureaucratic process.</p> <p>The Welsh Government review of adaptations supports this and the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England &amp; Wales) Order 2002 allows Local Authorities to implement it.</p>
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	Same eligibility criteria as Mandatory DFG, without the requirement for a means test.
<b>Conditions</b>	As set out in the Housing, Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, the grant will only be paid when the Council are satisfied that the work is being completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval.
<b>Amount</b>	No set limit, any medium sized adaptation <b>may</b> be given discretion to not means test, however a combination of medium adaptations may still be subject to a means test.

## 12. Appendix 4

DISCRETIONARY TOP UP < £3K	
<b>Purpose</b>	If the work is likely to cost in excess of the current statutory limit (currently £36,000) then a discretionary top up maybe offered.
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<p>Applicant eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant which requires a top up.</p> <p>Applicant has an owner's interest in the property.</p>
<b>Conditions</b>	<p>As set out in the Housing, Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, the grant will only be paid when the Council are satisfied that the work is being completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval.</p> <p>Repayment of any Top up Grant requires repayment in accordance with HGC&amp;RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.</p>
<b>Amount</b>	Maximum of £3,000.

## 13. Appendix 5

<b>DISCRETIONARY TOP UP GRANT &gt; £3K</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This grant will be considered in instances where the required expenditure to provide the disabled adaptation is above the statutory limit (currently £36,000) and above £39,000.</p> <p>It will only be provided to owner occupiers and the grant amount will be registered as a local land charge against the property.</p>
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<p>Applicant eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant which requires a top up. Applicant has an owner's interest.</p> <p>An Assessment Panel comprising of senior officers from Social Services and Housing will determine whether a Top-Up can be issued.</p> <p>Subject to means testing.</p> <p>The grant is discretionary and the availability is dependent upon the detail of each individual case. It is important to ensure we protect the public purse.</p> <p>A contribution towards the cost of works may be requested from the customer dependent upon their financial circumstances, all minutes of the Top Up Panels are recorded to show the decision making process.</p>
<b>Conditions</b>	<p>Property must be occupied by the applicant or a family member (in the case of a child) as their main residence.</p> <p>If the property has a mortgage, it is the responsibility of the owner to advise the mortgage lender a charge will be placed against the property.</p> <p>Repayment of any Top up Grant requires repayment in accordance with HGC&amp;RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.</p> <p>Where a property is vested in another individual's name under a will or intestacy, the death of the owner will trigger repayment, unless the property was the inheriting person's main residence at the time of application. In this case the condition to repay the grant assistance and occupy the property will transfer to the new owner.</p> <p>Voluntary early repayment may be made at any time and the charges will be removed.</p>
<b>Amount</b>	Maximum of £26,000.

## 14. Appendix 6

<b>RELOCATION GRANT</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	A Relocation Grant or the exploration of alternative housing solutions will be considered in the event the adaptation is not feasible, reasonable, practical, or cost effective.
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<p>Current property is unsuitable for adaptation and does not meet the long term needs of the applicant or it is more cost effective to move rather than adapt.</p> <p>The Council must be satisfied that the new property can be more easily and cost effectively adapted to meet the long term needs of the disabled occupant.</p> <p>Report by Occupational Therapist and DFG Surveyor confirming the adaptation works are necessary, appropriate and confirmation that the new property meets the long term needs with a requirement for some adaptations, but these must not be extensive and are more cost effective than adapting the current property.</p> <p>Applicant has an owner's interest in the property.</p> <p>Subject to means testing.</p>
<b>Conditions</b>	<p>Repayment of any Relocation Grant requires repayment in accordance with HGC&amp;RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.</p> <p>The grant is discretionary and the availability is dependent upon the detail of each individual case.</p>
<b>Amount</b>	<p>Maximum of £20,000 available to help bridge the affordability gap between the value of the applicants existing home and the purchase price of the new property.</p> <p>Maximum of £2,000 available for removal expenses.</p>



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government

# Housing Adaptations Service Standards

Date of issue: [Revised March 2021](#) ~~April 2019~~

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

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## 1. Aim

The Welsh Government recognises the essential role housing adaptations play in supporting disabled and older people to live safely and independently, improving the health and wellbeing of the individual, their families, carers and reducing pressures on frontline services such as health and social care.

The preventative work which housing adaptations offer is very much in line with the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Social Services and Wellbeing Act and the approach set out in Prosperity for All and Healthier Wales. Housing Adaptations should also be considered within the wider context of Equalities Act 2010 and the UN Principles for Older Persons and service providers should pay due regard to them in providing support to service users.

The provision of support for housing adaptations in Wales is complex and is a reflection of the multiple partners involved in the care and support arrangements of disabled and older people.

The aim of the standards is to set out the level of service expected for the delivery and installation of a **housing adaptation** that service users, regardless of their geographic location and tenure, can expect. The service Standards should ensure service providers deliver **housing adaptations** in a more consistent manner and inform service users on the level of service to expect when they seek support for a housing adaptation.

The service standards should be viewed as a planning and delivery tool by service providers to align their procedures and systems with the standards as much as possible and to coordinate and integrate their work with other relevant service providers that operate within their region.

## 2. Key Issues

Recent independent reviews have highlighted the complexity of the different ways in which housing adaptations are provided. Examples of reports include:

- A review of Independent Living Adaptations: Welsh Government (2015) <sup>1</sup>
- Housing Adaptations: Wales Audit Office (2018) <sup>2</sup>
- Housing and Disabled People: Equalities and Human Rights Commission (2018) <sup>3</sup>
- Housing Adaptations: Report of the Public Accounts Committee (2018)<sup>4</sup>

Each report has identified issues of funding complexity and the challenging arrangements for accessing services across Wales. The multiple funding programmes in place for providing adaptations in Wales has resulted in service

<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/review-independent-living-adaptations/?lang=en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/housing-adaptations-2018-english.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/housing-and-disabled-people-wales-hidden-crisis.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11703/cr-ld11703-e.pdf>

users receiving different levels of service dependent upon their tenure and where they live.

### **3. Scope**

These standards will be applied to all housing adaptations, and will be relevant to:

- Local Authorities
- Care and Repair Agencies
- Registered Social Landlords
- Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) organisations
- Occupational Therapists
- Service Users or their representatives

In addition to the above, the service standards will be relevant for Healthcare and Social Service Professionals e.g. community nurses and social workers.

The Welsh Government will keep the standards under review, and may publish amended standards as appropriate.

Legislation requirements for the delivery of specific types of adaptation overrides any services standards outlined in this document, and service providers should seek their own legal advice where needed.

### **4. Service Standards for the delivery of Housing Adaptations**

The service standards set the expected levels of service for the installation of a Housing Adaptation and can be seen at **Figure 1**. There is a responsibility on both the service user (or their representative) and provider to work constructively and collaboratively together towards agreed outcomes, with neither party acting unreasonable which could result in unnecessary delays or an unsatisfactory outcome.

Setting service levels will help to ensure housing adaptations are delivered in a consistent manner, regardless of a service user's location and tenure, whilst giving flexibility to service providers to determine the best way to utilise their own resources to meet the standards. In meeting the needs of a service user, it should be noted that in some situations it may be more appropriate that other measures are considered and explored before a housing adaptation is considered e.g. re-ablement or re-housing to more suitable accommodation where this is an option.

Due to the complexity of delivering some housing adaptations, especially larger sized adaptations, the process can result in a number of steps that may involve input from wider stakeholders such as the planning department, building control teams and utility companies. These steps have to be taken to ensure that the adaptation will provide the help and assistance needed for the service user and meets broader legislative requirements. As a result, the timeframes for delivering a housing



adaptation can vary. The 'Expected Timeframes' service standard in **Figure 1** has been split to reflect the following key phases that can be involved in deciding if a Housing Adaptation should be provided:



- **First Point of Contact** - The time it takes from a service user making first contact with a relevant service provider (this could be a Local Authority, Care and Repair Agency, Housing Association or from their health or social services contacts) to being assessed by a competent person (such as an Occupational Therapist or Trusted Assessor) and;
- **Housing Adaptation confirmed as necessary** - The timescale for an Occupational Therapist (or another suitably competent person) report/referral/recommendation being provided to the service provider outlining the adaptation works required.
- **Installation of Housing Adaptation** - The date of referral (or decision, recommendation, report) made by the competent person when the adaptation is confirmed as needed to installation. This is to ensure that alternative forms of assistance (e.g. re-ablement) are considered before deciding a housing adaptation is needed.

The Welsh Government expect service providers to work in collaboration with Occupational Therapists (or other competent persons who can advise and identify the required adaptation) as well as service users to determine the best possible outcome is achieved, while still reflecting the principles of all work being **necessary** and **appropriate, reasonable** and **practicable**.

Definitions of the different types of housing adaptations (Small, Medium or Large) are listed in **Figure 2**. These are included to provide a guide for service providers to determine how to record the most appropriate type of adaptation (Small, Medium or Large). For situations that are considered urgent e.g. to facilitate a hospital discharge, support a palliative care package, or prevent admission to hospital or a care home, these instances should be prioritised and delivered as soon as practicable.

The definitions in **Figure 2** also aims to help service users understand the different types of adaptations and what they can expect in how they are delivered by the service provider.

The Welsh Government recognises there may be situations or individual cases which do not fit within the categories of **Figure 2** for a variety of reasons. In these cases, **service providers should use their professional judgement to decide the most appropriate category to use based on sound judgement and evidence.**

## **5. Monitoring and enforcement of Service Standards**

Performance monitoring data will be submitted to the Welsh Government using the data collection methodology for 'Housing Adaptations Data Monitoring', which will help evidence progress on delivery of the service standards. The data collected through this process will be published on an annual basis. The Welsh Government has revised the terms of conditions for a number of grants it provides for housing adaptations for service providers to work in line with the service standards.

## **6. Complaints and concerns**

If a service user is not satisfied with the level of service received, they have the right to make a complaint. Any complaints should be directed to the service provider and handled in accordance with their organisational complaints procedure.

**Figure 1 - Housing Adaptations Service Standards**

Service Standard	Level of Service Expected
<p><b>Standard 1: Purpose</b></p>	<p>The purpose of a housing adaptation can provide a number of benefits, but is primarily to help disabled and/or older people and support their carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to remove barriers that can lead to people being disabled by their environment and not by their impairments (social model of disability);</li> <li>• to remain or become more independent within their own home;</li> <li>• to facilitate an earlier hospital discharge; and</li> <li>• to prevent any further falls.</li> </ul> <p>The adaptation provided should be necessary and appropriate, as well as reasonable and practicable.</p>
<p><b>Standard 2: Equality and Diversity</b></p>	<p>Disabled and/or older people can expect that they will be treated fairly and respectfully. Service providers will ensure they have equality and diversity policies in place to ensure this and that staff have undertaken the appropriate disability awareness training.</p>
<p><b>Standard 3: Communication</b></p>	<p>Communication should be a two way process between the service provider and service user (or their representative), and based on the principles of coproduction and the ‘what matters’ conversation as endorsed in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing Act. Information and communication will be in a format which most effectively meets a service users’ needs, such as Welsh and English, and accessible formats including braille, large fonts, audio versions and other languages. At the start of the process the service user (or their representative) will be informed of the key steps to install an adaptation. The service user should be meaningfully included in the decision making process on the design and delivery of an adaptation where practicable. They will also be informed of the expected timeframes, be regularly updated on progress and invited to provide feedback during and at the end of installation.</p>

<b>Standard 4:</b> <b>Quality of Service</b>	<p>The work will be completed by a suitably competent person, either an employee of the service provider or someone from their approved contractors list which is regularly monitored by the service provider and subject to clear selection, retention and quality assurance procedures. If a service user decides to use their own contractor to carry out the work it will be the service user's responsibility to deal with and resolve any issues and will need the appropriate consent and permissions from their landlord where this is appropriate. Service users can also be signposted to other organisations or given initial advice to find the support they may need.</p>
<b>Standard 5:</b> <b>Quality of Equipment</b>	<p>Any equipment installed will be compliant with relevant health and safety requirements, technical specifications and be appropriate for the purpose which they were intended. Service user should also be informed and made aware of; warranty information, service charges and maintenance requirements where it is appropriate to do so.</p>
<b>Standard 6:</b> <b>Expected Timeframes</b>	<p><b>For Small Adaptations:</b>  The solution will usually (i.e. for 90% of cases) be installed within 3 weeks (if urgent) or 4 weeks (if non urgent) from date of first contact with the service provider who have deemed it necessary for the adaptation to be installed.</p> <p><b>For Medium Adaptations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From first point of contact with the service provider, the service user can expect to be assessed within 2 months by a competent person e.g. an Occupational Therapist, or Trusted Assessor.</li> <li>- If the adaptation is confirmed as necessary the Occupational Therapist or Trusted Assessor will provide a report/referral/recommendation to the service provider within 2 weeks of the decision.</li> <li>- Solution usually installed within 4 months (or in line with legislative requirements) from date of referral/recommendation from a competent person.</li> </ul> <p><b>For Large Adaptations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From first point of contact with the service provider, the service user can expect to be assessed within 2 months by a competent person e.g. an Occupational Therapist.</li> <li>- Once the adaptation is confirmed as necessary the Occupational Therapist will provide a report/referral/recommendation to the service provider within 2 weeks of the decision.</li> <li>- Solution usually installed within 15 months (or in line with legislative requirements) from date of referral from a competent person, to reflect steps taken in some cases, e.g. planning permission.</li> </ul>

<b>Standard 7: Eligibility Checks</b>	<p><b>For Small Adaptations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Means Test is not required.</li> <li>- Occupational Therapist assessment not required.</li> <li>- Trusted Assessor assessment may be required.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>For Medium Adaptations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Means Test <u>is not</u> <del>may be</del> required <del>(only in relation to a Disabled Facilities Grant).</del></li> <li>- Occupational Therapist Assessment may be required. If not, a Trusted Assessor will be required.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>For Large Adaptations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Means Test may be required (only in relation to a Disabled Facilities Grant).</li> <li>- Occupational Therapist Assessment will be required.</li> <li>- Trusted Assessor assessment would not be appropriate in these cases.</li> </ul>

**Figure 2 – Definitions of different types of Housing Adaptations**

Category	Nature of Work Required	Example of Work	Funding Source
<p><b>Small Adaptions</b>                      adaptations are inexpensive items, which can be provided very quickly. It would generally fit into the description of 'immediate falls prevention' or 'urgent for hospital discharge' and can be assessed and installed within days or the same day if urgent. It can be identified by a number of health/ social services/ other appropriately trained staff e.g. RSL staff, Care and Repair Staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor home modification required</li> <li>• Not a specialised solution</li> <li>• No building/planning approval required</li> <li>• Adjustable / Flexible</li> <li>• Simple &amp; Intuitive</li> <li>• Minimal maintenance and/or servicing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grab rails</li> <li>• Stair rails</li> <li>• Small ramps</li> <li>• Accessible taps</li> <li>• Key safes</li> <li>• Mop stick hand rails</li> <li>• Outdoor rails</li> <li>• External / staircase lights</li> <li>• Additional electrical sockets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENABLE</li> <li>• RRAP</li> <li>• RSL Funds</li> <li>• LA own funds</li> <li>• Self funded</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium Adaptations</b>                      anything which is not classed as small or large.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major home modification may be required, but building/planning approval not required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk in shower</li> <li>• Stair lifts</li> <li>• Large ramps</li> <li>• A combination of adaptations installed as one job</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENABLE</li> <li>• RSL Funds</li> <li>• LA own funds</li> <li>• Physical Adaptation Grants (PAG)</li> <li>• Disabled Facility Grant (DFG)s</li> <li>• Self funded</li> </ul>
<p><b>Large Adaptations</b>                      these are works which will require specialist assessments, statutory approvals and major adaptations to a property such as extensions and through floor lifts. An Occupational Therapists assessment will be required and planning permission may be needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major home modification / structural change required</li> <li>• Specialised / Innovative solutions required</li> <li>• Building / planning approval required</li> <li>• Fixed / permanent / long term</li> <li>• Complex / unfamiliar / requires training &amp; supervision</li> <li>• Solution requires expertise for installation and maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building an extension to provide a downstairs bedroom and/or bathroom</li> <li>• Through floor lift</li> <li>• Significant internal structural modifications e.g. relocate bathroom or kitchen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Facilities Grant</li> <li>• Physical Adaptations Grants</li> <li>• RSL Funds</li> <li>• LA own funds</li> <li>• Self funded</li> </ul>



## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23 (Month 5)
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This monthly report provides the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position in 2022/23 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year and presents the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5.

This report projects how the budget would stand at the close of the financial year, without new actions to reduce cost pressures and/or improve the financial return on efficiency planning and cost control is:

#### **Council Fund**

- An operating deficit of £0.680m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will need to be met by reserves)
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 of £7.724m (before the impact of final pay awards)

#### **Housing Revenue Account**

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £3.308m higher than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 of £3.166m

Hardship Funding from Welsh Government helped secure £16m of direct financial help last year and we have continued to claim payments in 2022/23 for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments within their eligible periods.

A brought forward amount of £2.066m remains available from the original £3m emergency ring-fenced fund. The 2022/23 budget approved in February included a further top up of £3.250m to this Reserve to provide a prudent safeguard against

any ongoing impacts of the pandemic. Early indications are that whilst the risks due to COVID-19 has diminished considerably, the inflationary risk has increased.

The position will be monitored closely over the coming months and any impacts reflected in future reports.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2022/23 budget.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23</b>
1.01	<p><b>Council Fund Projected Position</b></p> <p>The projected year end position, without mitigation to reduce cost pressures and improve the yield on efficiency planning, is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An operating deficit of £0.680m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will need to be met by reserves)</li> <li>• A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 of £7.724m (before the impact of pay awards)</li> </ul> <p>To assist with managing risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continues.</p>
1.02	Hardship Funding from Welsh Government helped secure over £16m direct financial help last year and we have continued to claim payments in 2022/23 for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments within their eligible periods.



1.03 **Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio**

The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:

<b>Portfolio/Service Area</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>In-Year Over / (Under) spend</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Social Services	77.969	78.447	0.478
Out of County Placements	15.101	16.112	1.011
Education & Youth	9.935	9.590	(0.344)
Schools	108.420	108.420	0.000
Streetscene & Transportation	38.466	39.562	1.096
Planning Env & Economy	6.797	6.188	(0.610)
People & Resources	4.324	4.270	(0.055)
Governance	10.772	10.396	(0.376)
Strategic Programmes	6.116	6.108	(0.009)
Assets	0.312	0.293	(0.019)
Community Housing & Poverty	14.662	14.448	(0.215)
Chief Executive	2.256	2.187	(0.069)
Central & Corporate Finance	31.552	31.343	(0.209)
<b>Total</b>	<b>326.682</b>	<b>327.362</b>	<b>0.680</b>

1.04 The reasons for the projected variances are summarised within Appendix 1 and shows the detail of all variances over £0.050m and a summary of minor variances for each portfolio.

**Significant Movements from Month 4**

1.05 **Social Services £0.155m**

Resources & Regulated Services £0.077m

In-House residential care costs Older People Services have reduced by (£0.031m) whereas in Adult of Working Age there is an adverse movement of £0.104m resulting from changes to Care Packages and increased staff costs.

Children's Services Professional Support £0.072m

Additional staff costs to support adequate levels of child protection service pressures.

	Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder of the movement totalling £0.006m.
1.06	<p><b>Out of County Placements £0.186m</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Services £0.211m</li> <li>• Education &amp; Youth (£0.025m)</li> </ul> <p>The movement is in the main due to one new high cost residential placement in Children’s Services mitigated by an increase in income recharges from placements to Flintshire schools in Education and Youth.</p>
1.07	<p><b>Education &amp; Youth (£0.054m)</b></p> <p>Minor movements across the Portfolio</p>
1.08	<p><b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation £0.032m</b></p> <p>The adverse movement relates to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation £0.198m - increased costs in the provision of additional key service routes equating to £270 per day from re-procurement and additional statutory provision.</li> <li>• Impact of COVID-19 (£0.190m) – COVID-19 costs agreed to be funded from the COVID-19 Emergency Reserve.</li> </ul> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder £0.024m.</p>
1.09	<p><b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy (£0.374m)</b></p> <p>The favourable movement follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase to projected Planning Fee income outturn following receipt of a further ‘one off’ large planning application fee (£0.300m) in the second quarter of the financial year within Development Management.</li> <li>• Vacant post within the Business Service (£0.035m) and receipt of Rent Smart Grant (£0.010m) not previously projected.</li> </ul> <p>Cumulative minor variances account for the remainder of (£0.029m).</p>
1.10	<p><b>Governance (£0.046m)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues (£0.025m) – increase to potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund</li> </ul> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder (£0.021m).</p>
1.11	<p><b>Housing &amp; Communities £0.303m</b></p> <p><u>Benefits £0.130m</u> Reduction in the projected underspend on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) of £0.039m, increased expenditure on Discretionary</p>

	<p>Housing Payments (DHPs) and an increase to the pressure relating to recovery of overpayments £0.024m.</p> <p><u>Housing Solutions £0.163m</u> Increased demand for temporary accommodation for Homelessness.</p> <p>Minor variances across the Service account for the remainder of £0.010m.</p>
1.12	<p><b>Corporate Services</b></p> <p><u>People &amp; Resources £0.106m</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £0.055m – initial charge incurred as a result of entering into a new contract with MHR Global for payroll services.</li> <li>• Successful recruitment to Occupational Health Nurse £0.041m</li> </ul> <p>Minor variances across the Service account for the remainder of £0.010m.</p>
1.13	<p><b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance £0.048m</b></p> <p>Movement relates to IFRS 9 accounting adjustments for soft loan mitigation of £0.053m.</p> <p>Minor variances account for the remainder of (£0.005m).</p>
1.14	<p><b>Tracking of In-Year Risks and Emerging Issues</b></p> <p>Members were made aware when setting the budget that there were a number of open risks that would need to be kept under close review. An update on these is provided below.</p>
1.15	<p><b>Council Tax Income</b></p> <p>In 2021/22 the Council achieved an ‘in-year’ collection level of 97.73% - the second highest collection rate in Wales.</p> <p>For 2022/23 up to August, the ‘in-year’ collection level is 47.60%, compared to 47.75% in the previous year. The marginal fall in collection levels is mainly due to resources being diverted to administering the Cost of Living Support Scheme as well as the impact on households more generally of rising costs-of-living.</p>
1.16	<p><b>Pay Award (Teacher and Non-Teacher)</b></p> <p>National negotiations have commenced between Employers and Trade Unions. The Council has provided for an uplift of 3.5% for Teaching and Non-Teaching staff – any increase above this level would require the Council to utilise reserves to fund the difference in the current financial year and would add to the additional budget requirement for 2023/24.</p> <p>The current pay offer for teachers is 5% and there is an offer from the National employers for NJC employees of £1,925 on all spinal column points. This equates to an increase of 2.54% on the highest scale point to 10.5% on the lowest point.</p>

	<p><b>The impact on 2022/23 is as follows:</b></p> <p>Teachers pay - in year impact of an additional £0.674m for the period September to March (full year effect 2023/24 of £1.144m) over and above the budgeted level of 3.5%.</p> <p>NJC pay - in year impact of an additional £4.594m (Schools £1.637m and non-schools £2.957m) over and above the budgeted level of 3.5%.</p> <p><b>Additional amount needing to be met from reserves in 2022/23 based on the above is £5.268m.</b></p> <p>The above will also impact on the MTFs with the full year impact of the teachers' pay award increasing the impact for 2023/24 to £5.738m.</p> <p>The above pay offers are subject to agreement and out for consultation with the Trade Unions.</p>
1.17	<p><b>Other Tracked Risks</b></p> <p>In addition, there are a number of risks being tracked which may be subject to change and these are summarised below.</p>
1.18	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Impact</b></p> <p>Cabinet considered the latest projection for the MTFs in September which showed an increase in the additional budget requirement to £24.348m. The forecast includes the latest position on pay awards, which are still subject to agreement and revisions to forecasts for energy and fuel inflation which remains subject to constant change due to market volatility.</p> <p>All Portfolios consider their financial position, the risks within their service and the impacts on the Medium Term on a monthly basis as part of their Portfolio Management Team meetings.</p>
1.19	<p><b>Out of County Placements</b></p> <p>The risks include continued high demand for placements where children and young people cannot be supported within in-house provision, and market supply limitation factors and inflationary pressures leading to higher placement costs.</p> <p>There is a projected overspend for the current cohort of placements of circa £1.011m, although with 7 months of the year remaining this is likely to increase and a contingency of £0.300m is currently built into the outturn position for this with £0.250m in for Children's Services and £0.050m for Education placements.</p> <p>The service areas within this pooled budget will continue to do everything possible to manage these risks and additional investment has already been made to further develop in-house provision to help to mitigate against such financial pressures.</p>

1.20	<p><b>Benefits</b></p> <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) – Based on current demand, costs are currently projected to be £0.609m below budget, although this will be monitored closely throughout the year due to the potential for growth.</p> <p>There is continued high demand across the whole of the Benefits service which is expected to remain the case for the foreseeable future. There is a significant pressure on recovery of overpayments which is a combination of a shortfall of recovery against the level of income target budget which is partly influenced by lower number of overpayments occurring, and also the need to increase the bad debt provision on historic debt. There is also a small pressure on Discretionary Housing Payments for which the Council receives an allocation from the DWP.</p> <p>The increased staffing levels are still required and those costs are now being met in full from the additional funding of £0.300m previously approved to provide the service with the additional flexibility needed to adapt to and meet the sustained increase in customer demand.</p>
1.21	<p><b>Homelessness</b></p> <p>The risk is a consequence of the cessation of funding support from the Welsh Government COVID-19 Hardship Fund at the end of 2021/22.</p> <p>Although, there is continued support via the new Homelessness – No One Left Out grant, this still falls well below the amount of support we received via the Hardship Fund in 2020/21 and 2021/22.</p> <p>Although it has been possible to contain some of the expected pressure through prepaid accommodation to the end of September 2022, which has been funded by the COVID-19 Hardship Fund, the expected continued high demand for temporary accommodation including short term Bed &amp; Breakfast provision will continue to present significant challenges.</p> <p>We continue to strategically use increased allocations of Housing Support Grant working with external partners, but there remains a risk that the costs of statutory provision of support for Homelessness may exceed existing funding provision from base budget and available grant funding.</p>
1.22	<p><b>Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies</b></p> <p>The 2022/23 budget contains £1.341m of specific efficiencies which are tracked and monitored throughout the year. The Council aims to achieve a 95% rate in 2022/23 as reflected in the MTFs KPI's and fully achieved all efficiencies in the previous financial year</p> <p>It is projected that all efficiencies will be achieved in 2022/23 and further details can be seen in Appendix 3.</p>
1.23	<p><b>Earmarked Reserves</b></p> <p>A detailed review of earmarked reserves has been undertaken over the summer and an amount of £1.208m has been identified for release to the</p>

Contingency Reserve which will provide an additional safeguard against some of the financial risks across the Council.

The table below provides a summary of earmarked reserves as at 1 April 2022 and an estimate of projected balances as at the end of the current financial year.

**Council Fund Earmarked Reserves 2022/23**

**Monitoring Summary Month 5**

Reserve Type	Balance as at 01/04/22	Balance as at Month 5	Estimated Balance as at 31/03/23	Release to General Reserve
Service Balances	4,697,596	3,474,711	1,402,499	226,000
Workforce Costs	877,786	877,786	854,567	0
Investment in Organisational Change	1,617,975	1,617,975	1,102,846	0
County Elections	291,851	291,851	235,913	0
Local Development Plan (LDP)	242,360	242,360	242,360	0
Warm Homes Admin Fee	297,925	297,925	202,068	0
Waste Disposal	48,771	48,771	40,638	0
Design Fees	250,000	250,000	125,000	0
Winter Maintenance	250,000	250,000	250,000	0
Severe Weather	250,000	250,000	119,550	0
Car Parking	45,403	45,403	0	0
Insurance Reserves	2,135,817	2,135,817	2,350,000	0
Cheque Book Schools	3,814	3,814	0	3,814
School HWB ICT Replacement	263,223	263,223	263,223	0
Free School Meals	115,522	115,522	0	0
Flintshire Trainees	696,631	696,631	612,843	0
Rent Income Shortfall	12,779	12,779	0	0
Plas Derwen Wave 4	1,780	1,780	1,780	0
Customer Service Strategy	22,468	22,468	0	0
Supervision Fees	48,798	48,798	48,798	0
ICT Servers Reserve	85,000	85,000	0	0
IT Infrastructure HWB	327,442	312,442	0	0
Schools Intervention Reserve	491,133	491,133	231,540	0
Organisational Change/ADM	274,154	274,154	240,654	0
NWEAB	210,644	210,644	210,644	0
Employment Claims	109,846	109,846	109,846	0
Community Benefit Fund	450,653	450,653	229,792	0
NWRWTP				
<b>Total B823 Balances</b>	<b>9,421,775</b>	<b>9,406,775</b>	<b>7,472,062</b>	<b>3,814</b>
Schools Balances	12,291,688	12,291,688	5,100,000	0
Inflation/Budget Risk (additional RSG)	2,432,022	2,432,022	2,432,022	

Social Care (additional RSG)	400,000	400,000	400,000	
Grants & Contributions	7,944,134	6,417,730	3,722,245	977,758
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,187,216</b>	<b>34,422,927</b>	<b>20,528,828</b>	<b>1,207,572</b>

The release to reserves as shown above increases the Contingency Reserve by £1.208m to £7.724m.

#### 1.24 **Unearmarked Reserves**

The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2022/23 was £7.098m as detailed in the 2021/22 outturn report (subject to Audit). In addition, the Council has set-aside a further £3.250m to the carried forward £2.066m COVID-19 Emergency Reserve as a safeguard against the continuing impacts of the pandemic (additional costs and lost income).

Internal claims for Quarter 1 have been made in 2022/23 relating to additional costs in Schools, Streetscene & Transportation and for income losses within AURA.

After taking into account the transfer from earmarked reserves of £1.208m a projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 is anticipated of £7.724m (before the impact of final pay awards – currently estimated at £5.268m).

#### 1.25 **Housing Revenue Account**

The 2021/22 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 12 July 2022 showed an un-earmarked closing balance at the end of 2021/22 of £3.616m and a closing balance of earmarked reserves of £1.622m.

1.26 The 2022/23 budget for the HRA is £38.119m which includes a movement of £2.858m to reserves.

1.27 The monitoring for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £3.308m higher than budget and a closing un-earmarked balance as at 31 March 2023 of £3.166m, which at 8.29% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%. Appendix 4 attached refers.

1.28 Significant movement of £3.121m at month 5 results from :

- Contribution to meet the additional Capital Works that are due to be undertaken in year £2.857m
- Increase in salaries cost across Services £0.118m
- Increase in projected cost of insurance claims £0.163m
- Mitigated by savings in respect in reduced projection in court costs (£0.027m)

Minor variances account for the remainder £0.010m

1.29 The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £10.898m with the actual contribution projected to be £13.755m at outturn.

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

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

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

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 4 Appendix 2: Council Fund – Budget Variances Appendix 3: Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies Appendix 4: Council Fund – Movement on Un-earmarked Reserves Appendix 5: Housing Revenue Account Variances

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

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

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.



**Council Fund:** the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.

**Financial Year:** the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.

**Housing Revenue Account:** the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy.

**Intermediate Care Fund:** Funding provided by Welsh Government to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing.

**Projected Outturn:** projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.

**Reserves:** these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.

**Revenue:** a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.

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

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

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## MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
<b>Social Services</b>		
<b>Older People</b>		
Resources & Regulated Services	-0.031	The reduction in spend is mostly due to reduced spend within the in-house residential service by £0.022m
Minor Variances	-0.008	
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>		
Resources & Regulated Services	0.104	A net change to care packages has resulted in an increase of £0.061m on the Learning Disability budget. Supported Living cost have increased by £0.028m due to staff costs.
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.029	This is due to net changes to care packages for young people transferring from Children Services to Adult Social Care.
Residential Placements	0.041	This is due to a net increase to Mental Healthcare support packages.
Minor Variances	0.015	
<b>Children's Services</b>		
Professional Support	0.072	This is mostly due to additional staff costs required to meet service pressures
Minor Variances	-0.016	
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>		
Management & Support	-0.044	Expected reduction to the in-year contribution for the Regional Collaboration Team
Minor Variances	-0.007	
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>0.155</b>	
<b>Out of County</b>		
Children's Services	0.211	Mostly due to one new high cost residential placement with some other offsetting minor changes
Education & Youth	-0.025	Mostly due to an increase in recoupment income from other LA's placements to Flintshire schools
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>0.186</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>		
Minor Variances	-0.054	Cumulative minor variances across the portfolio
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>-0.054</b>	
<b>Schools</b>	<b>0.000</b>	
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>		
Service Delivery	0.018	
Transportation	0.198	Movement due to additional routes (PRU's) 6 in total equating to £270.00 per day
Regulatory Services	-0.011	
Impact of Covid-19	-0.190	COVID related costs now funded from the Corporate Emergency Hardship Contingency Fund.
Other Minor Variances	0.023	
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>0.032</b>	
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>		
Business	-0.049	At Month 5 Vacant post and receipt of Rent Smart Grant Income result in a favourable movement
Development	-0.348	One-off receipt of £0.300m planning application fee resulting in a revised projected outturn, plus minor variances across the Service
Impact of Covid-19	0.011	
Minor Variances	0.012	
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>-0.374</b>	
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>		
HR & OD	0.106	At Month 5 the successful recruitment to Occupational Health Nurse £0.040m and an Initial charge incurred as a result of entering a new contract with MHR for Payroll iTrent Services £0.056m result in an adverse movement, minor variances £0.010m
Corporate Finance	-0.001	
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>0.105</b>	
<b>Governance</b>		

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
Revenues	-0.025	At Month 5 the potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection fund has been reviewed and increased accordingly
Minor Variances	-0.021	
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>-0.046</b>	
<b>Strategic Programmes</b>		
Minor Variances	0.012	
<b>Total Strategic Programmes</b>	<b>0.012</b>	
<b>Assets</b>		
Minor Variances	0.027	Cumulative minor variances across the portfolio
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>0.027</b>	
<b>Housing and Communities</b>		
Benefits	0.130	Increased expenditure on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs), Reduction of underspend on CTRS of £0.039m and increased shortfall in recovery of overpayments of £0.024m
Housing Solutions	0.163	Increased demand for temporary accommodation for Homelessness
Minor Variances	0.009	
<b>Total Housing and Communities</b>	<b>0.303</b>	
<b>Chief Executive's</b>		
	<b>0.001</b>	
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>		
Central Loans & Investment Account	0.053	IFRS 9 accounting transaction for soft loan mitigation
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>0.395</b>	

## Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Social Services</b>							
<b>Older People</b>							
Localities	20.679	20.063	-0.616		-0.612	The commissioned Older Peoples domiciliary and Direct Payment budget is expected to underspend by £0.834m based on recent months activity. There are recruitment and retention challenges within this service which is limiting the amount of required care purchased. The residential care budget is projecting a £0.364m overspend due to the cost of placements net of income such as Free Nursing Care, Regional Integration Fund contributions and property income. The Localities staffing budget is expected to underspend by £0.070m as not all staff are currently top of grade and some costs are to be recharged. There are also underspends on the Day Care budget of £0.033m and the Sensory service level agreement budget of £0.042m	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.921	9.139	0.218		0.249	In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.255m due to staff and running costs and in-house homecare is estimated to overspend by £0.022m. The Extra Care budget is underspent by £0.025m, and Day Care by £0.034m. There is an assumption that we will receive £0.185m Winter Pressures funding built into these projections.	
Minor Variances	1.269	1.245	-0.024		-0.021		
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>							
Resources & Regulated Services	29.481	29.683	0.202		0.098	The PDSI (Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired) budget is reporting a £0.113m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living service is £0.077m overspent but will likely increase if required recruitment is successful. The Learning Disability Daycare and Work Scheme budget is £0.067m overspend due in part to recent inflationary pressures. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability services is a £0.054m underspend.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.951	1.065	0.113		0.084	These are the costs of care for young adults who are transferring to Adult Social Care, from Children Services, this financial year. Care costs are initially estimated but once services have been agreed the actual cost may be different.	
Residential Placements	1.956	2.350	0.394		0.353	This is the cost of current commissioned care packages within the Mental Health service.	
Minor Variances	4.033	4.004	-0.029		-0.044		
<b>Children's Services</b>							
Family Support	0.375	0.502	0.127		0.139	Costs are based upon the current activity levels over the last few months and projected forward for the rest of the year. Workforce costs, primarily sessional staff are the primary cost driver for this service.	
Legal & Third Party	0.232	0.743	0.511		0.516	Legal costs are overspent by £0.276m due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external legal professionals. Direct Payments also continue to increase in demand and are overspending by £0.234m.	
Residential Placements	1.312	0.917	-0.395		-0.406	The in-year opening of some Children's Residential care settings will mean that there will be one off cost savings, in addition it is expected that one off, non-recurring grant from Welsh Government will be received for start up costs.	
Professional Support	6.173	6.423	0.250		0.178	To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges and demands of Children's Services. There is an assumption that Welsh Government will allow for flexible use of Children's Services grants which will allow for some cost pressures to be offset.	

## Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Minor Variances	3.537	3.567	0.030		0.040		
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>							
Business Support Service	1.195	1.144	-0.051		-0.027	The underspend is due to a decrease in staff costs because of vacancies which are unlikely to be filled within year.	
Safeguarding Unit	1.291	1.082	-0.209		-0.210	A consultation for the updated Liberty Protection Safeguard legislation continue to be undertaken. Due to the delay in implementing the legislation there will be an in-year saving	
Management & Support	-2.267	-2.328	-0.061		-0.017	An expected reduction of £0.040m on Flintshires contribution to the Regional Collaboration Team is expect this year	
Minor Variances	-1.170	-1.150	0.020		0.004		
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>77.969</b>	<b>78.447</b>	<b>0.478</b>	<b>-0.000</b>	<b>0.323</b>		
<b>Out of County</b>							
Children's Services	10.097	11.497	1.400		1.189	The projected overspend reflects significant additional demands on the service in the year to date with 25 new placements having been made in the year to date - most of which are high cost residential placements - there is provision for a contingency sum of £0.250m, for net impacts of further new placements and other placement changes but this may not prove to be enough.	
Education & Youth	5.004	4.615	-0.389		-0.364	The underspend reflects projected costs for the current cohort of placements and there have been 16 new placements in the year to date with further new placements also likely to emerge as the year progresses, for which contingency provision of £0.050m has been made.	
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>15.101</b>	<b>16.112</b>	<b>1.011</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.825</b>		
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>							
School Improvement Systems	1.889	1.756	-0.133		-0.132	Payments to Non-maintained and maintained settings projected similar to those of 21/22. Welsh Government have announced continuation of top-up funding to £5 p/hour, so gives the Early Entitlement budget increasing financial capacity. Alongside this, the Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards grant and the Early Years Pupil Development Grant increases announced allow core budget to be released. Proposed efficiency savings are currently under review.	
School Planning & Provision	0.671	0.619	-0.053		-0.036	Projected underspend on insurance liability claims costs and some salary savings	
Minor Variances	7.374	7.215	-0.159		-0.122		
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>9.935</b>	<b>9.590</b>	<b>-0.344</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.290</b>		
<b>Schools</b>	<b>108.420</b>	<b>108.420</b>	<b>-0.000</b>		<b>-0.000</b>		
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							
Service Delivery	9.147	9.412	0.265		0.247	The service has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.100m for security costs due to vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. Additional £0.050m Repair/Plant Hire costs across the Service. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.070m revenue pressure on the Community Council Income Budget. Remaining £0.170m is attributable to high sickness levels/Agency costs.	
Highways Network	8.096	8.599	0.503		0.487	Highways is incurring a Revenue pressure of £0.400m in Fleet services as a result of rising Fuel costs. Also additional £0.050m costs increase in weed spraying following concerns raised in Scrutiny, which cannot be covered by our existing Budget.	

## Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Transportation	10.031	10.393	0.362		0.164	Local Bus is incurring additional overspend of £0.100m due to Park and Ride Service and Service 5 re-procurement. School Transport is incurring a revenue pressure of £0.090m, due to a shortfall in budget for 3 school days driven by Easter timelines in this financial Year. In Period 5 there has been an additional pressure of £0.200m in School Transport due to additional routes (PRU's) 6 in total equating to £270.00 per day.	
Regulatory Services	11.192	11.158	-0.034		-0.023	Following changes to Council Policy the Service is seeing a reduction in recycling disposal waste. Sustained and improved recycling rebate prices have improved our projected Income.	
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>38.466</b>	<b>39.562</b>	<b>1.096</b>	<b>-0.000</b>	<b>1.064</b>		
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Community	0.890	0.963	0.073		0.077	Fee income shortfalls in Licensing and Pest Control and historic business planning efficiency £0.024m not realised	
Development	0.146	-0.448	-0.594		-0.246	Favourable variance following receipt of a small number of high value one off Planning Fee each approx £0.300m	
Management & Strategy	1.385	1.274	-0.111		-0.116	Staff savings from vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.036	COVID-19 related additional cleaning costs for Countryside Service and Environmental Health Officer costs	
Minor Variances	4.376	4.350	-0.026		0.014		
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>6.797</b>	<b>6.188</b>	<b>-0.610</b>	<b>0.047</b>	<b>-0.236</b>		
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>							
HR & OD	2.284	2.257	-0.027		-0.133	Staff savings due to vacant posts and commitment challenge across the service	
Corporate Finance	2.041	2.013	-0.028		-0.027		
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.324</b>	<b>4.270</b>	<b>-0.055</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.160</b>		
<b>Governance</b>							
Democratic Services	2.374	2.283	-0.091		-0.089	Variance as a result of the Members Allowances new rate not being implemented until May, 2022 and lower than anticipated take up of both Broadband and Pension Allowances (£0.108m) ; plus minor variances across Service	
ICT	4.960	4.910	-0.050		-0.038	Staff savings from vacant posts and minor variances across the Service	
Customer Services	1.018	0.893	-0.125		-0.116	Registrars Fee Income higher than anticipated and savings from vacant posts	
Revenues	0.201	0.063	-0.138		-0.113	The variance results from the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.117m) based on current information; minor variance across the service	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001		
Minor Variances	2.220	2.246	0.027		0.026		
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>10.772</b>	<b>10.396</b>	<b>-0.376</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>-0.330</b>		
<b>Strategic Programmes</b>							
Minor Variances	6.116	6.108	-0.009		-0.020		
<b>Total Strategic Programmes</b>	<b>6.116</b>	<b>6.108</b>	<b>-0.009</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.020</b>		
<b>Assets</b>							
Caretaking & Security	0.264	0.183	-0.081		-0.082	Due to vacancy savings	
Minor Variances	0.048	0.109	0.061		0.036		

## Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>0.312</b>	<b>0.293</b>	<b>-0.019</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.046</b>		
<b>Housing and Communities</b>							
Benefits	13.260	13.040	-0.220		-0.350	Projected underspend of -£0.609m on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) which is offset by pressures of £0.367m on recovery of overpayments including a shortfall against the income budget target which has previously been compensated by the WG COVID-19 Hardship Fund and also due to the need to increase the bad debt provision for recovery of overpayments	
Minor Variances	1.402	1.407	0.005		-0.168		
<b>Total Housing and Communities</b>	<b>14.662</b>	<b>14.448</b>	<b>-0.215</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.518</b>		
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>2.256</b>	<b>2.187</b>	<b>-0.069</b>		<b>-0.071</b>	Variance due to vacant post and not all staff at top of scale, together with commitment challenge across the Services	
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>28.769</b>	<b>28.538</b>	<b>-0.231</b>		<b>-0.226</b>	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recoupage against actuarial projections based on the current level of contributions	
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.752	-0.031		-0.030		
Central Loans & Investment Account	0.000	0.053	0.053		0.000	IFRS 9 requires that for soft loans interest is accrued at the Effective Interest Rate (EIR) rather than the Contract Interest Rate.	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>326.682</b>	<b>327.363</b>	<b>0.680</b>	<b>0.048</b>	<b>0.285</b>		



## 2022/23 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - Mth 5

Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Efficiency - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed
		2022/23 £m	2022/23 £m	2022/23 £m		
<b>Portfolio</b>						
<b>Corporate</b>						
Increase in Reserves	Rachel Parry Jones	0.471	0.471	0.000	C	G
Utility Inflation	Rachael Corbelli	0.085	0.085	0.000	C	G
Efficiency from Restructure	Corporate Policy Rachel Parry Jones	0.025	0.025	0.000	C	G
Recharge to HRA	Chief Executive post to HRA 50% Rachel Parry Jones	0.027	0.027	0.000	C	G
<b>Total Corporate Services</b>		<b>0.608</b>	<b>0.608</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Housing &amp; Assets</b>						
Connahs Quay Power Station	Neal Cockerton	0.290	0.290	0.000	C	G
Rent Newydd	Neal Cockerton	0.020	0.020	0.000	C	G
<b>Total Housing &amp; Assets</b>		<b>0.310</b>	<b>0.310</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Social Services</b>						
Sleep in Pressure not Required	Neil Ayling	0.123	0.123	0.000	C	G
<b>Total Social Services</b>		<b>0.123</b>	<b>0.123</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Governance</b>						
Single Person Discount Review (One Off)	Gareth Owen	0.300	0.300	0.000	O	G
<b>Total Governance</b>		<b>0.300</b>	<b>0.300</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies</b>		<b>1.341</b>	<b>1.341</b>	<b>0.000</b>		

	%	£
Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies	100	1.341
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	0	0.000
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	100	1.341
<b>Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	0	0.000
Total Projected 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	0	0.000

## Corporate Efficiencies Remaining from Previous Years

Income Target Remaining	£m	
Income Target Efficiency remaining from Previous Years	0.041	
Fees and charges increase 1st October, 2022	(0.026)	
<b>Total Income Efficiency Remaining</b>	<b>0.015</b>	(0.015)

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**Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves**

	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2022	18.438	
Less - Base Level	(5.769)	
<b>Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet</b>		12.669
Less - COVID-19 Emergency Funding Allocation		5.316
Less - Childrens Services Social Work Costs (approved 21/22)		0.157
Add - Total Balances Released to Reserves (Month 5)		1.208
Less - impact of the final pay awards (still awaited)		
Less - Month 5 projected outturn		0.680
<b>Total Contingency Reserve available for use</b>		<b>7.724</b>

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**Budget Monitoring Report**  
**Housing Revenue Account Variances**

**MONTH 5 - SUMMARY**

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>						
Income	(38.119)	(37.720)	0.399	0.405	Currently projecting a variance of £0.399m due to loss of rental income in relation to void properties. Of this, £0.308m relates to void properties, £0.067m relates to utilities costs on void properties and £0.039m relates to void garages. The remaining (£0.015m) relates to other minor variances.	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	6.723	6.723			£2.857 contribution to meet the additional Capitalworks that are due to be undertaken in year	
Estate Management	2.321	2.195	(0.126)	(0.159)	Additional cost of agency positions of £0.158m, which is offset by vacancy savings of (£0.134m) and additional funding from the Housing Support Grant of (£0.120m). Other minor variances of (£0.030m).	
Landlord Service Costs	1.572	1.630	0.058	0.051	Salary savings of (£0.038m) are currently being projected within the service which offset agency costs of £0.020m. There is a forecasted pressure on utilities costs of £0.062m. The remaining variance of £0.014m is down to other minor movements.	
Repairs & Maintenance	10.908	10.992	0.084	0.017	There are a number of vacant trades positions which are being covered by agency, leading to an additional net cost of £0.059m. Vacancy savings of (£0.034m) in respect of Admin posts have also been identified. Savings on the cost of materials of (£0.102m). Additional cost of fleet forecasted to be £0.154m due to factors such as rising fuel costs. Other minor variances of £0.007m.	
Management & Support Services	2.716	2.752	0.036	(0.127)	Savings of (£0.059m) have been projected based on current vacancies within the service and a further (£0.100m) efficiency has been identified through a review of central support recharges. Costs of legal advice in respect of the Renting Homes Wales Act £0.017m. Pressure in relation to insurance costs currently forecasted to be £0.163m. Other minor variances of £0.015m.	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	10.898	13.755	2.857		£2.857 contribution to meet the additional Capital works that are due to be undertaken in year	
HRA Projects	0.122	0.122	(0.000)	(0.000)		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	2.858	2.858				
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>3.308</b>	<b>3.308</b>	<b>0.188</b>		

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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Town Centre Regeneration
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Smaller town centres across the United Kingdom have been facing challenging economic circumstances for many years due to changing customer behaviours. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated these trends and although it remains too early to understand the long term impacts. It is important that future proofing towns is addressed by creating more sustainable use of properties within town centres.

This report provides an update on the strategic context for town centre regeneration and the programmes of work currently underway. Furthermore, it provides details about the development of Place Plans and the enforcement action required to tackle empty properties within town centres.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the requirements to develop Place Plans for the seven towns (Buckley, Connah's Quay, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Queensferry and Shotton) in Flintshire are noted and Members agree the sequence in which the proposed work is delivered within the constraints of resource available.
2	That the requirement to address vacant town centre properties through an enforcement action plan is noted, and Members approve the criteria and approach to be used and give delegated authority to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy to implement the action plan.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>EXPLAINING TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION</b>
1.01	<p>There are a number of challenges facing all small towns in the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing customer behaviour, which has accelerated during the Covid pandemic, has dramatically reduced expenditure through high street shops. It is not expected that this will return fully to pre-Covid levels potentially leaving towns with more retail units than they can sustain.</li> <li>• Many units are owned remotely by national or international property finance companies or speculative investors with limited interest in their effective management and no stake beyond their investment in the success of the town centre.</li> <li>• Smaller, more marginal shopping centres are struggling to remain viable with a major collapse of property values and considerable difficulties in attracting tenants.</li> <li>• Although there is a relatively low proportion of vacant retail units in Flintshire town centres, there is considerable underused space above the ground floor and weak business resilience is believed to mask the true picture which manifests in gradually declining building condition and a lack of investment.</li> <li>• There are a small number of longer-term vacant properties in towns which can have a blighting effect on their locality.</li> </ul>
1.02	<p>Although Flintshire town centres have not been immune to this process, the loss of major national chains and the increase in vacant floor space has not been as significant an issue as local towns had very few national brands still present and Woolworths was the only closure of significance. The loss of high street banks has been more significant in a number of Flintshire towns. This gradual decline in vitality has, in turn, impacted on the scale and vitality of the street markets in the County.</p>
	<b><u>Strategic context</u></b>
1.03	<p>In 2020 Welsh Government launched its Town Centres First policy to help breathe new life into town centres by locating services and buildings in town centres wherever possible. It has since launched a national £90m Transforming Towns investment package and encouraged the public sector to support towns through delivering regeneration activity which aims to increase footfall and create or sustain vibrancy.</p> <p>Funding available through the Transforming Towns initiative has created new opportunities for investment in town centre properties in Flintshire particularly by providing access to grant funding and repayable loans.</p>
1.04	<p>Since 2020, Welsh Government has increasingly focussed on town centre regeneration, and as part of this, tackling empty town centre properties. As part of its Transforming Towns initiative funding has been made available through a repayable loans programme (delivered through each local authority) to support tackling empty properties. Welsh Government has set out a requirement for local authorities to each agree an approach and</p>



	<p>criterion for tackling vacant town centre properties and to produce an action plan for this work. Welsh Government has also provided training and advice in support and has encouraged local authorities to use their enforcement powers more fully to bring units back into use.</p>
	<p><b><u>Flintshire town centre regeneration strategic approach</u></b></p>
1.05	<p>The strategic approach to town centre regeneration in Flintshire was approved by Cabinet in May 2019 and subsequently refreshed in March 2020 immediately before the pandemic restrictions came into place. The strategic priorities agreed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refreshing the evidence base on town centre vibrancy and vitality;</li> <li>• responding proactively to market interest in town centre investment and actively seeking to encourage investment wherever there are appropriate opportunities;</li> <li>• continuing to support front line service outlets in town centre locations to enable access to Council (and partner) services whilst also helping to sustain footfall;</li> <li>• approving Local Development Plan policies for town centres that enable land use change to be managed to promote sustainability and vitality;</li> <li>• identifying key sites for future redevelopment with an emphasis on diversifying land use to increase sustainability and vitality;</li> <li>• starting, subject to the availability of capital resources and detailed investigation into commercial viability, to acquire key sites for redevelopment;</li> <li>• taking advantage of potential investment in transport infrastructure by Welsh Government to identify how wider regeneration benefits can be realised in the immediate vicinity;</li> <li>• supporting town centre stakeholder groups to develop and implement action plans for their towns and will undertake County-wide actions to support town centres for example through promotional activity; and</li> <li>• helping businesses to adapt to the changing economic climate.</li> </ul>
1.06	<p>In addition, the 2020 Cabinet report highlighted a number of areas for particular focus in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify potential future development sites and develop options for their future assembly and redevelopment;</li> <li>• diversify land uses to maintain the vitality and viability of town centres;</li> <li>• target vacant or underused properties in town centres for intervention including making full use of Council enforcement powers;</li> <li>• investigate the feasibility of piloting a community ownership structure for town centre properties for Holywell;</li> <li>• use these work streams to develop potential projects for future capital funding opportunities; and</li> <li>• continue to progress the potential redevelopment of the Mold Hallfields site.</li> </ul>
1.07	<p>In May 2021, a further Cabinet report provided an update on progress against the regeneration priorities and areas of particular focus and</p>

	<p>identified the need for additional staff resource to deliver the increased scale of the programme and more property-related regeneration.</p> <p>The report to Cabinet in May 2021 also outlined the need to update action plans for each town centre to ensure interventions fit together into a coherent whole. This ambition directly aligns with the subsequent request from Welsh Government to develop Place Plans for each town centre.</p>
1.08	<p>Since the last update to Cabinet in May 2021, a significant amount of work has been completed take forward the agreed priorities and increase resource and capacity within the regeneration team including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. successfully completing the Local Development Plan examination process;</li> <li>2. increasing staff resource through appointing three additional regeneration staff: a Regeneration Assistant, Regeneration Manager and an additional Regeneration Officer (to commence in post in November 2022);</li> <li>3. creating a further two Project Development Officer roles on a fixed term basis to support the development of projects and Place Planning;</li> <li>4. developing an updated four year regeneration work programme including forecasted financial requirement to deliver all aspects of the work including town centre and also coastal regeneration priorities;</li> <li>5. scoping out a plan for the development of Place Plans for seven town centres across Flintshire in 2022-24 informed by Welsh Government's expectations.</li> <li>6. developed a criteria and action plan for the Council to tackle empty properties through enforcement action with the aim of bringing long-term empty properties back into use;</li> <li>7. installation of smart devices across town centres to measure usage including real time data, which can be used to inform decision making within each town centre.</li> <li>8. delivery of Green Infrastructure schemes in Shotton and Flint through Welsh Government-investment;</li> <li>9. provided a one-to-one support service to businesses with investment proposals for High Street properties;</li> <li>10. supporting applicants to access business loans and grants to invest in their High Street properties;</li> <li>11. developing and delivering environmental improvement schemes and supporting active travel proposals;</li> <li>12. progressing the acquisition of property in one of Flintshire's town centres (due to complete by October 2022) with funds secured through Welsh Government-investment.</li> <li>13. reviewing internal governance arrangements for the management of Place Making across the Council, and increased opportunities for more collaborative working across a range of services within the Council and participation in the Council's Places Group.</li> <li>14. delivering a promotional campaign for independent businesses in town centres (launched in Spring 2022), as a follow on form very successful first and second phases in 2020 and 2021.</li> <li>15. designed and delivered consultation workshops to identify local needs for investment through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund totalling £10.8 million for 2022-2025, and actively</li> </ol>

	<p>participated in the development of the local investment strategy (submitted to UK Government in August 2022); and</p> <p>16. leading the development of proposals for the regeneration of Connah's Quay Docks as part of the Council's Levelling Up Fund application for Alyn and Deeside funding bid (submitted to UK Government in July 2022).</p>
	<p><b><u>Place Plans</u></b></p>
1.09	<p>In May 2022 Welsh Government informed local authorities of the requirement to establish Place Plans and provided a framework to inform this work. As part of this, Welsh Government confirmed that the availability of funding would be conditional on Place Plans being in place. Welsh Government's guidance suggests Place Plans should include a vision for each town, bring together a range of existing plans and strategies, and be informed by local engagement, consultation and a range of data and statistics to evidence local need.</p>
1.10	<p>In response to Welsh Government's requirement for local authorities to establish Place Plans for towns, scoping work has been completed to identify a range of actions that the Council will need to complete and to identify indicative timescales for doing so.</p> <p>Key elements that will be completed for each Place Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of each town;</li> <li>• desk-based review of data and key statistics;</li> <li>• review of existing strategies (local, regional;</li> <li>• a series of online and face-to-face consultation and engagement actions/ events with members, local residents, businesses and other key stakeholders;</li> <li>• identifying priorities and potential actions arising from consultation –</li> <li>• developing an updated vision for each town centre and developing action plans content.</li> <li>• writing up final plans – following feedback/ further consultation and engagement with stakeholders.</li> <li>• submitting the Place Plan to the Council's Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny committee.</li> <li>• Seeking approval and sign off from Cabinet for completed Place Plans.</li> </ul>
1.11	<p>It is anticipated that the development of each town centre Place Plan will take approximately six months to complete, and there is staff capacity to develop two or three concurrently at any one time. It is therefore likely that all seven Place Plans for Flintshire will be completed within 18-months to 2 years.</p> <p>There are three main criteria identified to determine which towns should be included in the first tranche of Place Plan development. These are:</p> <p>i) already established priorities which have previously been approved by Cabinet where a targeted approach and plan for</p>

	<p>town centre(s) has been identified and work already started to bring together a range of services and partners;</p> <p>ii) any town where major projects are already under development and the opportunity to attract funding/ significant investment could be jeopardised if a Place Plan is not developed as a priority; and</p> <p>iii) where, without a Place Plan, the opportunity to align strategic priorities across the Council and wider public sector partners would be missed.</p> <p>In light of the above criteria, it is recommended that the initial Place Plans are developed for Buckley, Holywell and Shotton.</p> <p>The timetable for the development of Place Plans is subject to variation due to external factors, changing circumstances or opportunities in the towns and the learning generated through the development of the first tranche. It is anticipated, though, that there will be two towns in the second tranche of Place Plans (Connah's Quay and Queensferry) and two in the final tranche (Mold and Flint). More team capacity will be available for the development of the first tranche of Place Plans as later tranches will run alongside increased project delivery.</p>
1.12	It is not proposed that Place Plans are developed for settlements without town centres; where there is a critical mass of retail, hospitality and service functions. This is due to the need to concentrate scarce Council resources and because Welsh Government regeneration resources are not available outside of town centres.
	<b><u>Enforcement Action Plan</u></b>
1.13	To assist Local Authorities in dealing with their empty properties, Welsh Government has developed an Empty Property Enforcement Programme with financial support package available to Local Authorities who wish to undertake enforcement action on prominent town centre empty properties. To gain access to this fund, it is a requirement that representatives from the local authority have attended Welsh Government training and produced their own local action plan (a living document) for dealing with long-term empty properties through enforcement action. The Council has completed this.
1.14	<p>Cabinet approval is required for the criteria to be used to prioritise properties for intervention, set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the property of special architectural or historic interest and therefore in need of protection?</li> <li>• Is the property subject to legal restrictions on what changes can be made to buildings, greenery and street furniture?</li> <li>• Is there known anti-social behaviour at the premise/ address?</li> <li>• Any known public health matters/ concerns?</li> <li>• Any issues known / reported by the local elected Member?</li> <li>• Any complaints received from the general public?</li> <li>• What length of time has the premises been vacant?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the condition of the premises (summary)?</li> <li>• Are there any identified issues which would require the Council to gain access to check non-compliant building work, dangerous structures or demolitions?</li> <li>• Is there any evidence of business rates (non-domestic rates) being paid within recent years held by the Council?</li> <li>• What is the Planning history for the building including extent of the site, planning permissions affecting the premises, any restrictions that apply and the impact of any unauthorised uses on the premises?</li> <li>• Has any advice been provided to the owner/ enforcement action been taken by the Council previously, if so what?</li> </ul> <p>The Enforcement Programme will target properties across all areas of Flintshire but Welsh Government Transforming Towns resources are only available to target town centre properties.</p>
1.15	<p>The properties to be targeted will remain confidential to enable effective and commercially sensitive discussions to be held with property owners. Authority is sought for the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy oversee the operation of the action plan and to report progress to Cabinet and to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p><b>Financial resource</b></p> <p>The following funding has been secured from Welsh Government to deliver town centre regeneration priorities in Flintshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £510,000 revenue for use over the next 3 years which will support economic development activity including the recruitment of two new Project Development Officers;</li> <li>• £680,000 capital towards town centre regeneration and property acquisition projects to be delivered in 2022-23; and</li> <li>• £1,260,000 for the Council to administer as a repayable loan scheme over the next five years.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the above, the following Welsh Government funding is available for town centre regeneration from 1 April 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2.6 million available across North Wales, with up to £250,000 available per application; and</li> <li>• £150,000 allocation per annum for the delivery of small-scale property improvement projects in Flintshire.</li> </ul> <p>The funding outlined above provides good opportunities for regeneration projects in Flintshire, however it is either repayable or requires significant match funding. Without capital funds the Council will not be able to take full advantage of these opportunities to regenerate town centres.</p>

**Capacity**

The regeneration team currently stands at four individuals. As a result of Cabinet approving extra staff resource in 2021, three appointments have been made since this approval, and two posts are currently being secured which will see the team increase to seven staff in total from December 2022 onwards.

The additional resource brings a broader range of skills, knowledge experience to the regeneration team particularly in property-related regeneration work and the delivery of loan investments. This resource is needed to successfully deliver the regeneration priorities detailed in the Regeneration Programme including those outlined in this report and manage risks to the Council.

**Specialist advice and expertise**

The proposed Place Making approach will place demands upon other teams in the Council to deliver specialist advice and support, for example property, legal services, planning and public protection. The Council has already begun to purchase specialist property and legal expertise on a consultancy basis in order to effectively survey, value properties, advise on specialist legal and conveyancing advice and to help plan viable end uses and acquisition of property for future regeneration uses, this will continue to be needed to deliver the Regeneration Programme.

**3.00 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

3.01

Identified risk	Action to manage risk
Lack of experience and capacity to deliver programme of work.	Recruit additional resource (in progress, due to be completed by December 2022).
Lack of specialist advice and support internally within the Council.	Procure advice from external specialists.
Lack of funding to deliver Regeneration work programme.	i) Maintain positive working links with external funding bodies.  ii) Ensure future funding requirements/ future regeneration schemes are known to Welsh Government.  iii) Consider investing own Council resources into projects that would otherwise not progress/ not deliver benefits.  iv) Recycle regeneration loans to maximise impact of funds available.  v) Ensure Council funds are used effectively as match contributions.

	Failure to meet expectations.	<p>i) Effective monitoring and management of regeneration activity by the Council's Places Group, Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.</p> <p>ii) Prioritise work in line with local needs and funding opportunities.</p> <p>iii) Place Plans to be developed in a phased approach over 2 years to manage workload and resource.</p> <p>iii) Engage public and partners to inform content of Place Plans to ensure local needs are met.</p> <p>iv) Deliver Regeneration Communications Action Plan.</p>
	Loss of funding.	<p>i) Adherence to terms and conditions of external funding secured.</p> <p>ii) Effective budget monitoring and financial management.</p>

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	<p>A series of public meetings and digital consultations will need to be carried out as part of the development process for each of the seven Place Plans. Local residents, businesses, internal and external colleagues will have the opportunity to participate over the next two years.</p> <p>Information gathered from consultations will directly inform the content of Flintshire's Place Plans and actions contained within future delivery plans of both the Council and its partners.</p>

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

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

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

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>Empty Property Enforcement Programme</b> – a Welsh Government initiative aimed at assisting Local Authorities to deal with properties which have been empty for a period of time through the use of enforcement powers.</p> <p><b>Green infrastructure</b> - Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space and other green features, urban and rural, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits for communities. (tcpa.org.uk)</p> <p><b>Place Making</b> – a multi-faceted approach to designing, developing and managing public spaces across a range of stakeholder which capitalises on local assets and has people’s health, happiness and well-being at the forefront of decisions made.</p> <p><b>Place Plans</b> – a document which is developed for a defined settlement which identified local needs which are informed by consultation and engagement with the local stakeholders along with a vision for the settlement area and actions to achieve this.</p> <p><b>Places Group</b> – a group of senior officers from across the Council and Lead Member for Climate Change and Economy which is responsible for overseeing the monitoring, management and implementation of Place Making priorities.</p> <p><b>Town Centres First</b> – a Welsh Government policy which focuses on town centres being the first consideration for all decisions on the location of workplaces and services.</p> <p><b>Transforming Towns</b> – a Welsh Government targeted regeneration investment programme which aims to support the redevelopment and improvement of town centres across Wales.</p>





## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Flintshire Coastal Park
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Economy and Countryside
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2014 a strategic framework of opportunities along the Dee Estuary foreshore was produced. The proposal of a coast park sought to identify the estuary foreshore as a single entity akin to a Regional Park.

The concept of a Flintshire Coast Park has been re-explored through the commissioning of a scoping study which reviews case studies and precedents before analysing the benefits and constraints. The study suggests 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.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members note the content of the scoping study and agree to take forward the Flintshire Coast Park as a local, informal entity.
2	Members agree that option two would be the preferred coast park footprint to take forward
3	Members task the Access & Natural Environment Manager to establish a Flintshire Coast Park Steering Group to move forward on the next steps for implementation

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE COAST PARK
1.01	<p>Following the completion of the Wales Access Improvement Programme (2006-2013), culminating in the opening of the Wales Coast Path in 2012, Flintshire identified a series of local ventures along the Dee Coastline from Talacre to Shotton that individually and collectively would help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance and interpret the area's outstanding natural and heritage value</li><li>• Attract and retain more visitors</li><li>• Provide community facilities and events</li><li>• Create jobs and enhance skills</li><li>• Reverse environmental decline</li></ul>
1.02	<p>In 2014 Flintshire commissioned the development of a strategic framework of opportunities along the Dee Estuary foreshore and produced a Flintshire Coast Park Prospectus. The proposal of a coast park sought to identify the estuary foreshore as a single entity akin to a Regional Park.</p>
1.03	<p>The Flintshire Coast Park review was put forward and considered at: Cabinet - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022, where it was agreed to re-examine the idea of a Coast Park through the commissioning of a scoping study.</p> <p>Environment Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, where members supported the approach to commission a scoping study and recommended that the six hubs along the estuary (proposed in the 2014 prospectus), be reviewed.</p>
1.04	<p>In March 2022, a Scoping Study was commissioned (the Study, Appendix 1) to examine the potential for the formal establishment of a Flintshire Coast Park.</p>
1.05	<p>The Study discusses whether a formal Regional Park designation should be pursued, or whether the existing informal Coast Park brand should be more deeply embedded in local policy and priorities.</p>
1.06	<p>The Study also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reviews Regional Park precedents in the UK, describing their journey from inception to designation;</li><li>• reviews progress of projects listed in the 2014 Flintshire Coast Park prospectus;</li><li>• examines legislation and planning policy hooks for a Regional Park;</li><li>• consults with locally based stakeholders;</li><li>• maps options for potential footprints of a Regional Park / Coast Park;</li><li>• considers challenges faced by the Flintshire Coast and how some of those could be addressed through a Coast Park.</li></ul>

1.07	<p>The study explores four potential footprints of a Flintshire Coast Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option one has a coastal focus based on the 2015 Flintshire Coast Park prospectus, but with two additional gateways at Llannerch-y-môr and Saltney;</li> <li>• Option two would have the same coastal focus as option one, but with additional connection green infrastructure (GI) corridors from neighbouring communities;</li> <li>• Option three 'Dee Viewshed' would include all the elements of the previous options and would extend into the hinterland, where views from higher ground include the Dee Estuary;</li> <li>• Option four would include all the previous option elements and would have an extended footprint to include the remaining areas of the Lower Dee catchment in Wales.</li> </ul> <p>The study does not recommend any particular option as all have a range of potential benefit and dis-benefits, however on balance, it is felt that option two provides the most suitable footprint for maximum benefit.</p>
1.08	<p>The Study concludes with next steps in relation to either a formal Regional Park designation or embedding the more informal Coast Park status.</p>
1.09	<p>Lessons from the formal designation route show that, with a statutory remit and robust governance structures, momentum and longevity can be established with possibilities for influencing policy and potentially more opportunity for investment, business involvement and revenue generation. There is, however, currently no legislation available to accommodate a regional park designation in Wales.</p>
1.10	<p>Precedents using the more local, non-standard designation approach have been able to achieve some of the aspects of designated regional parks, however with their more informal structures and procedures they appear to be more vulnerable to changes in partnership arrangements, policy and time-limited funding streams.</p>
1.11	<p><b>Next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitional stage - this would involve: the establishing of a project team; articulating a vision; identifying costs and funding; developing a spatial plan and defining a detailed boundary; and setting up a body to provide a steer for the Flintshire Coast Park. This includes a short narrative on compliance with the Habitat Regulations Assessment.</li> <li>• Implementation stage - this would involve: engagement with key stakeholders, development of individual projects and construction contracts; setting up of administrative and monitoring systems.</li> <li>• Management stage - this would involve: development and sustaining of business, recreation, tourism and heritage initiatives.</li> </ul>
1.12	<p><b>Timescales</b></p> <p>There is significant work to undertake in the transitional stage and it is expected that it can be undertaken through 2023/24, with an expected Coast Park launch in spring 2024.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Currently work along the coast is funded through external grant aid and delivered in house through the Coastal Rangers.
2.02	The financial implications of a Flintshire Coast Park are currently unknown but would be identified through the implementation phase as set out in the scoping study. Investment would then be required either through external funding or from the capital programme.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>												
3.01	<p>The Flintshire Coast Park is expected to deliver positive impact benefits and a full integrated impact assessment will be completed as part of the transitional stage work.</p> <p><b>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td><b>Positive:</b> A Flintshire Coast Park will bring partners and communities together to deliver a vision for the Dee Estuary foreshore which will involve working together for its long-term prosperity.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td><b>No Change</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td><b>Positive</b> – The Flintshire Coast Park will provide the opportunity for access, health and environmental objectives to be integrated within other policies and plans both within the authority and by partner organisations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td><b>Positive</b> - The Flintshire Coast Park would seek to collaborate with partners to work towards the delivery of the Coast Park Plan.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Members, partners and stakeholders will be brought together through the Flintshire Coast Park Steering Group.</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Well-being Goals Impact</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td><b>Positive:</b> The coast makes an important contribution to the local economy with reports concluding that the Wales Coast Path contributes £16 million to Wales' economy annually. The vision for the Flintshire Coast Park has the opportunity to capitalise on this potential within Flintshire.</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	<b>Positive:</b> A Flintshire Coast Park will bring partners and communities together to deliver a vision for the Dee Estuary foreshore which will involve working together for its long-term prosperity.	Prevention	<b>No Change</b>	Integration	<b>Positive</b> – The Flintshire Coast Park will provide the opportunity for access, health and environmental objectives to be integrated within other policies and plans both within the authority and by partner organisations.	Collaboration	<b>Positive</b> - The Flintshire Coast Park would seek to collaborate with partners to work towards the delivery of the Coast Park Plan.	Involvement	Members, partners and stakeholders will be brought together through the Flintshire Coast Park Steering Group.	Prosperous Wales	<b>Positive:</b> The coast makes an important contribution to the local economy with reports concluding that the Wales Coast Path contributes £16 million to Wales' economy annually. The vision for the Flintshire Coast Park has the opportunity to capitalise on this potential within Flintshire.
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Prosperous Wales	<b>Positive:</b> The coast makes an important contribution to the local economy with reports concluding that the Wales Coast Path contributes £16 million to Wales' economy annually. The vision for the Flintshire Coast Park has the opportunity to capitalise on this potential within Flintshire.												

Resilient Wales	<b>Positive:</b> The coast will face many challenges over the next decades, including climate change and potentially coastal erosion. Having a Coast Park provides the means for these issues to be highlighted and discussed.
Healthier Wales	<b>Positive:</b> A significant number of people already use the Wales Coast Path for access and recreation which has a positive impact on their health and wellbeing, keeping them fit and active. The stakeholder group would look at opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing opportunities in the area of the coastal park..
More equal Wales	<b>Positive:</b> Discussions within the stakeholder group will include equalities and how the coast can deliver across the board whilst also maintaining community safety.
Cohesive Wales	<b>Positive:</b> The Flintshire coast Park will bring different partners together enabling more cohesive planning and delivery of work along the coast.
Vibrant Wales	<b>No change</b>
Globally responsible Wales	<b>Positive:</b> Having opportunities for outdoor recreation on your doorstep reduces the need for travel making a positive contribution in minimising carbon emissions.

**Flintshire Council’s Well-being Objectives**

**Ambitious Council**

The Flintshire Coast Park will have a positive impact, supporting economic growth through enhancing the local environment quality for local and regional business along the Dee Estuary foreshore

**Achieving Council**

The Flintshire Coast Park will have a positive impact, providing high quality, accessible, coastal environment and joining up with public and third sector partners to support quality of life in communities and for individuals and families

**Caring Council**

The Flintshire Coast Park will have a positive impact, making communities safe places by working with partners to prevent crime, repeat crime and anti-social behaviour

**Green Council**

The Flintshire Coast Park will have a positive impact, enhancing the natural environment and promoting access to open and green space

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	Consultation with partners and key stakeholders was carried out as part of the study but as the implementation stage progresses, engagement with stakeholder will be crucial.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Flintshire Coast Park Scoping Study.

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

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer: Tom Woodall, Access &amp; Natural Environment Manager</b> <b>Telephone: 01352 703902</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:tom.woodall@flintshire.gov.uk">tom.woodall@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b>

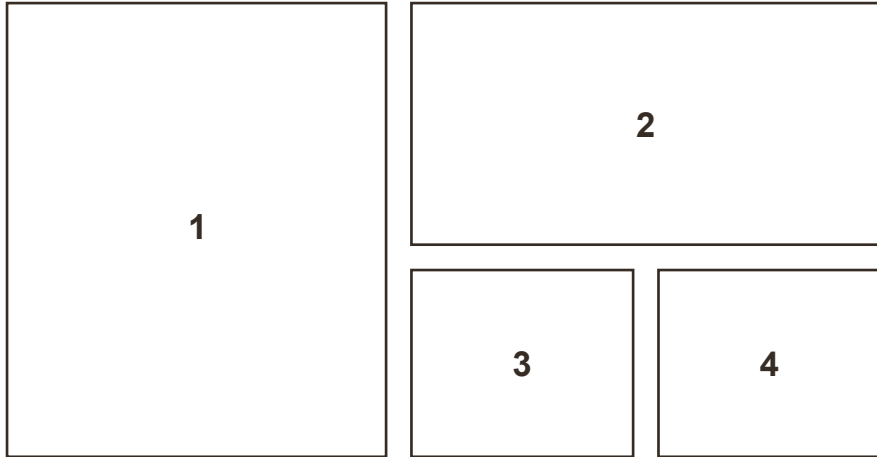
<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Wales Coast Path</b> - National walking route covering 870miles of the Welsh Coast.</p> <p><b>Regional Park</b> - An area of land preserved on account of its natural beauty, historic interest, recreational use or other reason, and under the administration of a form of local government.</p> <p><b>Green Infrastructure</b> - Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space and other green features, urban and rural, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits for communities.</p> <p><b>Natural Resources Wales</b> - Natural Resources Wales is the largest Welsh Government Sponsored Body, formed in April 2013, largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales.</p>





## Flintshire Coast Regional Park - A Scoping Study

*JUNE 2022*



**Photos on front cover:**

1. Greenfield Dock
2. Flint Castle
3. Wales Coast Path, River Dee
4. Flint Dock



# Contents

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## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

### Policy Review

### Regional Park Precedents

## Executive Summary

This Study sets out a potential pathway for the Flintshire Coast to attain a formal Regional Park status. The Study discusses whether a formal Regional Park designation should be pursued or whether the existing informal Coast Park brand should be more deeply embedded in local policy and priorities.

As part of the process, Chapter 2.0 reviews Regional Park precedents in the UK, describing their journey from inception to designation. This includes the Valleys Regional Park in south Wales which has established considerable momentum without a formal designation compared with the Lee Valley Regional Park in London and Hertfordshire which was established in legislation in 1966 and therefore has legal status and funding permanence.

Chapter 3.0 provides an update on the six gateways listed in the 2015 Flintshire Coast Park prospectus and concludes with the Coastal Communities Online Consultation of February 2022. The consultation reaches out to Flintshire residents and the comments include confirmation of the most popular destinations and activities, opportunities for improvement along the coast and the frequency of visits.

Chapter 4.0 highlights the potential Regional Park's fit with existing legislation, policies and programmes, while Chapter 5.0 summarises contributions from stakeholders including those from

Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Dee Estuary Conservation group and Our Dee Estuary.

Why Designate is the topic for Chapter 6.0 and the narrative sets out the benefits of the designated Lee Valley Regional Park (LVRP) including the transformation of post-industrial land over a 50-year period and governance under the LVRP Authority. This is compared with the non-designated Valleys Regional Park in south Wales which has nevertheless set up a partnership with 13 local authorities, received substantial funding from Welsh Government and is referenced in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. Both precedents work extensively with local communities by drawing residents into the natural environment, imparting new skills and supporting physical and mental health.

Chapter 7.0 sets out several potential footprints for the Regional Park or Coast Park alternative. Option One has a coastal focus based on the 2015 Flintshire Coast Park prospectus but with two additional gateways at Llannerch-y-môr and Saltney. Option Two would have the same coastal focus as Option One but with additional connection green infrastructure (GI) corridors from neighbouring assets. Option Three 'Dee Viewshed' would include all the elements of the previous options and would extend into the hinterland, where views from higher ground include the Dee Estuary. Option Four would include all the elements of Option One, Two and Three and would have an extended footprint to include the remaining areas of the Lower Dee catchment in Wales (mirroring the Our Dee Estuary initiative).

Addressing challenges is the subject of Chapter 8.0 and it outlines some of the challenges faced by the coastal communities in terms of socio-economic factors, infrastructure for business and visitor economy and how these could be addressed by a Regional Park or Coast Park alternative.

Chapter 9.0 draws together the findings of the scoping study described in the preceding chapters and recommends three stages (transitional, implementation and management) in the setting up and establishment of a Regional Park or Coast Park alternative.



## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2021, Flintshire County Council (FCC) appointed The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd to carry out a Scoping Study (the Study) to examine the potential for a Flintshire Coast Regional Park designation. The Coast Park already has an informal status arising from a 2015 Flintshire Coast Park prospectus which has been endorsed by FCC.
- 1.2 The Study sets out a potential pathway for the Flintshire Coast to attain a formal Regional Park status. The Study discusses whether a formal Regional Park designation should be pursued or whether the existing informal Coast Park brand should be more deeply embedded in local policy and priorities.
- 1.3 The Study reviews Regional Park precedents in the UK, describing their journey from inception to designation.
- 1.4 In relation to Flintshire, the Study:
- Reviews progress of projects listed in the 2015 Flintshire Coast Park prospectus
  - Examines legislation and planning policy hooks for a Regional Park
  - Elicits contributions from locally based stakeholders
  - Maps options for potential footprints of a Regional Park / Coast Park
  - Considers challenges faced by the Flintshire Coast and how some of those could be addressed

- 1.5 The Study concludes with separate recommendations for next steps in relation to either a formal Regional Park designation or embedding the more informal Coast Park status.
- 1.6 The Scoping Study has been led by Flintshire County Council's Access and Natural Environment Team supported by a client steering group and a wider stakeholder group who have contributed to online discussions.

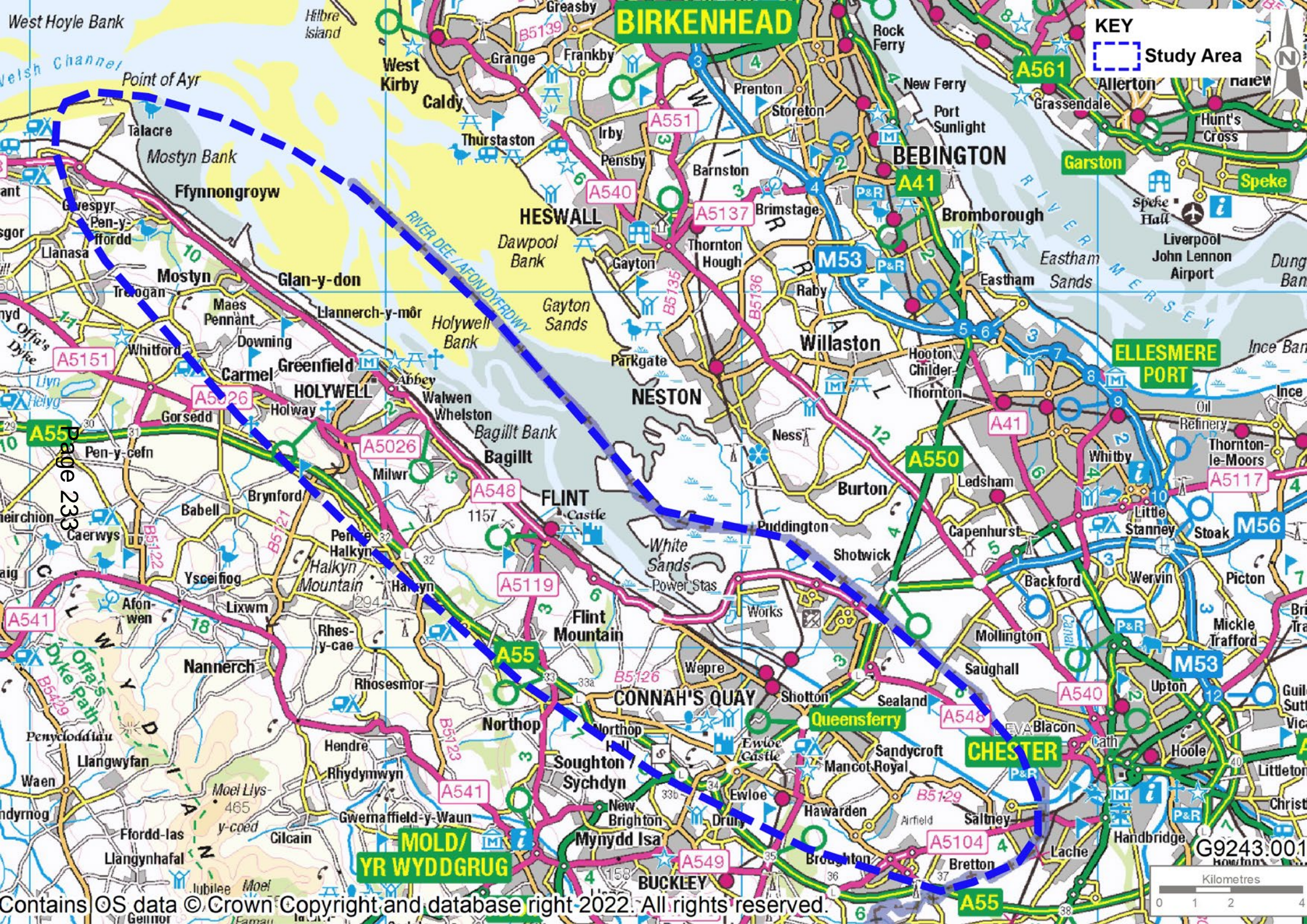
### What is a Regional Park?

A regional park is an area of land preserved on account of its natural beauty, historic interest, recreational use or other reason, and under the administration of a form of local government.

### Study Area

- 1.7 The broad 'Area of Search' for the Study is illustrated opposite. It focusses on the Dee Estuary upstream from Point of Ayr, including the hinterland to the Flintshire coast, and then following the River Dee towards Saltney and the local authority boundary with Chester.
- 1.8 The 'Area of Search' provided a starting point for consideration of the potential boundary options for the footprint of the Regional Park or Coast Park.





KEY  
Study Area

**BIRKENHEAD**

**BEBINGTON**

**HESWALL**

**NESTON**

**Willaston**

**ELLESMERE PORT**

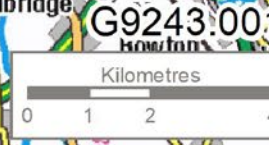
**FLINT**

**CONNAH'S QUAY**

**CHESTER**

**MOLD/  
YR WYDDGRUG**

**BUCKLEY**





## Structure of the Report

- 1.9 This report presents the main conclusions of the Study. It comprises an initial introduction of to the commission, followed by eight chapters addressing key issues arising out of the Study.
- 1.10 Chapter 2 sets out precedent for regional parks in the UK, including examples from Wales, England and Scotland. The chapter includes reference to legislation and policy and a useful summary of research into regional parks carried out by the North West Development Agency. It also includes an introduction to the Living Levels Landscape Partnership (Gwent Levels).
- 1.11 Chapter 3 sets out the context of the Flintshire Coast in terms of the prospectus (published in 2015) and an update on activity completed since that date. It also includes a summary of the Coastal Communities online consultation undertaken early during 2022.
- 1.12 Chapter 4 highlights the potential Regional Park's fit with existing legislation, policies and programmes.
- 1.13 Chapter 5 summarises contributions from stakeholders and includes reference to the Review of the Wales Coast Path on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- 1.14 Chapter 6 considers reasons for a Regional Park designation.
- 1.15 Chapter 7 examines potential footprints for a Regional Park.
- 1.16 Chapter 8 considers some of the challenges faced by the Flintshire Coast and how some of those challenges could be addressed by a regional park or coast park.
- 1.17 Chapter 9 provides next steps for the Regional Park designation and the Coast Park alternative.



View from National Cycle Route 5 south of Baginbun

## 2.0 Precedent

2.1 This chapter presents an outline of three regional parks across three of the UK's home nations, including where relevant, reference to the formal processes required in their designation. There is also an introduction to the Living Levels Landscape Partnership in Gwent. The chapter concludes with the findings of a research study into Regional Park models in the UK. The three regional parks are:

- Valleys Regional Park, South Wales
- Lee Valley Regional Park, Hertfordshire and Greater London
- Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, West of Scotland

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### Valleys Regional Park, South Wales

2.2 The Valleys Regional Park (VRP) spans the former south Wales coalfield (see image adjacent). Defined in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, the VRP area stretches from the western borders of Monmouthshire in the east to the Valleys of Carmarthenshire in the west; the Brecon Beacons National Park in the north; and the major cities of Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport to the south.

2.3 It covers an area of over 200,000 hectares (570 sq. miles) and is home to over one million people, approximately one-third of the Welsh population. Given this physical spread,

the park initiative operates within the local authorities of Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen and provides an example of regeneration practice that looks across administrative boundaries. The VRP is also intended to be more than existing parks, forests, open spaces and amenity areas but is also to include settlements, heritage sites, industrial sites, derelict land and brownfield sites. It includes the footprint of the South Wales valleys coalfield. Due to the mix of landscapes, the VRP is not suitable for National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation.



Location and Boundaries of the Valleys Regional Park Area



2.4 The concept of a Valleys Regional Park was considered in the South Wales Outline Plan (1949) and feasibility work was undertaken during 2008-2010 and post 2010 through the Valleys Regional Park Strategic Delivery Framework 2012 - 2020. However, the VRP was not officially incepted until 2019 and it has not yet been formally designated. During 2022 the intention of the Board will be to decide whether to pursue formal designation of the VRP.

2.5 Key to understanding how the VRP can act as a model for Flintshire is its fit with legislation and existing and emerging policies (discussed further in Chapter 4.0), including:

- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015
- Prosperity for All: The National Strategy
- Future Wales: The National Plan 2040
- Welsh Government Natural Resources Policy

2.6 The VRP has its own policy reference in the Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, and it states that Welsh Government supports the establishment of the VRP and that Strategic and Local Development Plans should embed its principles into their planning frameworks. Welsh Government will work with local authorities, the third sector and key partners to support the Valleys Regional Park and maximise opportunities for new development.



VRP Discovery Gateways



Ynysangharad War Memorial Park

## Discovery Gateways

- 2.7 VRP has been promoting Discovery Gateways as ‘launchpads’ into the landscape and heritage that tell the Valleys’ story. There are currently 12 Discovery Gateways including the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and the National Lido of Wales and Llyn Llech Owain.
- 2.8 The VRP is funded by the Welsh Government Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys and the European Social Fund. Funding is currently secured for a further 12 months until April 2023. VRP is managed by a strategic and operation lead, with five supporting posts covering communications, partnerships, communities, landscape and recreation.

## VRP Guardians

- 2.9 The VRP Guardians are a dedicated team of experts delivering nature-based activities across the Welsh Valleys. Working through the Discovery Gateways and within local communities, the Guardians offer opportunities to connect with the nature on the doorstep whilst learning new skills in how to care for natural habitats and landscapes. There are 10 projects up and running, including three green social prescribing pilots.

## Big Boc Bwyd

- 2.10 VRP partners with other organisations in the Big Bocs Bwyd (BBB) initiative. Working with schools, BBB’s aim is to ensure that no child is hungry and that every child can learn how to make good food choices that enable them to thrive. BBB works with the four purposes of the Curriculum in Wales and works with children in learning about food, the benefits of growing food and cooking food.

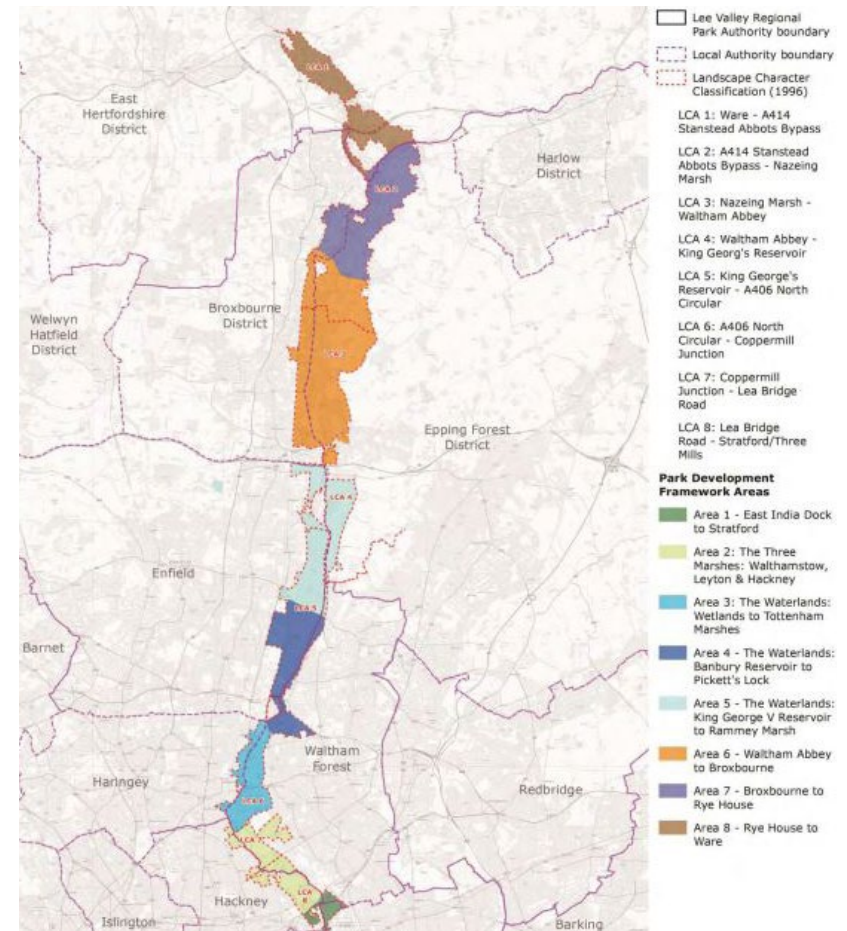


## Lee Valley Regional Park (LVRP)

2.11 Established by legislation in 1966, LVRP follows the course of the River Lee through Hertfordshire, Essex and Greater London. The LVRP has been working alongside partner organisations to transform the post-industrial land along the River Lee into a place for leisure, recreation, sport and nature.

The Regional Park is now a mosaic of open spaces, heritage sites, country parks, farms, golf courses, lakes and riverside trails, campsites, marinas, angling and boating locations, attracting more than seven million visitors a year. In terms of designated sites for nature it includes eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ramsar and Special Protection Area.

2.12 The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) was created in 1967 following the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966. The Act sets out the duty of the Authority to “develop, improve, preserve and manage the park as a place for the occupation of leisure, recreation, sport, games or amusements... for the provision of nature reserves and for the provision and enjoyment of entertainment of any kind” (Section 12 (1)).



Location and Boundaries of the Lee Valley Regional Park Area

2.13 The Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966 Section 14 made special provision about planning. As a result a this a suite of planning policy documents have been prepared and then updated over time. In July 2010, the Authority adopted the Vision, Strategic Aims and Principles followed by adoption of

a series of Thematic Proposals in January 2011 which set out development and management proposals on a broad Park-wide thematic basis. These have been subsequently updated by the Park Development Framework (2019). Despite the bespoke planning framework for LVRP, planning powers are conceded to the relevant planning authorities.

## Governance

- 2.14 Guided by the governing legislation which created Lee Valley Regional Park Authority in the 1960s, the Authority is run by 28 Board Members drawn from across London, Essex and Hertfordshire. The board meets through a series of committees and full Authority meetings.

## Plans and Developments

- 2.15 (LVRPA) has a mission and strategic business plan which aims to continue to transform the Regional Park into a world class visitor destination. The vision is to create a premier destination that brings together the best of nature, sport and discovery. By working together with a range of public and private sector partners, LVRPA intends to open up all of the Lee Valley, from the heart of the London to the Essex and Hertfordshire countryside, so that it becomes a unique combination of sights, activities and experiences.

- 2.16 A key focus is to create a zone of sporting excellence within Lee Valley Regional Park made up of the facilities delivered as part of the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including:
- Lee Valley White Water Centre near Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire
  - Lee Valley VeloPark; and
  - Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centres, all within the Olympic Park at Stratford.

## Funding

- 2.17 The Authority generates the majority of its income from commercial and business activities, maximising a range of opportunities in order to lessen the demand on council tax payers.
- 2.18 The rest comes from a levy on council taxpayers in London, Essex and Hertfordshire – which equates to 80p per person per year. The ceiling for the levy is determined by a formula set out in ‘The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992’ which is adjusted annually to account for inflation.
- 2.19 The levy helps to keep Lee Valley Regional Park’s parklands maintained to a high standard and its venues as accessible as possible. It also ensures that the park remains a regional attraction offering unique mix of nature, sport and leisure

facilities to the people of London, Essex and Hertfordshire and beyond. It attracts around eight million visits a year. Around 80% of visitors are from London, Essex and Hertfordshire, with the remainder from other places both nationally and internationally.

- 2.20 Lee Valley Regional Park Authority has a statutory remit to develop and preserve leisure, recreation, sport and nature and so the money raised through the levy is directed to assets such as its eight Green Flag winning open spaces, three Green Heritage Sites and its sport and leisure venues.

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- 2.21 A dedicated team of 21 full-time and part-time Parkland Managers, Rangers, Assistant Ranger and Admin, look after open spaces within the 40.5 sq. km (15.6 square miles) , 26-mile long, LVRP.

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- 2.22 There is a dedicated website providing access to plans and developments and governance arrangements. Also available is the Lee Valley for nature, sport and discovery website for the general public.

**Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, West Scotland**

- 2.23 [Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park](#) covers an area of 265 sq. km (108 square miles) across three local authorities: Renfrewshire Council, Inverclyde Council and North Ayrshire Council and has 700,000 visitors a year. In the 1960’s Renfrew County Council proposed the Renfrewshire Regional Park and implemented a programme to manage an area of 30,000 acres (12,500 ha) including the creation of Muirshiel Country Park in June 1970. This was the blueprint for a modern-day Regional Park system in Scotland.

- 2.24 In 1981 the Wildlife and Countryside (Scotland) Act provided the enabling legislation for Scottish Regional Parks. In this Regional Parks are defined as *“large areas of countryside parts of which are available for informal countryside recreation”*.

- 2.25 The policy statement on Regional Parks for Scotland by NatureScot points out their aims: *“...to facilitate both the appropriate understandings and enjoyment of the countryside and the integration of this with the other uses of the area, such as farming, forestry and other development, with the context of maintaining and enhancing a quality natural heritage setting. This type of approach is fully consistent with thinking about countryside management, as it has development over the last 20 years. Regional Parks have indeed been to the fore in applying this more integrated approach in Scotland”*.





Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

## Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Objectives

2.26 The objectives of the Park are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.
- To encourage and enable learning, understanding and enjoyment of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.
- To promote and foster environmentally sustainable development for the social and economic well-being of the people and communities within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park area.

2.27 The Park has three visitors' centres (Greenock Cut, Muirshiel and Castle Semple) which provide a centre for information with refreshments, toilets, car park, provision for outdoor learning and outdoor activities and a network of tracks and trails. The Park is supported by a countryside ranger service and an outdoor activity team and there are two conservation volunteer groups. There is an extensive Special Protection Area (SPA) in the central part of the Park.

2.28 The Park has a dedicated website and brand confirming details about: outdoor activities, events, outdoor learning, volunteering, land management, interpretation and heritage job. There is also information on governance and job opportunities.

2.29 The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority Joint Committee is governed by a Minute of Agreement (MoA) which was most recently agreed by Renfrewshire Council, Inverclyde Council and North Ayrshire Council in 2004. The annual budget of the Park was £1,323,000 in 2010/11. Apart the direct funding of the Park, the three partner local authorities continue to apply for external funds from Scottish Government agencies such as Nature Scot.

### The Living Levels Landscape Partnership, Gwent

2.30 The Living Levels Landscape Partnership (LLLP) delivers a programme of work which will promote and reconnect people to the heritage, wildlife and natural beauty of the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels. The Living Levels Partnership came together in 2014 to develop and then deliver a sustainable vision for the Gwent Levels. It is a cross-organisational partnership, spanning administrative boundaries, working closely with communities and other stakeholders to produce evidence-based plans for the sustainable management of this landscape. Partners include the RSPB, NRW, Monmouthshire Council, Newport City Council, Cardiff Council, National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Gwent Archives, Buglife Cymru, Museum of Cardiff and Sustrans.

2.31 The Scheme covers an area of 225km squared extending from Cardiff and the River Rhymney in the west to Chepstow on the

River Wye in Monmouthshire to the east. Predominantly low-lying agricultural land, criss-crossed with an intricate network of drainage channels and field ditches, the project area also includes the inter-tidal zone of saltmarshes, mudflats and sands that are revealed at low tide along the northern coastline of the Severn Estuary within Wales.

2.32 The Programme seeks to conserve and restore the important natural heritage features of the area, to develop a greater appreciation of the value of the landscape and to inspire people to learn about and participate in the heritage of the Gwent Levels. A £2.5 million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, awarded in 2018 will help to lever in further funding and deliver a £4 million scheme from the date of the award.

2.33 LLLP has five members of staff, with a programme manager and other officers covering: community engagement, access and interpretation, finance and administration and volunteer coordination.

2.34 In terms of branding, marketing and outreach, Living Levels has an interactive website with an online geographical information system (GIS) linked to citizen science opportunities. There is a regular e-newsletter and You Tube channel. There are also Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts that promote the LLLP.

## Summary of Regional Park Precedent

Table 1: Summary of Regional Park Precedent

Name of Regional Park	Legislation	Key theme	Potential parallels with a Flintshire Coast Regional Park
Valleys Regional Park, South Wales (Envisaged in 1940s, but formally incepted in 2019, awaiting legal designation)	No primary legislation for Welsh regional parks currently available	Linking local people to landscape through the Discovery Gateways	Includes countryside, settlements, industrial sites & brownfield land
Lee Valley Regional Park South-East England Envisaged in 1940s, designated by Respoke law in 1966)	Lee Valley Regional Park Act, 1966	Transforming post-industrial land into leisure, recreation, sport and nature	Mosaic of open spaces near to international and national sites designated for nature Close to high levels of human population
Quirshiell Regional Park, West Scotland (Established 1990)	The Wildlife and Countryside (Scotland) Act 1981	Focus on conservation while accommodating socio-economic well-being	Focus on integration of Park with other uses of the area, such as farming, forestry and other development, while maintaining and enhancing a quality natural heritage setting Upland area overlooking the Firth of Clyde

Table 2: Summary of the Living Levels Landscape Partnership, Gwent

Key Theme	Funding	Potential parallels with a Flintshire Coast Regional Park
Reconnect people to the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels	National Lottery Heritage Fund and direct funding from partners	Reconnecting people to the coastal landscape



## Research into Regional Park Models

- 2.35 Research into regional park models was completed on behalf of the former North West Development Agency (NWDA)<sup>1</sup>. This detailed review covered five key points which are transferable to Flintshire's coast:
- 2.36 Variety of Vision and Success: Regional Parks are very varied with different origins, objectives, roles and levels of success.
- 2.37 Variable Definition: The term Regional Park is applied to a wide range of projects, which are not always 'distinguished by something that is recognisably regional.' They include outdoor recreational projects that could easily be categorised in other ways.
- 2.38 Need for distinctive branding of the RP concept: There are relatively few Regional Parks in the UK and the concept would benefit from a better profile if this type of park is to be promoted.
- 2.39 Importance of regional brand: A 'theme' is of great value if a large area is to be designated as a Regional Park. 'There should be at least one thing that the Regional Park is noted for or that it does very

well, and ideally better than anywhere else, at least in the region and preferably wider.'

- 2.40 Value for Integrating Land Management towards shared objectives: Regional Parks should provide a focus for integrated land management and the management of change. *'If an extensive area is managed collectively, there is greater prospect of accommodating different demands whilst reducing the possible conflicts.'*

<sup>1</sup>Research into Regional Park Models, NWDA (2003)

## 3.0 Flintshire Coast Park Prospectus Update

3.1 Chapter 3 sets out the context of the Flintshire Coast in terms of the prospectus and an update on activity completed since that date. It also includes a summary of the Coastal Communities online consultation undertaken early during 2022.

3.2 The Flintshire Coast Park Prospectus was published in 2015 as an expression of the aspirations of the Council and its partners for the coast. It identified the significant work that had already been achieved including the implementation of the Wales Coast Path but recognised that access to the shore remained constrained and poorly presented in places. This was undermining the area’s potential to develop the coast for recreation, tourism and appreciation of the unique wildlife and cultural heritage of the Dee Coast and Estuary. The vision and priorities for the coast park are:

Our vision is for an accessible coast park which celebrates the natural environment and heritage of the Welsh coast. Our vision can be achieved through sustained investment and by working with key partners including community, businesses and public bodies who share the vision for the Coast Park.

The Coast Park’s priorities are:

- Enhancing our tourist, recreational and cultural activity;
- Improving gateways to the coast at Connah’s Quay, Flint, Bagillt, Greenfield and Talacre;

- Increasing useage by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders along the Wales Coast Path; and
- Stimulating interest in the coast’s natural history and maritime culture.

3.3 The Prospectus proposes six key gateways (or hubs) onto the River Dee and its estuary including:

- Northern Gateway
- Connah’s Quay Dock
- Flint Waterfront
- Bagillt Inlet and Bettisfield Hill
- Greenfield Dock and Greenfield Valley
- Talacre

3.4 The Prospectus includes indicative proposals for each hub, such as potential improvements to docks, inlets and re-development that would support the Coast Park aims and objectives.

3.5 As well as the site-specific proposals for the hubs, the overall use of the Wales Coast Path and links onto it from the hinterland is also a key consideration in the 2015 Prospectus.

3.6 During February and March 2022, TEP conducted several stakeholder interviews to establish progress of projects identified in the 2015 Prospectus. The findings inform Chapter 7.0 Potential Footprint.

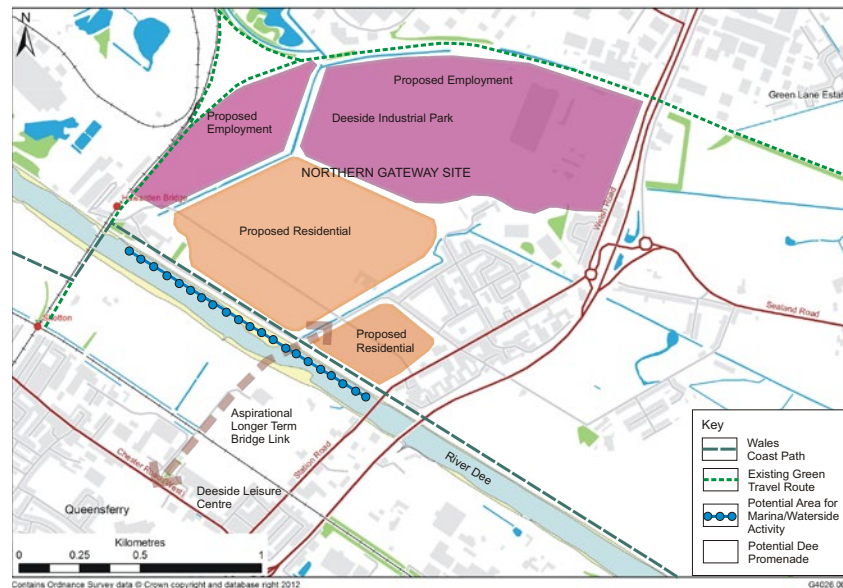


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## Northern Gateway

3.7 The proposals for Northern Gateway include the longer-term delivery of 5,000 jobs and 1,000 homes. However, progress on the site has been delayed due to planning constraints and challenges to the market. The prospectus envisages a reconfigured waterfront onto the Dee with marina and waterside activity and a potential new foot and cycle bridge link to the Deeside Leisure Centre. As momentum builds at the Northern Gateway, there will be opportunity to promote and deliver the ideas from the prospectus.



Northern Gateway

- 3.8 Recent works in the locality of the Northern Gateway include the upgrade of the cycle route infrastructure forming part of the Hawarden Railway Bridge to support the network of national cycle routes (NCN) 568 (Wirral-Neston) and 5 (Chester-Prestatyn).
- 3.9 The charity Care and Repair (North East Wales) has taken a lease for a building and part of the grounds at the Corus Shotton Sports and Social Club and they have converted a former bowling green into a garden. The Council's rangers have implemented tree planting in the Wepre Riverside area and the Wales Coast Path link (also NCN 5) to Connah's Quay Dock are off-road and in good condition.

## Connah's Quay Dock

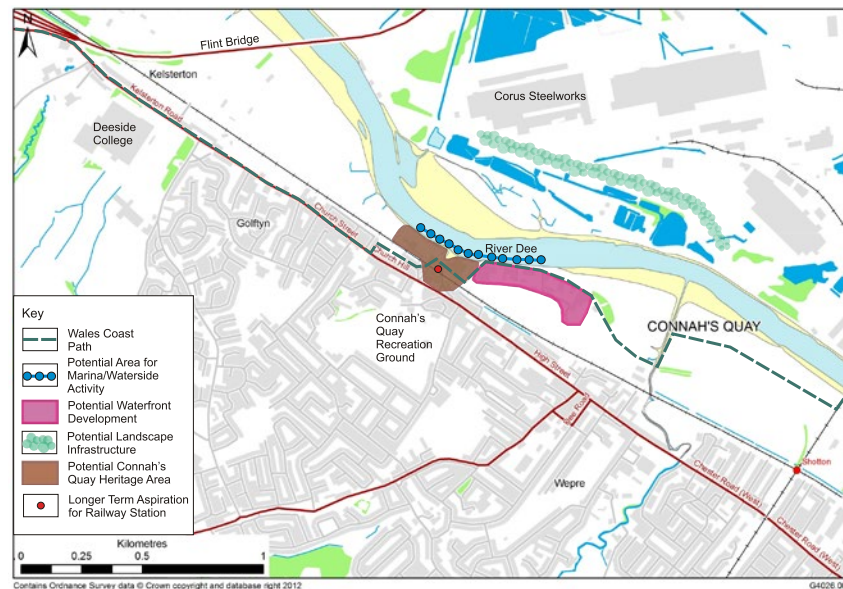
- 3.10 The Quay Waterman's Association has been promoting the Kathleen and May heritage centre in a refurbished community building next to the historic harbour. More recently public realm improvements have been undertaken on the quayside. There are also proposals to restore the dock by de-silting it, which would also enable summer boat trips onto the Dee Estuary.
- 3.11 The Wales Coast Path from Connah's Quay Dock to the eastern edge of Flint initially follows Kelsterton Road (B5129) and then Chester Road (A548). NCN 5 follows a similar pattern but includes a route through Golftyn to avoid parts of the B5129. The section of the Wales Coast Path and NCN 5 between Flint

and Oakenholt is particularly constrained as it joins the footway of the A548. Opportunities for an off-road Coast Path requires further investigation. At the eastern edge of Flint, both the Wales Coast Path and NCN 5 leave the main road and follow the coastline towards Flint Castle.

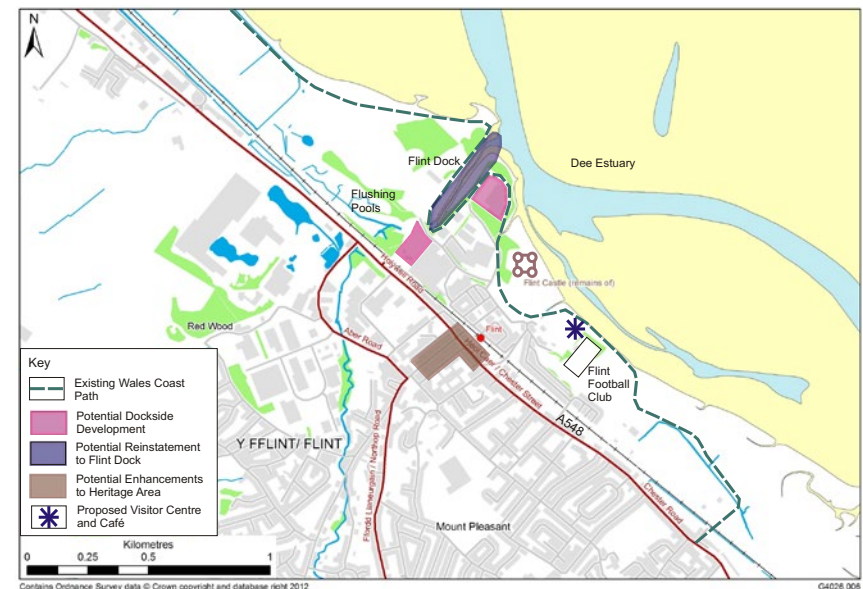
realised. However, there are a number of projects proposed as part of the 2022 Levelling Up Fund bid (LUF22) and these are described under Chapter 5 – Local Wisdom.

- 3.13 The Wales Coast Path follows the edge of the dock and then the coastline towards the Bagillt Inlet. After passing to the south of the castle and dock, NCN 5 re-joins the A548 towards the eastern edge of Bagillt.

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Connah's Quay Dock



Flint Waterfront

### Flint Waterfront

- 3.12 The prospectus envisages that Flint town becomes reconnected to the castle and waterfront, with a potential visitor and interpretation centre near to the castle. Other proposals include a dockside development between the castle and the dock and the reinstatement of the dock. These opportunities are yet to be

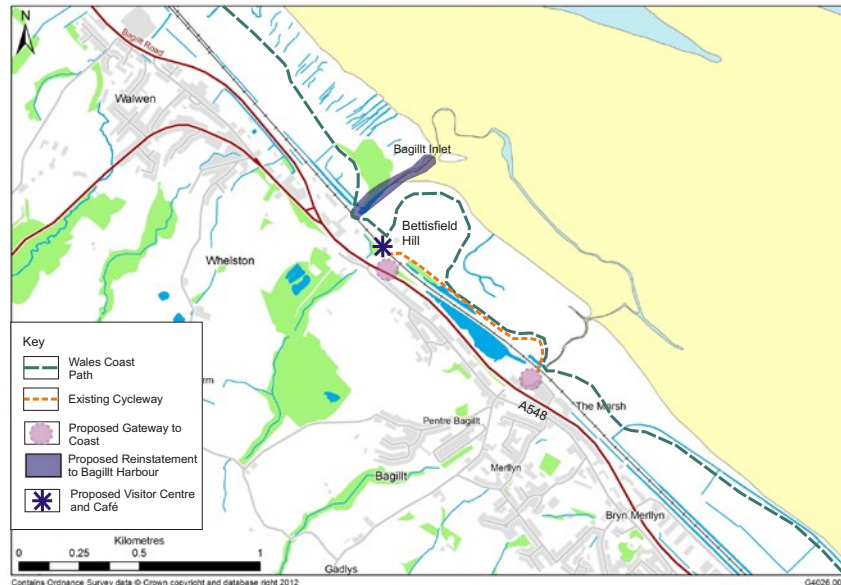
### Bagillt Inlet and Bettisfield Hill

- 3.14 The proposal envisages the reinstatement of the inlet for improved access to fishing boats and the conversion of the old colliery winding house into a heritage centre and café. The

proposal would also require access improvements from the coast road (A548). These opportunities are yet to be realised, however there has been recent engagement with local schools in terms of the heritage of the area. Hedgerows have been planted and new fences installed to manage anti-social activity.

- 3.15 The Wales Coast Path follows the coastline from Bagillt Inlet to Greenfield Dock. The section from Bagillt (sewage works) to Greenfield Dock is also available for cyclists.
- 3.16 Near to the eastern edge of Bagillt, NCN 5 joins Holywell Street (parallel to the A548) and heads west away from the coastal area along Gadlys Lane. NCN 5 follows an inland route, on high ground, before re-joining the coastal area at Gronant.

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Bagillt Hill and Bettisfield Hill

## Greenfield Dock and Greenfield Valley

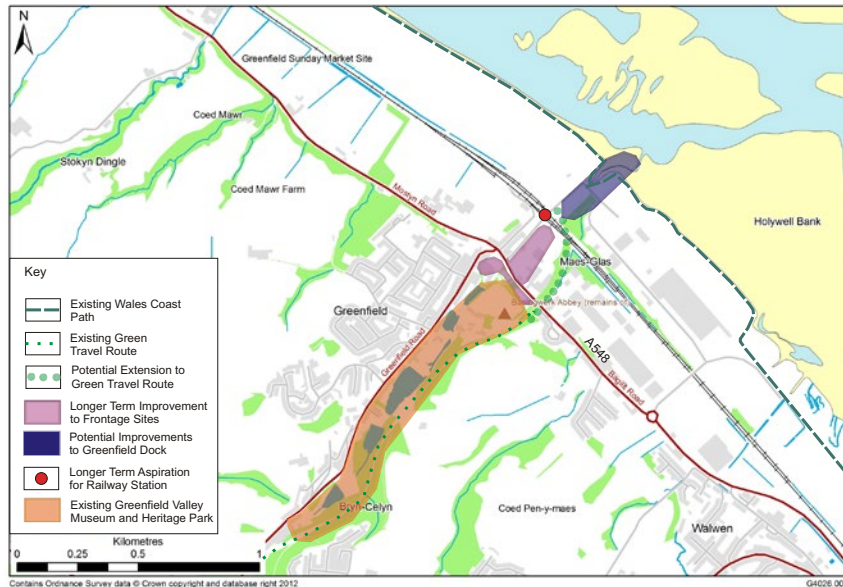
- 3.17 The prospectus proposes improvements to the slipway of Greenfield Dock for fishing, cockling and leisure activities and the refurbishment of the former security gatehouse into a café. Some of these improvements have been completed, however stakeholders have reported some conflicts between pedestrians using the Wales Coast Path which passes through the car park at Greenfield Dock and the use of the same facility at certain times by cocklers and fishermen.
- 3.18 Since the publishing of the prospectus, the Greenfield Valley off-road route has been extended over the coast road (A548) with links to Greenfield Dock through the Abbey View Trading Estate and connecting road network. The longer-term ambition is to extend the off-road route over the railway so that it connects with Greenfield Dock and the Wales Coast Path enhancing links between the coast with Greenfield Valley and Holywell.
- 3.19 The Wales Coast Path follows the coastline from Greenfield Dock to Mostyn, although it follows a small detour around the inlet where the Duke of Lancaster (Mostyn Funship) is docked. The inlet is subject to high tides and this causes access issues near the Duke of Lancaster. There is an aspiration to bridge the inlet to avoid the use of a detour for users of the Wales Coast Path.



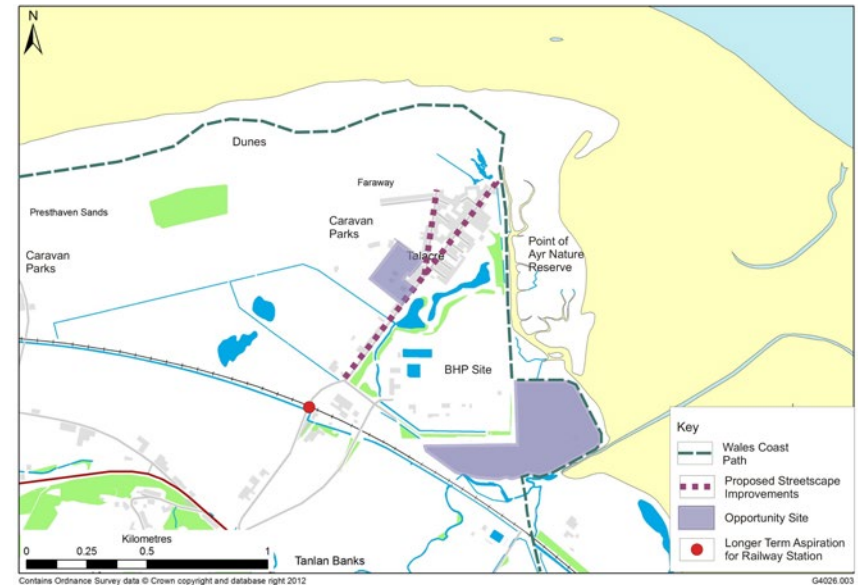
3.20 The Path continues along the coastline, although it returns to the coast road near to the eastern edge of the Port of Mostyn. It continues west along the road and then takes a detour through Fynnongroyw.

3.22 The prospectus considers that Talacre is already a very successful hub and the challenge will be to draw Talacre’s visitors along the coast to other potential visitor hubs at Greenfield, Flint and Connah’s Quay. Transforming the opportunity site (former colliery) for recreation and nature could contribute to the first steps towards this.

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Greenfield Dock and Greenfield Valley



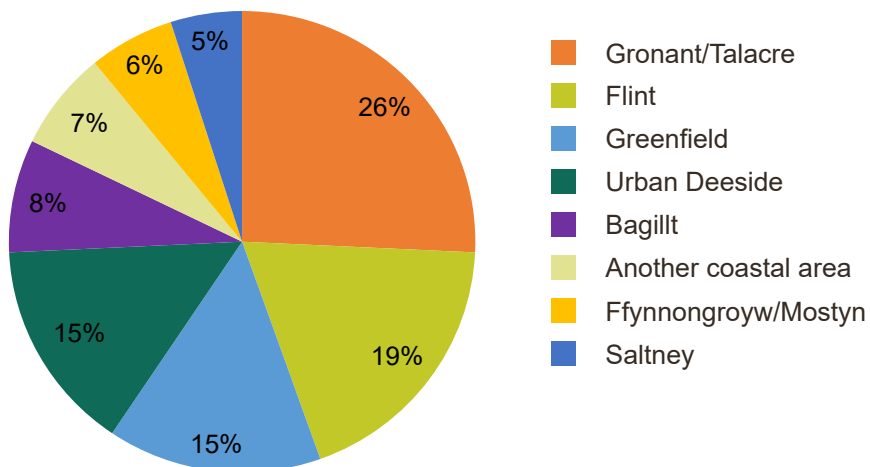
Talacre

3.21 After crossing the coast road, the Path continues off-road towards regaining the coastline at the eastern edge of the ENI site and heads north towards Talacre beach. The former colliery opportunity site (see plan below) identified in the prospectus remains an aspiration in terms of contributing to the coast park.

## Coastal Communities Online Consultation (February 2022)<sup>2</sup>

3.23 The online consultation was undertaken to provide evidence in support of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid to be submitted during 2022. The consultation was structured as a questionnaire to establish the preferences of residents living in Flintshire. Approximately 1,500 people chose to respond to the questions and a summary of the consultation questions and responses is provided below. The consultation responses provide useful evidence as to how Flintshire residents use the coast and provides a steer for the regional park or coast park alternative.

Q1. Which of the following Flintshire coastal areas do you visit most?



Q2. What are your main reasons for visiting your chosen coastal locations?

Leisure & Recreation	81%
Tourism Activities	29%
Shopping	19%
Visiting Family & Friends	15%
Food & Drink	14%
Local Services	9%
Work / Business	8%
Community Facilities	7%

Respondents permitted up to 4 answers

Q3. If going for fun or leisure what activities do you do at the coast?

Walking / running	79%
Visit the Beach	68%
Visit Attractions	40%
Cycling	19%
Bird Watching	15%
Fishing	5%

Respondents permitted up to 3 answers

<sup>2</sup> Coastal Communities – Final overview report Generated 15-02-2022

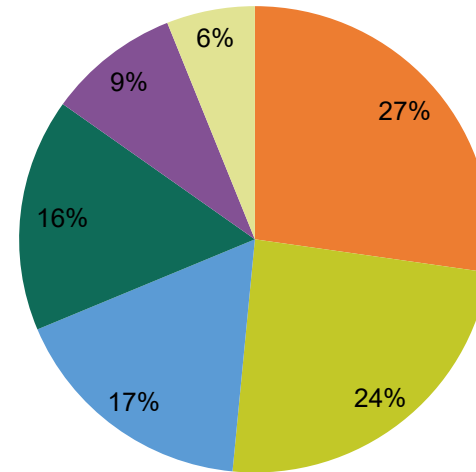


Q4. When you are visiting Flintshire's coast, what is most important to you?



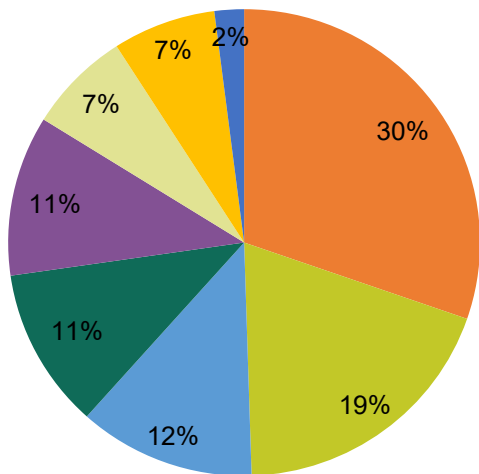
1. The attractive environment
2. Feeling safe & secure
3. Availability of facilities
4. Plenty of things to see & do

Q6. Are there any particular reasons why you haven't visited some coastal areas?



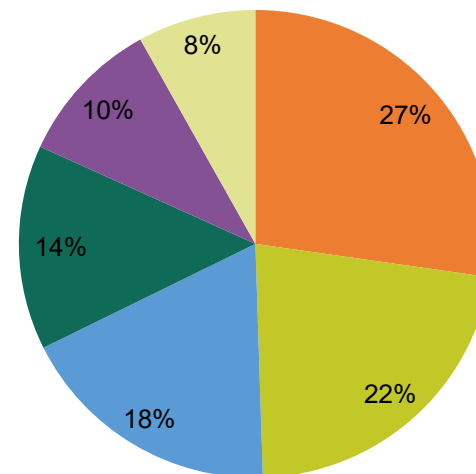
- Didn't know of attraction/area
- Lack of facilities
- Inaccessibility
- Safety & reputation
- It does not interest me
- Worries about Covid

Q5. For the spots you visit on the coast, what would you most like to improve?



- Car Parking & Toilets
- Additional Walking Trails
- Additional Cycling Trails
- Cafe & Snack Kiosks
- Seating & Picnic facilities
- Better Disabled Access
- Visitor Attractions
- Improved Signage

Q7. How frequently do you visit Flintshire's coast?



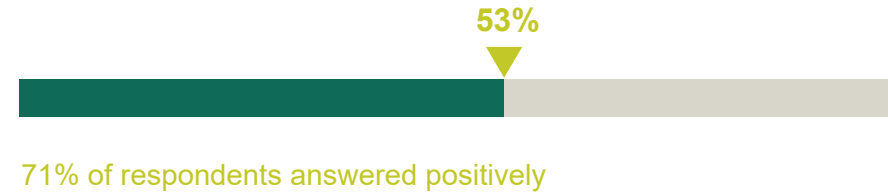
- Several times a month
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Several times a week
- Daily
- Annually

Q8. What are your considerations for working or/ & running a business by the coast?

It's an attractive environment	<b>56%</b>
Good access & public transport	<b>36%</b>
Good quality premises	<b>31%</b>
Good local workforce	<b>24%</b>

Respondents permitted up to 2 answers

Q10. Do you feel the coastal wildlife is being protected & enhanced?

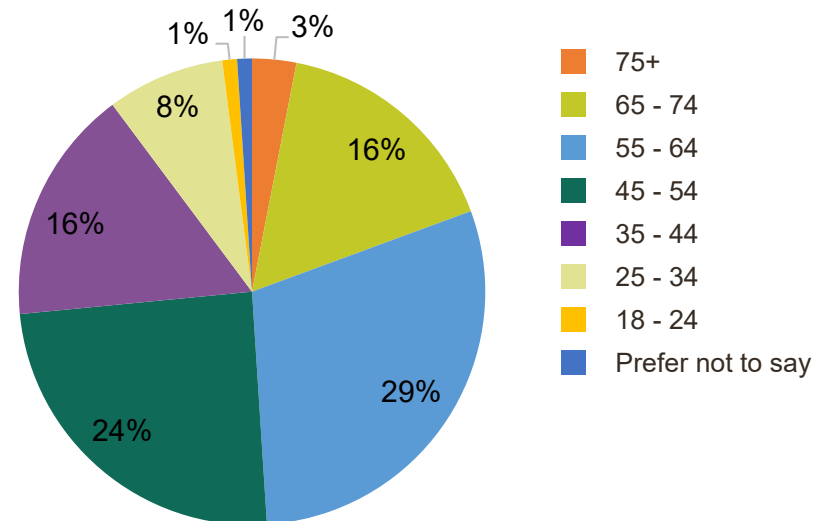


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Q9. Do you feel connected to the Dee Estuary?



Q11. What is your age?



## Summary Analysis

3.24 The online consultation provides details of Flintshire residents' responses in terms of: preferred location for visits, reason for visiting, the need for improvements, frequency of visits, consideration for running a business. It also includes the age range of respondents.

### Question 1 – Which of the following Flintshire coastal areas do you visit most?

3.25 The top three areas are Talacre, Flint and Greenfield and this partly reflects the existing key gateway (hubs) from the Flintshire Coast Park Prospectus. In future there will be opportunity to attract visitors to the less popular locations such as Bagillt, Ffynnongroyw/Mostyn and Saltney.

### Question 2 - What are your main reasons for visiting your chosen coastal locations?

3.26 The top three reasons for visiting are leisure and recreation, tourism activities and shopping. In future food and drink could be targeted as an offer as a means of extending visitors' dwell time on the coast and to increase spend in the area.

### Question 3 - If going for fun or leisure what activities do you do at the coast?

3.27 The top three activities are walking/running, visiting the beach and visiting attractions. The regional park or coast park alternative could direct investment on the infrastructure and maintenance needed to support these activities. Cycling and bird watching are currently less popular, however future proposals for the coast could priorities these activities to diversify the offer on the coast.

### Question 4 - When you are visiting Flintshire's coast, what is most important to you?

3.28 Respondents placed the following in order of importance: the attractive environment, feeling safe and secure, availability of facilities and plenty of things to see and do.

### Question 5 - For the spots you visit on the coast, what would you most like to improve?

3.29 The top three items for improvement are car parking and toilets, additional walking trails and additional cycling trails. These are relatively low cost to implement, so any future proposals along the coast could prioritise investment on these items and secure more visits and loyalty towards visiting the area.

### Question 6 – Are there any particular reasons why you haven't visited some coastal areas?

- 3.30 The top item is lack of awareness of attraction/area and this could be addressed at relatively low cost with online information and on-site interpretation and leaflets.

### Question 7 - How frequently do you visit Flintshire's coast?

- 3.31 Over 90% of the 1,400 respondents to this question reported visiting Flintshire's coast monthly or on a more frequent basis. This indicates that the coast is visited relatively frequently by Flintshire residents. Investment in infrastructure, facilities and information could encourage even more frequent visits by Flintshire residents.

### Wider Consultation

- 3.32 To establish the responses of visitors from outside Flintshire, further consultation could be undertaken and it is likely that this would be best undertaken in-person on site. A particularly interesting comparison would be the frequency of visits from those outside the county compared with Flintshire residents.



## 4.0 Legislative and Policy Hooks

4.1 This chapter highlights the potential Regional Park’s fit with existing legislation, policies and programmes and includes reference to:

- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Planning Policy Wales Edition 11
- Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

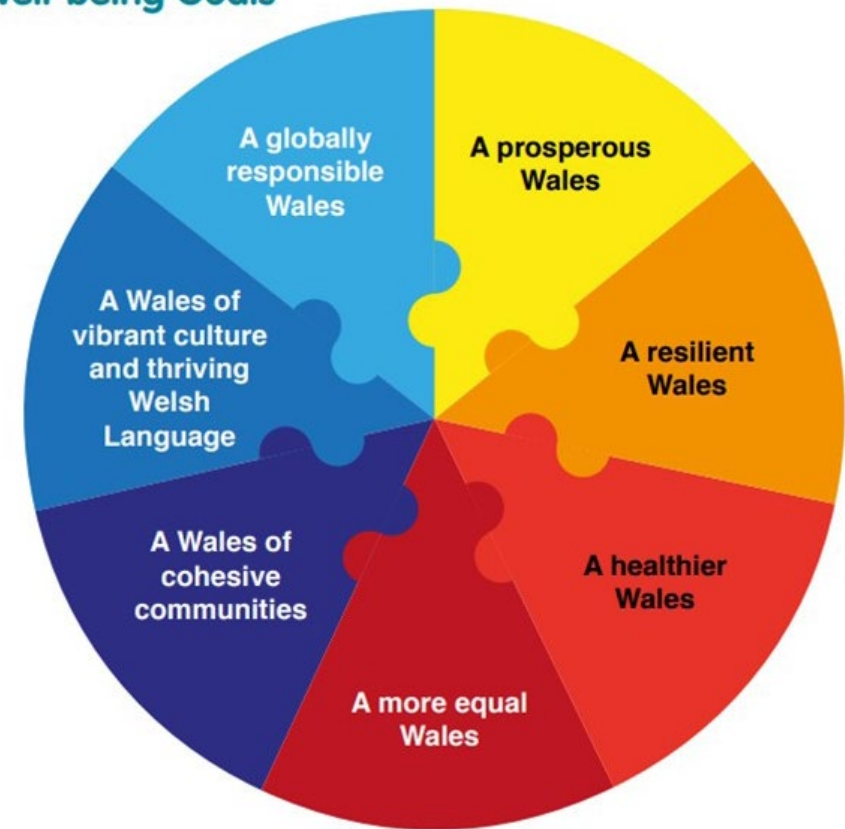
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### Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations Act places a duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development, requiring an improvement in the delivery of all four aspects of well-being: social, economic, environmental and cultural and the seven well-being goals.

4.3 Public service boards’ wellbeing assessments and wellbeing plans could inform the delivery of a Flintshire Coast Regional Park and provide existing mechanisms for engaging local communities to ensure they are integral to delivering local benefits from the sustainable management of the coast’s natural resources.

### Well-being Goals



Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act Well-being Goals

### Environment (Wales) Act 2016

4.4 Area Statements are required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and are produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The Area Statements could have a key role in providing evidence and driving forward the actions needed to achieve a Regional Park vision.

4.5 The North East Wales Area Statement covers the three counties of Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham and consists of five themes:

- Climate emergency: resilience and adaptation
- Develop and improve urban and rural green infrastructure
- Increasing woodland cover for social, environmental and economic benefits
- Promoting the resilience of ecosystems in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Protecting water and soil through farming and sustainable land management

The Flintshire Coast Regional Park could be an exemplar for the implementation of such a natural resources policy, taking an integrated and collaborative regional approach.

### Planning Policy Wales Edition 11

4.7 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11 was published in February 2021. PPW sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government and is supported by a series of Technical Advice Notes, Welsh Government Circulars and policy clarification letters.

4.8 The Flintshire Coast Regional Park could be an exemplar in terms of addressing and making a positive contribution to many place-based objectives of PPW:

- People and Places: Achieving Well-being Through Placemaking (Chapter 2)
- Strategic and Spatial Choices (Chapter 3)
- Active and Social Places (Chapter 4)
- Productive and Enterprising Places (Chapter 5)
- Distinctive and Natural Places (Chapter 6)

### Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

4.9 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 was published in February 2021 and forms the national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040.

4.10 The Flintshire Coast Regional Park could be an exemplar in terms of addressing and making a positive contribution to the following policies:

- Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking (Policy 2)
- Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure (Policy 9)
- Strategic Policies for Regional Planning (Policy 19)
- National Growth Area - Wrexham and Deeside (Policy 20)

4.11 Further information on legislation and policies is provided in the supporting paper ‘Policy Review and Assessment’.

## 5.0 Chapter Five - Local Wisdom

- 5.1 Stakeholder consultation using workshops and focused online interviews has provided useful information in terms of existing initiatives in the area, an update on progress with the Flintshire Coast Park Prospectus and a better understanding of key socio-economic and environmental priorities. The Chapter includes reference to the Review of the Wales Coast Path on its 10th Anniversary<sup>3</sup>.
- 5.2 Table 3 outlines a summary of comments and questions from stakeholders. The process of engagement has helped inform the Study, while stakeholders have also been able to share their excellent local knowledge and help consider the case for Regional Park designation.
- 5.3 The consultation exercise also provided useful information the Our Dee Estuary initiative supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is reported on in Table 4.

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Table 3: Summary of Stakeholder Comments in relation to potential for a Regional Park

Organisation	Respondent	Key comments
Welsh Government	Officers leading on Designated Landscapes & Outdoor Recreation	Need to be clear about what type of designation aiming for to ensure buy-in
		Currently no legislation available to accommodate a regional park in Wales
		Opportunity for a regional park to contribute to the 30X30 Natural Resources Defense Council commitment to protect nature and life on earth
		Alternatively, more informal arrangement could be pursued
		There are other potential non-standard designations; this could involve setting up a memorandum of understanding between local authorities; potential for a community interest company (CIC) or charity
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	Locally based officers	Opportunity for a regional park to deliver against seven goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015)
		Options for a Regional Park footprint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coast</li> <li>▪ Coast &amp; green corridors (eg. Wepre Park)</li> <li>▪ Coast &amp; hinterland</li> </ul>
		Regional Park can convey history of the coast and celebrate existing 'working coastline'

<sup>3</sup>The Wales Coast Path Review Group (2022) Review of the Wales Coast Path on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Organisation	Respondent	Key comments
Dee Estuary Conservation Group	Chair	Regional Park would need a dedicated staff team, governance & funding
		Regional Park could deliver against the aspiration of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015)
		Supportive of a Regional Park footprint including coast and hinterland taking advantage of views from high ground across the Dee Estuary and potential of circular routes linking with the Wales Coast Path
Our Dee Estuary	Project Manager	What would be the tangible benefits of a Regional Park designation?
		Would there be constraints on development arising from a Regional Park designation?
		What would be the rationale for Regional Park boundaries?
		How would deprived communities benefit?
		Opportunities to connect with a Dee Estuary coastline path & supporting facilities
		Would increased visitor footfall have an impact on wildlife
Dee Estuary Trust	Volunteer (active in north east Wales area)	A Regional Park could encourage walking and cycling between attractions
		Suggested that the Discovery Gateways from the Valleys Regional Park would be transferable to the Flintshire Coast and would be a good attractor and footfall generator
Ramblers	Representative	Opportunity for more promotion of public rights of way (PRoW), cycle routes and 'white tracks' from the hinterland to the coast
Flintshire County Council	Officer Group (Access & Natural Environment; Destination & Tourism; Enterprise & Levelling Up)	Saltney should be included in any Regional Park with its proximity to the River Dee and for it to maximise the potential of recent access improvements in the area. There would also be opportunity to draw from the attractions and footfall arising from Chester
		Opportunity for a Regional Park to promote the Flintshire Coast with co-ordinated approach to signs, interpretation and information
		Regional Park footprint should focus on the coast rather than the hinterland as wider area would dilute the brand
		Regional Park footprint should focus on public land and public rights of way (PRoW)
		Would there be a statutory reporting system for a Regional Park?

Table 3 (continued)

Organisation	Respondent	Key comments
Flintshire County Council	Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee (8th February, 2022)	Support for Flintshire Coast Regional Park Scoping Study
Private individual	Landowner at Llanerch-y-môr	Support for a hub being created at Llanerch-y-môr

Table 4: Our Dee Estuary update

Our Dee Estuary Update
Recently received 3 C’s funding from DEFRA for coastal partnership work
Potential for resurrection of the Dee Estuary Partnership (DEP)
Assuming regional park designation pursued, DEP could lead governance of the park
English Coast Path - Aspiration to connect with the Wales Coast Path (via a spur provided by WCP) at the country border (near Burton Wetlands)
Considering a West Kirby to Point of Ayr walking circuit with advice needed for transport, accommodation and subsistence

### Summary of the Wales Coast Path on its 10th Anniversary (May 2022)

5.4 The Wales Coast Path Review Group (WCPRG) undertook a review of the Wales Coast Path, ten years on from its opening. Some of the report’s recommendations align with the themes and principles discussed in the earlier chapters and would support the establishment of a Flintshire Coast Regional Park or coast park alternative given the prominence of the Wales Coast Path’s. These include the following:

- Welsh Government should use the power of the Wales Coast Path as a catalyst for connecting people to nature more often and for longer, to help realise the wider benefits to health and wellbeing, and to promote a cultural change towards a deeper appreciation and enjoyment of nature and the outdoors.

- WCPRG could encourage the Wales Coast Path National Partnership Group to work with organisations to expand filming of the Path. This could be used as a promotional tool allowing potential visitors to experience the Path remotely and plan a visit more effectively.
- Consideration should be given to developing a dedicated Wales Coast Path business portal, bringing together businesses along both the whole and sections of the Coast Path to improve collaboration, provide advice and support, and identify further opportunities for business development and the creation of employment.

## 6.0 Why Designate?

6.1 The earlier chapters set the scene for some of the reasons ‘for’ and ‘against’ formal designation as a regional park. This chapter considers this in more detail.

### Why Designate?

#### Lee Valley Regional Park – a positive experience for regeneration, nature and revenue generation

Page 264 The Lee Valley Regional Park (LVRP) was established by bespoke legislation in 1966 and has been very successful in transforming post-industrial land along the River Lee into a place for leisure, recreation, sport and nature. It is now a mosaic of open spaces, heritage sites, country parks, farms, golf courses, lakes and riverside trails, campsites, marinas, angling and boating locations, attracting more than seven million visitors a year.

6.3 In terms of governance, the Act of Parliament required the creation of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority run by 28 Board Members drawn from across London, Essex and Hertfordshire. In accordance with the legislation, a suite of planning documents was prepared (with updates) to direct the development of the LVRP. Despite the bespoke planning framework for LVRP, planning powers remain ceded to the relevant local planning authorities.

6.4 The Authority generates most of its income from commercial and business activities, maximising opportunities to lessen the demand on council taxpayers. Nevertheless, the LVRP benefits from a levy on council taxpayers in London, Essex and Hertfordshire – which equates to 80p per person per year. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority has a statutory remit to develop and preserve leisure, recreation, sport and nature and so the money raised through the levy is directed to assets such as its eight Green Flag winning open spaces, three Green Heritage Sites and its sport and leisure venues.

6.5 Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) buys goods, works and services from a range of suppliers within the external market. Contracts vary from small one-off purchases to large works or service contracts. These include: construction of building and infrastructure; environmental and restoration works to watercourses and waterbodies; landscape design, management and maintenance; and provision of health and safety services.

6.6 LVRP has a community access fund to support community groups and charities by offering free access to our venues and services to organisations that engage with hard-to-reach communities. It also has an Active Communities Grant Scheme for a range of projects including: engaging inactive and less active people; engaging groups underrepresented in sport and physical activity; and initiatives committed to demonstrating an impact on their participants.

6.7 LVRPA reaches out to volunteers and has a Volunteers Strategy (current version October 2021) setting out aims, responsibilities, legal considerations and policies and procedures. During 2020 over 1,200 volunteers contributed over 11,000 hours (around 60% less hours than in 2019, pre-pandemic). Volunteering was carried out across the LVRPA parklands and venues to support Fisheries, Rangers Service (livestock checkers, litter pickers, conservation and honorary wardens). LVRPA has held the Investing in Volunteers accreditation (national standard) for 15 years. Volunteering is available to individuals, corporate groups and clubs.

The LVRPA website has a launchpad to the public facing 'Visit Lee Valley' which successfully conveys the ethos and brand.

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Lessons for the Flintshire Coast

6.9 LVRP is arguably a very successful model for a potential Flintshire Coast Regional Park to follow, particularly the established mosaic of spaces for leisure, recreation, sport and nature use set alongside urban uses and sites designated for nature conservation. This along the 26 mile length of the LVRP from rural Hertfordshire to London Docklands.

6.10 The governance structure underpinned by a bespoke planning framework would also provide leadership, direction and longer-term vision. However, planning powers can remain ceded to the local planning authority.

6.11 Most of the LVRP income comes from commercial and business activities with the remainder from a levy on council taxpayers.

6.12 The many benefits LVRP bring to local businesses, community groups and volunteers are clearly set out above.

### Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park – a positive experience for integrated land management and countryside recreation

6.13 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is the largest of the three Scottish regional parks. They cover large areas of countryside, parts of which are available for informal countryside recreation. The designation was created to enable the coordinated management of recreation across large area of land and other uses such as farming and forestry. Clyde Muirshiel has a network of visitor centres with provision for outdoor activities and support from a countryside ranger service and an outdoor activity team.

6.14 The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Authority Joint Committee is governed by a Minute of Agreement (MoA) agreed by Renfrewshire Council, Inverclyde Council and North Ayrshire Council. The Park covers 108 square miles, receives 700,000 visitors a year and has an annual budget of approximately £1,000,000 per year.

## Lessons for the Flintshire Coast

- 6.15 The Park is a useful model for the Flintshire Coast were it to designate a larger area of land requiring coordinated management across several uses such as recreation, farming, nature conservation and multi-functional green infrastructure, with learning, understanding and enjoyment about the environment also a priority. Parts of Clyde Muirshiel border with the Firth of Clyde and there are many distinctive views from higher ground towards the Firth. This is another parallel with the Flintshire Coast and its links with the Dee Estuary.
- 6.16 Thus, the Clyde Muirshiel model is likely to be most applicable to Regional Park Option 3 – Dee Viewshed or Option 4 – Lower Dee Catchment (Welsh side) with their more extensive footprints.

## Why Not Designate?

- 6.17 Research and stakeholder consultation shows that there are regional parks, partnerships or programmes which have been successful without reliance on a formal designation.

### Valleys Regional Park – a positive experience for linking local people to landscape

- 6.18 These include the Valleys Regional Park (VRP) in South Wales which has successfully set up partnership with 13 local authorities, charities such as Groundwork received funding from the Welsh Government Taskforce and the VRP has its own policy reference (Policy 35) in the Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. One of the key initiatives of the VRP is the promotion of 12 Discovery Gateways to engage with residents, while also benefitting visitors. Working through the Discovery Gateways the dedicated team of VRP Guardians enable residents to connect with the nature on their doorstep whilst learning new skills in how to care for natural habitats and landscapes. VRP partners with other organisations in the Big Bocs Bwyd (BBB) initiative working with children in learning about food, the benefits of growing food and cooking food.

## Lessons for the Flintshire Coast

- 6.19 The VRP is a good model for the Flintshire Coast in that its footprint covers a range of landscapes from protected

nature conservation areas, elevated rural areas, settlements, employment land and former industrial areas. The VRP is referenced in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 and there would be opportunity for the Flintshire Coast to contribute to requirements and aspirations of Policy 20 National Growth Area - Wrexham and Deeside. The focussed engagement with residents and visitors at the VRP Discovery Gateways is also a good lesson for the Flintshire Coast.

### The Living Levels Landscape Partnership, Gwent – linking local people to the coast

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- 6.20 The Living Levels Landscape Partnership (LLLLP) has potential parallels with the Flintshire Coast in that it delivers a programme of work which will promote and reconnect people to the heritage, wildlife and natural beauty of the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels. It works with partners to seek to conserve and restore the important natural heritage features of the area, to develop a greater appreciation of the value of the landscape and to inspire people to learn about and participate in the heritage of the Gwent Levels.
- 6.21 LLLP has five members of staff and also reaches out through its interactive website and the online geographical information system (GIS) linked to citizen science. There is a regular e-newsletter, You Tube channel and social media channels that all promote the LLLP.

## Summary

- 6.22 Lessons from the formal designation route show that with a statutory remit and robust governance structures, momentum and longevity can be established with possibilities for influencing policy and potentially more opportunity for investment, business involvement and revenue generation. Other factors that drive success in this model are vision, leadership, partnerships and a focus on core mission (e.g., recreation, visitor numbers and associated business, nature conservation).
- 6.23 Precedents using the non-standard designation approach have been able to achieve some of the aspects of designated regional parks, however with their more informal structures and procedures they appear to be more vulnerable to changes in partnership arrangements, policy and time-limited funding streams.



## 7.0 Potential Footprint

- 7.1 A key task of the Scoping Study is to consider a potential footprint for a Regional Park designation or coast park alternative. Consideration of the potential footprint has been influenced by earlier chapters discussing regional park precedents, the Flintshire Coast Park prospectus, policy and local wisdom.
  - 7.2 Four options have been examined. Maps for each option are included on the following pages, and the footprint of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is provided for context.
- Option 1: Coastal Focus**
- 7.3 Option 1 is based on the Flintshire Coast Park prospectus, extending from Point of Ayr to Connah’s Quay, with a 500m inland buffer from the coastline. Based on stakeholder advice, it is recommended that the coastal focus should extend upstream to Saltney, which borders England and Cheshire West and Chester Council. The distance from Point of Ayr to Saltney is approximately 20 miles.
  - 7.4 In recent years there have been improvements to the active travel network around Saltney, with good linkages west to the Flintshire coast and east towards Chester. Its inclusion in the footprint would add to the integrity of the visitor experience between Chester and Point of Ayr.

- 7.5 Stakeholders have suggested the inclusion of Llannerch-y-môr as a hub. It is characterised by activity generated by the Duke of Lancaster, its market and the Abakhan Fabric outlet. In addition, the Wales Coast Path follows the coastal inlet at the Duke of Lancaster.
- 7.6 Option 1 includes the six hubs from the Coast Park prospectus: Talacre, Greenfield Dock and Greenfield Valley, Bagillt Inlet and Bettisfield Hill, Flint Waterfront, Connah’s Quay Dock and Northern Gateway. Llannerch-y-môr and Saltney would become the seventh and eighth hubs respectively in a “Coastal Focus” footprint.
- 7.7 The benefit of this footprint is that it is already well-established in corporate priorities for the Council and NRW. There is a strong brand based on a “string of pearls” i.e. several hubs situated along the promoted Wales coastal path. There is a relatively limited number of private landowners and businesses, and there are established links with several of them. This means that there is likely to be relatively little resistance to a more formal designated status, and probably a good uptake of opportunities to join in with the Park.
- 7.8 The converse is that there are fewer businesses and few residents within the Coastal Focus, so there are limited opportunities to generate revenue, volunteering and community involvement in new projects.



Option 1: Coastal Focus





## Option 2: Coast and GI focus

7.9 Option 2 would have the same coastal focus as Option 1, with additional connecting green infrastructure (GI) corridors including:

- Llannerch-y-môr
- Greenfield Valley towards Holywell
- Flint – working with the proposals of the Flint Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)
- Wepre Park
- Link from Hawarden Bridge to the proposed English Coast Path near Burton Point
- Saltney

7.10 The benefit of this option would be to draw footfall from the coast path into important settlements and GI assets; and vice-versa. The settlements and GI assets noted above still have visual and/or cultural connections with the coast, so the title of “Flintshire Coast Park” would not be anomalous.

7.11 The benefit of this option is that it is well-established in corporate priorities for the Council and NRW. It would bring the Coast Park closer to many existing communities, thus increasing opportunities for volunteering, sponsorship and business involvement. The focus of the Park would be on management of public greenspace, the civic realm and public

rights of way within the inland corridors, so there would be relatively little need for extra engagement with private landowners. This in turn means there would be less likelihood of resistance to the concept of a formal designation.



View from public rights of way, south of Rhewl-Mostyn, looking towards Dee Estuary and Wirral Peninsula



Option 2: Coastal and GI Focus



**KEY**

- Coastal and GI corridor focus
- Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Key Hubs
- Key GI corridor





### Option 3: Dee Viewshed

- 7.12 Option 3 would include all the elements of Option 1 and 2 and would extend into the hinterland, where views from higher ground include the Dee Estuary.
- 7.13 The benefit of this option would be to promote the distinctive heritage, landscape and views of the hinterland. This is also firmly in line with NRW's aspirations for the area and would encompass some of the Flintshire Leisure Tour – Flintshire's Golden Circle initiative (Tour Taith) and land in the vicinity of Flintshire Castle.

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View from public rights of way, south of Rhewl-Mostyn, looking towards Dee Estuary and Wirral Peninsula

- 7.14 Another potential benefit of a larger scale footprint would be to improve the perception and visibility of the Flintshire Coast to a much wider audience. There would be many opportunities to improve public rights of way and the active travel network to and from the coast.
- 7.15 This option also forms a good link between the Clwydian Range AONB and the Flintshire Coast. It includes high-quality non-designated landscapes and access linkages from the AONB to the Coast. In the context of NRW's ambition to extend the scope of land protection beyond the AONB, this option is clearly defensible in terms of landscape, ecological and recreational value.
- 7.16 An important factor in consideration of this footprint is that much of the additional land would be in private ownership, so there would be a need for consultation and active engagement with landowners and tenants. Whilst the nature of Park activity means that each landowner or tenant can opt in or out of land management or access improvement initiatives, nevertheless there would need to be a clear and thoughtful approach to engagement to build consensus and avoid unnecessary controversy.



Option 3: Visual Focus (Dee Viewshed)



**KEY**

- Dee viewshed
- Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Key Hubs
- ☂ Key views from higher ground
- Key GI corridor





## Option 4: Wider focus (lower Dee catchment) – Welsh side

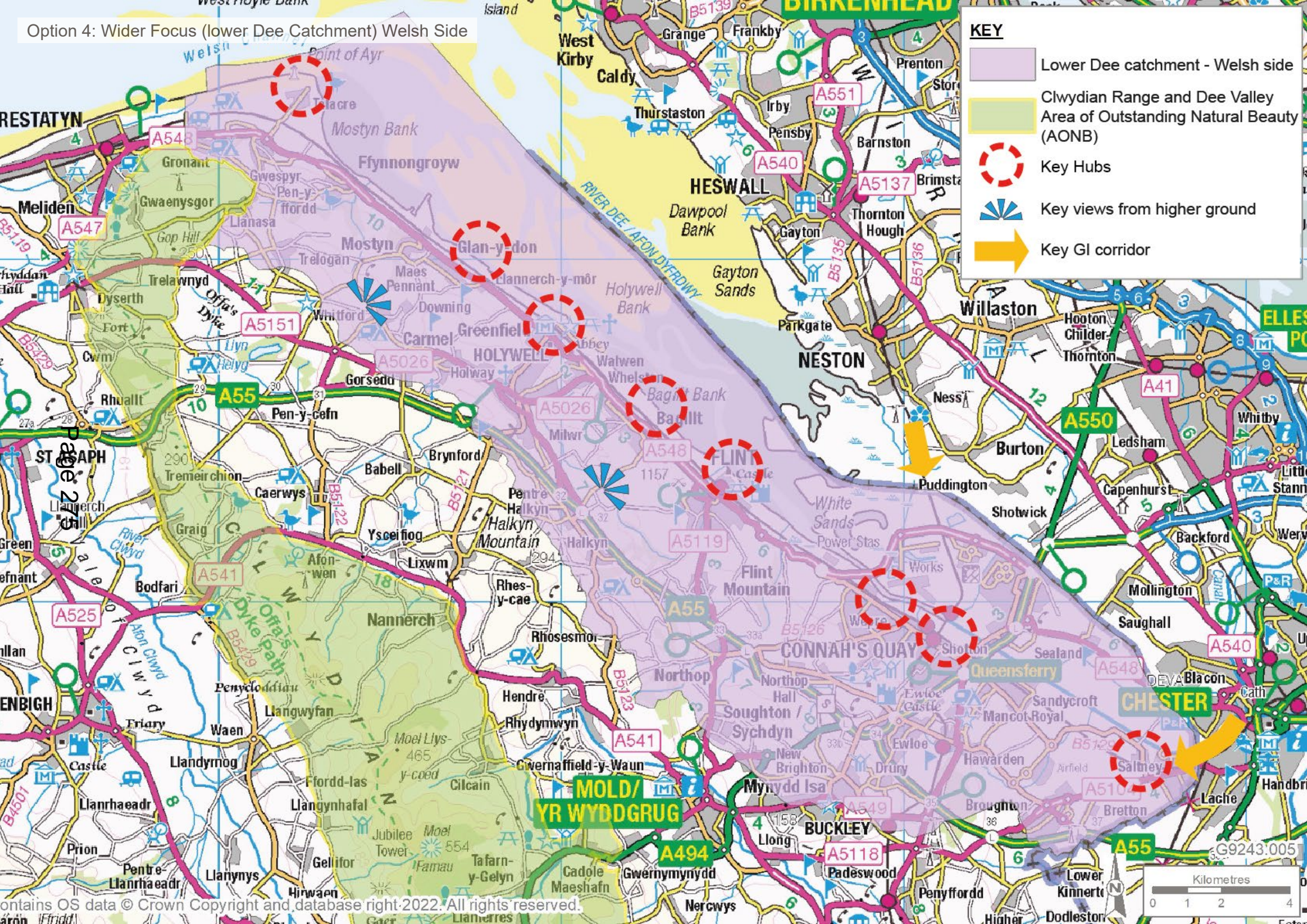
- 7.17 Option 4 would include all the elements of Option 1, 2 and 3 and would extend to include the remaining areas of the Lower Dee catchment in Wales (mirroring the Our Dee Estuary initiative). In addition to the larger physical footprint, this option could build upon the momentum and networks established by the Our Dee Estuary initiative.
- 7.18 The benefits and disbenefits of Option 3 also apply to Option 4.
- 7.19 As the principal additional purpose of having a catchment-oriented footprint is to positively influence water quality and biodiversity at scale, the remit of the Park team would definitely need to include working with private landowners, tenant farmers and commoners to promote sustainable land management initiatives, and help source funding and training for that purpose. Whilst this would have significant resource requirements, it offers many more opportunities for partnerships with NRW, water companies and tourist businesses who would benefit from sustainable land and water management.
- 7.20 A longer-term possibility for Option 4 would be to extend the footprint of a regional park across the national border to reflect the whole Lower Dee catchment and the Our Dee Estuary initiative.



View from national border looking over Dee Marshes towards Flintshire



Option 4: Wider Focus (lower Dee Catchment) Welsh Side



**KEY**

- Lower Dee catchment - Welsh side
- Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Key Hubs
- Key views from higher ground
- Key GI corridor



## 8.0 Addressing Challenges

8.1 This chapter outlines some of the challenges that communities on the Flintshire coast are facing. It suggests how these challenges could be addressed by a regional park; or by a coast park alternative.

### Socio-economic factors

8.2 Research undertaken on behalf of Flintshire County Council (FCC) to support a Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid to Government shows high levels of deprivation along the coast with a lack of investment, increasing anti-social behaviour and a housing stock suffering from low quality and poor mix of tenures.

8.3 There is also a disconnect between local residents and large institutions and employers such as Airbus, Toyota and Tata Steel. The coastal community has a skills deficit relative to the rest of Flintshire. This applies to both the over-50s and younger people (in full time education). There is a shortage of the sort of skills needed by local employers, and the skills deficit also restricts entrepreneurship in the area.

### Infrastructure for businesses

8.4 There is a lack of investment in commercial premises resulting in buildings in poor condition also displaying a lack of energy efficiency. This risks premises being vacated by business occupiers, thus disrupting local supply chains. Low grade

premises also leads to negative perceptions of the area amongst businesses, residents, communities and visitors.

8.5 Disconnect between residents, their heritage and natural environment

8.6 Fisheries and dock management have traditionally been important to the Flintshire coast, however, there has been a decline and loss of skills associated with these traditional industries. Consultation also reveals that some residents consider local heritage and natural environment assets along the coast to be associated with industrial decline and contamination and so choose not to engage with the coastal landscape.

### Visitor economy

8.7 There are many areas of high environmental quality which can be appreciated from the Wales Coast Path, together with many designated wildlife areas. Figures from Natural Resources Wales show that, in the 11 months to September 2013, 419,603 people used the Coast Path in Flintshire. Despite good footfall there is evidence of a lack of dwell time and spend by visitors in the Flintshire coastal towns.

8.8 Further to this, the 2020 STEAM<sup>4</sup> monitoring figures for Flintshire estimate that the County attracted 2.93-million-day

<sup>4</sup>STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) is an evaluation model used by many Destinations Management Organisations.



visitors. Each visitor is estimated to spend on average £56 per head. In addition, there are 4.7 million people living within a 60-minute drive time, the ideal catchment for day visitors.

- 8.9 In essence, Flintshire has a large and relatively untapped market close to hand. The tourism sector businesses in Flintshire have made recommendations for tourism development along the coast, and these inform the coast park vision.

### Public realm

- 8.10 Chapter 3.0 of this study highlights the aspiration to improve connections between the coast and hinterland. However, some of these linkages have yet to be improved, which can induce a fear of crime and a negative perception of parts of the coast. The Coastal Communities online consultation undertaken during early 2022 highlighted the attraction of the coastal environment, but noted that there were local spots avoided by visitors and locals due to poor facilities or neglect of management.

### Civic pride

- 8.11 Consultation suggests that Flintshire’s coastal communities are proud of their locale. However, this is perhaps more linked to the identity of individual places and communities, rather than a connection with the natural environment, heritage and traditional industries.

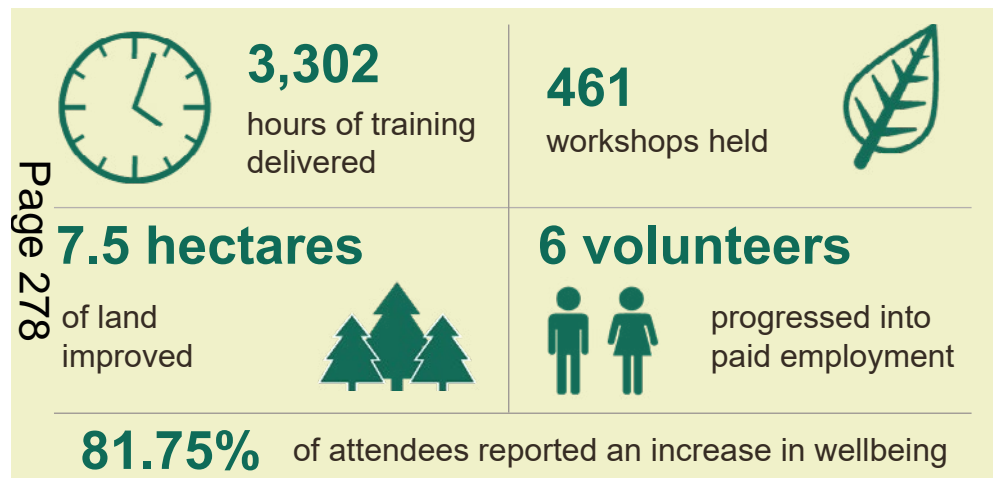
## Addressing the Challenges

- 8.12 In summary, Flintshire Council’s LUF Vision development work lists the following challenges faced by the Flintshire Coast. It is possible to use a regional / coast park to help address the challenges.

### Local communities experiencing economic decline, disconnection and acute deprivation

- 8.13 This challenge requires an emphasis on skills, employability and creating a local entrepreneur culture. Investment in skills will drive greater productivity and employability, in turn attracting inward investors and community entrepreneurs.
- 8.14 The regional park precedents outlined in Chapter 2.0 show how local employment can be uplifted with interventions from rangers, outreach and engagement workers. This builds skills, self-esteem and awareness of environmental issues within the local community.
- 8.15 This focus on skills is demonstrated in the South Wales’s Valley Regional Park (VRP). In the VRP Discovery Gateways, a dedicated team of Guardians enable residents to connect with the nature on their doorstep whilst learning new skills in how to care for natural habitats and landscapes.

- 8.16 VRP also partners with other organisations in the Big Bocs Bwyd (BBB) initiative, working with children in learning about food, and the benefits of growing and cooking food.
- 8.17 Data gathered from the VRP Guardians Scheme from May 2021-Jan 2022 advises that:



**Lack of investment in commercial premises (town and industrial parks) along the coastline**

8.18 Investing in the physical appearance and energy efficiency of commercial premises helps to secure existing jobs and supply chains. There is also increased potential for start-ups and incubators allowing them to establish and grow, in turn providing stepping stone employment for people with low skills - connecting pockets of deprivation with economic assets and jobs.

8.19 Much has already been achieved in terms of environmental remediation of degraded sections of the coastline. Ongoing improvements include opening views and improving sustainable transport links to the coast. This will contribute to the setting of commercial premises, attracting inward investment and helping retain skilled employers and employees.

8.20 The 2022 Coastal Communities consultation confirmed that the coastal location was generally an attractant for businesses and confirmed a market for food and activity-based micro-businesses associated with the coast.

**Decline of traditional industries linked to the area’s identity and heritage (i.e., cockle fishing & processing/dock management)**

8.21 The LUF Vision development work recommends that partners (Welsh Government, NRW and FCC) work together to promote local industries and infrastructure, including a thriving fishing industry. Awareness raising is needed amongst communities, businesses and stakeholders and strong links between schools, colleges and employers.

**Built heritage across coastline and town centres is falling into disrepair and disappearing**

8.22 The LUF Vision development proposes a celebration of the area’s heritage, traditional industries and natural assets through a modern, accessible and sustainable offer to residents and

visitors. The tourism offer is to promote increased visits, dwell time and spend, while operators of heritage assets can offer employment and training.

8.23 A regional park or coast park alternative would promote the coast as a place for leisure, recreation and heritage interest and the expectation is that footfall would increase as a result. Either designation could promote links to the town centres: resulting in increased visits, dwell time and spend; and the regeneration of built heritage such as the old colliery winding house at Bagillt.

8.24 Ynysangharad Park and National Lido in the Valley Regional Park (VRP) is an historic family attraction and is an outdoor pool attraction and industrial themed adventure play park – unique to Wales. The Grade II listed lido has been restored and updated. It has external and internal showers, heated changing facilities and three heated swimming pools, for families, dedicated swimmers and social swimmers of all ages and abilities. Lido Ponty features a state-of-the-art Visitors' Centre which tells the story of The National Lido of Wales. Restored features include the 1920's turnstiles and wooden cubicles.

Poor linkages between natural assets, areas of enterprise and services, and residential areas. Use of linkages (paths etc.) reduced due to fear of crime, negative perceptions of areas connected by linkages by residents and visitors.

8.25 Improved connectivity can increase residents' and tourist accessibility and visits to heritage sites, the natural environment and town centres.

8.26 This approach has been demonstrated by the Living Levels Landscape Partnership (LLLLP) in Gwent. It delivers a programme of work which will promote and reconnect people to the heritage, wildlife and natural beauty of the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels. It has a staff team that enable this, along with online engagement.

## 9.0 Next Steps

- 9.1 This chapter draws together the findings of the scoping study described in the preceding chapters and it recommends three stages in the setting up and establishment of a Regional Park or Coast Park alternative. These are:
- Transitional stage, which would involve: the establishing of a project team; articulating a vision; undertaking gateway projects; developing a spatial plan and defining a detailed boundary; and setting up an arm’s length body to provide a steer for the Regional Park or Coast Park alternative. This includes a short narrative on compliance with the Habitat Regulations Assessment.
  - Implementation stage, which would involve: management of individual projects and construction contracts; setting up procurement with the attendant financial controls and administrative systems.
  - Management stage, which would involve: development and sustaining of business, recreation, tourism and heritage initiatives.
- 9.2 In terms of the transitional stage five actions are proposed to get things going. A further three actions are recommended marking the start of the implementation stage. Actions for the management stage are outside the scope of this study.

### Transitional Stage

#### ACTION 1 – Establish a Flintshire Coast Project Team

- 9.3 A transitional project team will be needed to ensure on-going decision-making and action between now and when a new system of governance with an ‘arm’s length body’ becomes effective. It is a priority therefore, that a dedicated Project Team is established at the earliest opportunity. This team should have strong leadership and dedicated resources including both professional staff and administrative support and a budget for park development and feasibility studies.
- 9.4 The team leader will need to be a confident public communicator with a passion for the coast and its communities and an ability to forge links with politicians, businesses, community leaders and funders. The ability to “broker” agreements to make progress even where there are differences of opinion and emphasis is critical.

#### ACTION 2 – Establish a Vision, Goals and Brand

- 9.5 A vision for the Flintshire Coast will need to be established and supported by what distinguishes the coast, what it does well and what is recognisably regional. The 2015 Coast Park Prospectus provides a basis for testing and updating a vision statement, taking soundings from the Coastal Communities Survey 2022 and from stakeholders on a Steering Group /

Board of Reference. Alongside a vision statement, a set of core goals can be developed. Once drafted, the vision statement can be publicised in a branded format, starting to establish a distinct identity for the Park.

### ACTION 3 – Undertake Detailed Studies for Gateway Projects

- 9.6 This will bring more detail to the gateway projects (hubs) referred to in Chapter 7.0 along with the skills development and engagement proposed in Chapter 8.0. Outputs include feasibility study, costings, programme, funding sources, stakeholder mapping and a schedule of regulatory consents

### ACTION 4 – Develop a Spatial Plan

Achieving delivery of the ‘Flintshire Coast’ concept will require collaboration and partnerships with a range of public and private sector organisations and should be directed towards achieving a co-ordinated network of projects and initiatives that support the over-arching vision. The preparation of a Spatial Plan is a fundamental next step in this process and we recommend that this is progressed following completion of the studies outlined above.

### ACTION 5 – Define a Detailed Boundary for the Flintshire Coast

- 9.8 Chapter 7.0 of this report articulates the rationale for four potential footprint options and these will be subject to further Member and Officer consultations.
- 9.9 Once a preferred footprint has been selected, the following work should be undertaken:
- Consult key partners on the recommended ‘Project Area’, refine this as necessary to address any issues arising and seek to agree the Project Area as a working boundary for the Flintshire Coast.
  - Complete an audit of key proposals and initiatives within and adjacent to the Flintshire Coast to recommend ways in which the concept can be delivered by.
  - Led by the project team, determine the process by which the detailed boundary will be defined.
  - Develop criteria for identifying the detailed boundary.

#### Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA)

- 9.10 As much of the coast is subject to international nature conservation designations, project-specific Habitats Regulations Assessments may need to be carried out for most developments, even those not immediately adjacent the designations. The exception is projects solely concerned with managing and enhancing the designated sites.

- 9.11 Coast Park projects which involve built facilities, car parks and access improvements may need to be screened for HRA, to ensure that avoidance and mitigation of adverse effects is considered from project inception. In most instances, simple siting and design tweaks can avoid adverse effects.
- 9.12 As the Coast Park plan is not yet a formal statutory plan, it does not require a “plan-wide” HRA. Nevertheless, it is advisable that long-term business plans and work programmes for the Coast Park note the Habitats Regulations and commit the Council to work with NRW to ensure any site-specific projects are subject to HRA screening and mitigation.
- 9.13 Should the Coast Park proceed to a formal designation as a regional park, it will require a plan-wide HRA. This need not be onerous as one aim of the Coast Park is to manage the Dee Estuary, but nevertheless, a plan-wide HRA will identify potential implementation risks and promote ecological good practice in project design
- 9.14 It is envisaged that the transitional stage will take in the region of two to three years to undertake. It would include the setting up of an arm’s length body from FCC to implement and then manage the Regional Park or Coast Park alternative. The three actions outlined on the following pages mark the start of the implementation stage.

## Implementation Stage

### ACTION 6 – Prepare a Business Plan and Funding Applications

- 9.15 To ensure the effective development and delivery of the Vision, the Flintshire Coast must have access to significant public funding over many years. In many cases, this funding should be used as seedcorn or for leverage or match. It is essential therefore, that there is ongoing dialogue and consultation with Welsh Government, key agencies and FCC to promote the initiative, and to secure additional public sector investment, business sponsorships and philanthropic contributions.

### ACTION 7 - Undertake a Communications Campaign

- 9.16 The Scoping Study provides new impetus to the Flintshire Coast initiative and offers the potential to promote the benefits of the project to a wide range of audiences. However, the study is also by its own brief, a technical document, which is unsuited for presentation to a non-technical or lay audience. The project team should therefore, at an early stage, hold a major dissemination event aimed at capturing the attention of the Region’s major organisations. Key actions should include:
- Preparation of a presentational package to allow the conclusions of the feasibility study and the Flintshire Coast concept to be presented to key partners including:



Welsh Government, NRW, CADW, Our Dee Estuary, Dee Estuary Conservation Group, Sustrans, Ramblers and local businesses.

- Identifying several 'Project Champions' within key organisations; high profile individuals who are committed to the concept and capable of marketing this at the highest level.
- A media campaign to raise awareness of the project nationally and regionally. This should focus on the populist press including TV, radio and newspapers but should also target professional and technical journals.
- Consideration of a new name and logo for the initiative.
- Develop a Flintshire Coast website and social media channels to disseminate information and act as a point of contact for local communities.

agencies and a programme of meetings and workshops should be developed to facilitate this. Key actions will include:

- Developing a consultation programme to review the outcomes of the Scoping Study with key partners.
- Identifying ways in which local communities can engage in the process of developing and delivering the Flintshire Coast initiative.
- Develop a programme with local schools and colleges to engage young people in the initiative.

### ACTION 8 - Develop a Consultation and Engagement Programme

9.17 For the Flintshire Coast to be successful in achieving its objectives continued consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and users groups will be required. There will be a need in the early stages, to present the Vision and ideas emerging out of the Scoping Study and the recommendations from Action 7 above will assist this. It will be important in the early stages to gain the support of key partners and statutory



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## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
<b>Report Subject</b>	Performance of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Capital Programme – Delivery Review Update
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Council's delivery of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) through the Capital Investment Programme.

The Council were successful in delivering the WHQS Programme of Works to all Council stock, a major capital investment of over £100m. The Council are now in the maintenance phase of the programme, delivering further investment works to those components within our properties where required.

The report focuses on what has been delivered to date and what the next phase of the Councils WHQS investment programme will focus on.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet to note the Capital Investment Programme in its next phase of compliance as it moves towards the updated Welsh Housing Quality Standards and requirements.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD
1.01	<p>The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is a national quality standard for public sector homes in Wales as set out by the Welsh Government.</p> <p>All tenants in Wales should have the opportunity to live in good quality homes, which meet the requirements of each household. The Housing Assets Capital Works Team is responsible for delivering internal &amp; external upgrades to all Council owned properties and for compliance with the WHQS.</p> <p>The Council achieved compliance with WHQS in December 2021. Now that the Council have met the WHQS it is important to ensure the standard is maintained and investment is planned accordingly. There is a continued investment programme to maintain the standard and enable the scheduled replacement of components when needed.</p> <p>An updated version of the existing WHQS guidance is due to go live in early 2023 and the Council must prepare itself for the changes that will be required in order to remain compliant.</p>
1.02	<p>The existing Capital investment programme has continued as scheduled, to ensure the Council remain compliant with the existing WHQS standards; however key changes will need to be implemented as smoothly and efficiently as possible.</p> <p>To ensure the Council is prepared for the new WHQS 2023 requirements the Housing Assets Capital Works Team have commenced a number of key actions / milestones that must be achieved before implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree the HRA Business Plan with Welsh Government</li> <li>• Completing an in-house Stock Condition Survey (both internally &amp; externally)</li> <li>• Procuring an independent Stock Condition Survey targeting a percentage of the housing asset stock to provide assurance</li> <li>• Consulting with Members</li> <li>• Conducting Tenant Federation workshops</li> <li>• Conducting Tenant consultation workshops in our local Connects Centres</li> <li>• Requesting feedback via an online questionnaire and comments section on Council's WHQS &amp; Decarbonisation works</li> <li>• Ensuring our existing contracts are compliant and able to accommodate the new WHQS standards / specifications seamlessly</li> <li>• Tendering additional work streams, where required, to target new work elements (i.e. Intelligent Energy Metering, Heat Metering and Energy Performance Devices)</li> </ul>
1.03	<p>The WHQS Capital Programme has been created to ensure all Flintshire County Council properties will comply with WHQS, as required by Welsh</p>

Government and to ensure those properties maintain those standards and remain compliant.

Each quarter, the Housing Assets Service are required to report progress to the Management Teams, the wider Portfolio and Council, along with Housing Board Members and Welsh Government.

Our quarterly and annual returns to Welsh Government track the Councils progress in terms of how many components are WHQS compliant or subject to an Acceptable Failure.

In order to assist our wider understanding of stock condition, we have recently procured software and begun to pilot in-house Stock Condition Surveys. This will mean we will be able to update our housing asset components remotely and update our future investment plans. This will involve surveys of all HRA council owned properties both internally and externally, to confirm the asset data we currently hold. This information on a property by property basis will also inform discussions with those tenants on the housing waiting lists, by more accurately matching the home to their specific needs, and in doing so, reduce the number of refusals.

During the past few years, the Capital Works Team have completed a major data cleansing exercise of all asset and component data. This has resulted in our overall WHQS compliancy figure increasing as below:

Year	Compliancy rate %
2017	0.3
2018	27.9
2019	63.15
2020	78.1
2021	100
2022	100

Our internal work streams (kitchens & bathrooms) continue to have the highest number of tenant refusals or no access (**Acceptable Fails**). Welsh Government classes any property subject to an Acceptable Fail as compliant in terms of achieving the WHQS.

The Capital Works Team have allowed for a **20%** Acceptable Fail within each component scenario within the Capital Programme.

Acceptable fail properties will be addressed in future years and be introduced back into the Capital Programme at the earliest opportunity.

1.04 The main WHQS contracts of the Capital Programme were re-procured in 2020, to ensure the Council would remain compliant with the existing WHQS requirements.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and following government guidance, the Council were instructed to delay all WHQS work contracts in 2020 resulting in delays and works needing to be rescheduled.

	<p>Those delays were due to a number of reasons including, but not limited to, resource and material availability.</p> <p>The Council are still experiencing delays due to the extended impacts of the pandemic but is able to work more flexibly now the COVID working restrictions have been lifted.</p> <p>In order for the Council to remain complaint and safely implement WHQS works to Council properties, the Capital Works Team need to ensure the criteria set out below and considerations are continually met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of Contractors COVID compliance</li> <li>• Split work streams where feasible into smaller work bubbles</li> <li>• Carefully plan works to Sheltered stock due to vulnerability and risk</li> <li>• Carefully plan materials and deliveries to site (minimising travel where possible)</li> <li>• PPE for staff issued and monitored weekly</li> <li>• Strict COVID screening of tenants and contactors</li> <li>• Constant review of guidance and work</li> <li>• Zero snags to minimise travel and visits to tenants homes</li> </ul>
1.05	<p>The Welsh Audit Office (WAO) report (2017/2018) - Flintshire County Council followed a review focussing on the experience of council tenants in the degree of choice experienced within the delivery of WHQS both before, during, and after the work was commissioned. It also reviewed how tenants had been consulted on the future plans of the council to achieve WHQS by the deadline.</p> <p>From the audit and final report, the Council received no recommendations.</p> <p>Following the audit, the team have built upon the positive report and achieving of WHQS in December 2021 and continued the Council Capital investment programme into the maintenance phase, targeting those properties that will fall out of compliance if the works are not completed in a reasonable timeframe.</p>
1.06	<p>Internal Audit Review (2018/2019) - Our Internal Audit Team also completed an audit of the WHQS programme and delivery of the works. The final version of the audit report along with its recommendations have all been agreed, accepted and implemented within the agreed timescales.</p>
1.07	<p>The team have set a new target level of 96% for our annual WHQS Tenant Satisfaction Surveys. Our intervention level is set at 94%.</p> <p><b>Last year's satisfaction result on the Capital Works Team was finalised at <u>96%</u></b></p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p><b>Staff</b> - There are concerns staff retention may be difficult to maintain. Given that the construction industry is an ever-changing sector, staff may seek opportunities elsewhere i.e. new build, private sector etc.</p> <p>The Capital Works Team have made adjustments to the team's structure to incorporate a degree of resilience, succession planning and robustness to the delivery model and departments risk register.</p>
2.02	<p><b>Budgets</b> - When developing our delivery programme, budget estimates were made for the required upgrade works to our existing properties with contingency sums included for unforeseen work such as structural repairs etc.</p> <p>Further works have been undertaken with colleagues in Finance and we have begun forecasting our budget requirements for the next tranche of works.</p>
2.03	<p><b>Procurement</b> – Procuring the various WHQS works can be challenging. The Council must ensure all contracts are measured, not only by cost but by quality. Quality forms an important part of the assessment process where the Capital Works Team interviews all contractors and assesses Quality Submission Papers before any contracts are awarded. The team have been able to secure further efficiencies by merging some contracts so that internal and external resources can be shared.</p> <p>There is a risk that many contractors are opting for new build contracts rather than refurbishment contracts. Engaging with our supply chain early and sharing our Capital Investment Programme aspirations with our Contract Framework Partners assists us to procure longer term contracts and therefore reduces risk of inflated costs based on long term contract arrangements.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	<p>The Welsh Government has committed to achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2033 and to coordinating action to help other areas of the economy to make a decisive shift away from fossil fuels. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires the Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in Wales by at least 80% by the year 2050, with a system of interim emissions targets and carbon budgets.</p> <p>The Welsh housing stock is older than the UK housing stock, with only a smaller proportion built in recent years.</p> <p>Approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>32%</b> of the Welsh housing stock was built before 1919, when there were no construction standards in terms of thermal performance.</li> <li>• <b>10%</b> of Welsh homes were built in the last 18 years, during which time performance requirements have changed dramatically.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>0.1%</b> levels of demolition.</li> </ul> <p>A further priority has been to maintain, sustain and build on the improvements delivered through the WHQS programme, particularly to improve the energy efficiency of our homes. We aim to continue to improve our asset base, while developing an understanding of what measures can be implemented to ensure our current assets achieve a high energy rating.</p> <p>As a Council, we will be required to ensure our homes meet the highest possible thermal efficiency and energy performance (EPC level A) by 2033. Currently as part of the existing WHQS requirements, our properties must meet a minimum of SAP 65 (EPC level D).</p> <p>Discussions with Welsh Government are continuing, but there will be a requirement to procure and deliver a large retrofit programme comprising of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal &amp; external wall insulation</li> <li>• Floor insulation</li> <li>• Air Source &amp; Ground Source Heating Systems</li> <li>• Solar photovoltaic panels</li> <li>• Solar thermal panels</li> <li>• Triple glazing</li> <li>• Heat recovery units</li> <li>• Improved ventilation systems such as positive input ventilation</li> <li>• Improved heating controls such as intelligent heating programmers</li> <li>• LED lighting</li> </ul> <p>Over the next 12 months the Housing Assets Service will be focusing on finalising plans as part of the wider asset management and decarbonisation programme for members to consider which shall encapsulate the investment challenges and options for consideration.</p>
3.02	<p>Everyone accepts that living in a quality home brings benefits to both the physical and mental wellbeing of those who live in them.</p> <p>The purpose of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards 2023 (WHQS2023) is to improve the quality of social homes in Wales. All social homes in Wales are required to meet and maintain the standard.</p> <p>Over the last two decades the Council has invested millions of pounds to significantly improve and maintain the quality of its homes across the county and WHQS2023 will replace the existing WHQS Standard that the Council are currently working to.</p> <p>The existing Standard requires updating to reflect changes to how people live, work and feel about their homes, and to start decarbonising the Welsh social housing stock at scale.</p> <p>Parts of the existing WHQS standard remain unchanged but some elements have been modified to reflect updated legal requirements. Some</p>



	<p>parts are new such as increased requirement for flooring, consideration of biodiversity and water poverty have also been included.</p> <p>The existing WHQS contained energy efficiency (affordable warmth) requirements, but these have been boosted significantly to reflect decarbonisation ambitions and to minimise energy bills for tenants.</p> <p>Welsh Government wants to continue to drive up the standard of existing social housing, and WHQS2023 is a demanding standard which all social landlords in Wales will be legally obliged to meet.</p> <p>The Council have been in discussions with Welsh Government and have fed back on key areas of the new standards. Consultation on the standards has now ended and we are in the process of awaiting further feedback, leading to the implementation of WHQS2023.</p>
3.03	<p>Through our existing contracts, the Council has overachieved targets set by Welsh Government with regards to the use of Local Labour and Apprenticeships. The Council are required to submit multiple returns for each contract which covers the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract Value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Percentage spent in Wales</li> <li>○ Percentage spent locally (Flintshire)</li> <li>○ Percentage spent on local labour</li> <li>○ Percentage spent with local material suppliers</li> <li>○ Percentage of invoices paid on time to all</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Labour total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Percentage of labour/staff live in Wales</li> <li>○ Percentage of labour/staff who live locally</li> <li>○ Percentage of labour/staff previously unemployed</li> <li>○ Percentage of labour/staff retained</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Resources, Community Benefits &amp; Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energy usage and Waste Tonnage</li> <li>○ Percentage of waste diverted from landfill</li> <li>○ Travelling - CO emissions</li> <li>○ Value of Cash or Sponsorship to Local businesses/charities</li> <li>○ Value of free labour in cost &amp; hours</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of apprenticeships created</li> <li>○ Number of apprenticeships that secure full time employment</li> <li>○ Number of weeks allocated to work experience placements</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>With regards to the main measures above, the Council have overachieved and continue to deliver the following averages:</p> <p>Percentage spent locally - 83%  Percentage of local labour - 77%  Percentage of waste diverted from landfill - 97%  Number of apprenticeships - 15 per annum delivered against a target of 6.</p>

	<p>Each contractor procured must complete a detailed report each quarter, detailing each person employed within the contract (Name, Home Address, Position, Employment dates etc.) with each report audited by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Each contractor has their own targets to achieve in addition to the Councils, with each having an excellent relationship with the local colleges and local supply chain.</p> <p>This is a critical part of the performance management process and forms part of any contact extensions and work allocation.</p>
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	<p>Prior to the Capital Investment Programme commencing, the team held Member workshops, where most Members attended and were actively involved in the design and delivery of the current Capital Programme.</p> <p>We also held Tenant Federation workshops where we engaged with the federation with regards to what priority and which order the works should be completed, along with holding tenant consultation workshops in our FCC Connects Centres and community centres engaging with our tenants and discussing the Capital Programme along with ascertaining what order tenants would prefer to have components of their home upgraded first.</p> <p>Moving forwards, and as part of the next phase of the Capital Programme and decarbonisation retrofit programme, the Capital Works Team will again be consulting with Members, tenants and tenant groups to ensure that each is engaged with and to ensure their preferences and any concerns with regards to this next phase are considered and implemented as we have previously.</p>
4.02	<p>In addition to the work detailed within this report, there is a wider issue that needs to be considered around the potential to undertake regeneration schemes on some of our estates rather than continue to commit funding to assets that will be expensive to continue to maintain and run, have high numbers of voids and which are expensive to heat and run for the tenant.</p> <p>Consultations will need to be held with members and tenants as the Council progresses with its investment plans and this will be completed prior to any works being procured and delivered.</p>
4.03	<p>The report was presented to the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.</p>

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

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Housing/Welsh-Housing-Quality-Standard-WHQS.aspx">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Housing/Welsh-Housing-Quality-Standard-WHQS.aspx</a>
6.02	<a href="https://gov.wales/decarbonisation-homes-wales-advisory-group#content">https://gov.wales/decarbonisation-homes-wales-advisory-group#content</a>
6.03	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2021-06/welsh-housing-quality-standard-summative-evaluation.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2021-06/welsh-housing-quality-standard-summative-evaluation.pdf</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Sean O'Donnell, Service Manager - Housing Assets  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 701642  <b>E-mail:</b> Sean.O'Donnell@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Capital Programme:</b> The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and a number of future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.</p> <p><b>The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS):</b> is a national standard of quality for homes. This is set by the Welsh Government. It means that all tenants in Wales should have the opportunity to live in good quality homes which meet the requirements of that household.</p> <p><b>Acceptable Fail:</b> Welsh Government understand that some homes cannot receive the WHQS works due to 4 reasons, listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Works are physically impossible carry out</li> <li>2. It is not cost effective to do the works</li> <li>3. Timing (works due in near future already)</li> <li>4. Tenant refuses the improvements</li> </ol> <p><b>Wales Audit Office:</b> works to support the Auditor General as the public sector watchdog for Wales. They aim to ensure that the people of Wales know whether public money is being managed wisely and that public bodies in Wales understand how to improve outcomes.</p> <p><b>Financial Year:</b> the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April.</p> <p><b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p><b>PDA Solution:</b> Mobile hand held device used for capturing stock data directly linked to our asset database.</p>

**Contract Framework:** A Contract Framework is an agreement between one or more contracting authorities and one or more economic operators. These frameworks have Contractors, Consultants and Suppliers that have been successful in joining the specific work categories.

The Council often uses these frameworks to procure works that have already gone through a tender process in line with OJEU and can be utilised to procure works or services.

They are often the most economic advantage in terms of value for money and local training provision.

**HRA:** The Housing Revenue Account.

**Open Housing System:** An electronic database system which is used by the Housing Assets Team where its assets are recorded along with tenant details, components, works tickets and tenant requests for works or inspections and other services.

**Components:** A part or element such as an assets amenities (Kitchen Bathroom, Boiler, Roof, Windows, Doors etc.).

**RAMS:** Risk and Method Statements used in construction works to enable a Contractor to safely plan and identify how any risks will be mitigated or complied with.

**PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment.

**Decarbonisation:** Referring in this instance to Welsh Governments requirement for all Local Authorities in Wales to reduce its Carbon emissions and usage.

**EPC:** Energy Performance Certificate.

**SAP:** Standard Assessment Procedure.

## EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN REPORTED TO CABINET – 18.10.22

### Education and Youth

- **Local Authority Appointed School Governors**  
Appointment of Local Authority Governor(s) representatives on school governing bodies in accordance with The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are retained by the Team Leader – Committee Services and available to view on request by Members.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS  
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY  
1 October 2022 TO 31 March 2023**

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
October					
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee  Page 297	10/10/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/22	Education and Youth	<b>Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)</b> To provide an update on the local implementation of the universal primary free school meal initiative.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/22	Education and Youth	<b>Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE) Annual Report 2021-2022</b> To receive an update on the support provided by the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, GWE and its impact on schools.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/22	Education and Youth	<b>Self-Evaluation of Education Services 2021-22</b> To update Members on overall service performance 21-22 and Learner Outcomes from 2021.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/22	Education and Youth	<b>School Reserves Year Ending 31 March 2022</b> To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2022/23 Timeline Review</b> To review timelines for Council Plan 22/23 following request from County Council in July.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> 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.	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>An Introduction to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board &amp; Quarterly report</b> Introduction to the Economic Ambition Board and quarterly update.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Town centre regeneration</b> To update members on local responses being planned and delivered to regenerate town centres across Flintshire and tackle vacant properties through enforcement action. To recommend approval to Cabinet for the draft Enforcement Action Plan and the approach proposed to the development of Place Plans.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/22	Streetscene and Transportation	<p><b>Outcome of Statutory Training Audit</b> To inform Scrutiny of the outcome of the statutory training internal audit and provide an update on agreed actions.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee  Page 301	11/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28</b> To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub Priorities and Well-being Objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy, Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Flintshire Coastal Park</b> To inform members on the progress of the scoping work to establish a Coast Park and to agree the recommendations for implementation.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2022/23 Timeline Review</b> To review timelines for Council Plan 22/23 following request from County Council in July.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Performance of the WHQS Capital Programme - Assurance Report</b> To provide an update on progress of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS), that the Council is delivering through its Capital Investment Programme.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/22	Housing and Communities	<p><b>Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan</b></p> <p>To provide information on the core principles of Rapid Rehousing and the process of developing Flintshire's Rapid Rehousing Transitional Plan, which supports the Councils and Welsh Governments ambition to end homelessness.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
<span style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">P090303</span> Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Council Plan 2023-28</b></p> <p>To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub Priorities and Well-being Objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/10/22	Overview and Scrutiny	<p><b>Action Tracking</b></p> <p>To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/10/22	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Forward Work Programme</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/10/22	Social Services	<b>Joint Funded Care Packages</b> To update Members on the current situation on the long term debt with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board since the last report was received.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/10/22	Finance	<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 5)</b> To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 5) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28</b> To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub Priorities and Well-being Objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) update report</b> To provide an update on the progress being made in relation to the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Cabinet	18/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Annual Performance Report 2021/22</b> To approve the Annual Performance Report 2021/22 prior to endorsement by County Council.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	18/10/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Whole House Energy Efficiency Retrofit 2022</b> To provide and update on the procurement process for domestic energy retrofit works in Flintshire and to seek approval for the appointment of the successful contractor.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	18/10/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) update report</b> To provide an update on the progress being made in relation to the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).</p>	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Cabinet	18/10/22	Housing and Communities	<p><b>Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Capital Programme – Delivery Review Update</b> To provide an update on the progress of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), that the Council is delivering through its Capital Investment Programme, and preparation for the next phase of WHQS.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	18/10/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 5)</b>            This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2022/23 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5, and projects forward to year-end.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	18/10/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Council Plan 2023-28</b>            To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub Priorities and Well-being Objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28.</p>	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Cabinet	18/10/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Asset Management Plan 2022 – 2027</b>            To approve the Asset Management Plan 2022 – 2028 so that it can be adopted as the principal document for managing the Council’s corporate property and land resource assets.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	18/10/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Town Centre Regeneration</b> To provide an update on local responses being planned and delivered to regenerate town centres across Flintshire and tackle vacant properties through enforcement action.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	18/10/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Flintshire Coastal Park</b> To provide an update on the progress of the scoping work to establish a Coast Park and to agree the recommendations for implementation.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	18/10/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) Update Report</b> To provide an update on progress of the Council's SHARP Housebuilding programme.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Cabinet	18/10/22	Governance	<b>Datacentre Technologies Contract Extension</b> To receive Cabinet approval to extend the Council's Datacentre technologies contract up to 31st March 2023.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	18/10/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Disabled Facilities Grant</b> To approve the revised Disabled Facility Grant Policy.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Flintshire County Council	18/10/22	Governance	<b>Recruitment of a Town and Community Council Representative to the Standards Committee</b> To appoint the favoured candidate to the Standards Committee		
Flintshire County Council	18/10/22	Governance	<b>Schedule of Remuneration for 2022/23</b> For Council to approve the schedule of remuneration for elected and co-opted Members for 2022/23 for publication, now all appointments have been made.		
Flintshire County Council	18/10/22	Governance	<b>Council Tax Premium Scheme for Second Homes and Long-term Empty Properties</b> For Cabinet to set the Council Tax Premium scheme for 2023-24 following a recent public consultation.		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire County Council	18/10/22	Governance	<b>Amendments to Clwyd Pension Fund Constitution</b> To review and update the Delegation Scheme for the Clwyd Pension Fund		
Flintshire County Council	18/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Annual Performance Report 2021/22</b> To endorse the Annual Performance Report 2021/22 prior to publication		
Flintshire County Council	18/10/22	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Terms of Reference</b> To approve the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.		
Flintshire County Council	18/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22</b> To present to Members the draft Annual Treasury Management Report 2021/22		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/10/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/10/22	Education and Youth	<b>Flintshire Summer of Fun &amp; Summer Play Schemes</b> To provide feedback on the Flintshire Summer of Fun & Summer Play Schemes	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/10/22	Education and Youth	<b>School Performance Monitoring Group Update</b> To receive an update on progress and learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/10/22	Education and Youth	<b>Estyn Report on Adult Community Learning Partnership</b> To present the Estyn Report on Adult Community Learning Partnership	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28</b> To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub Priorities and Well-being Objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27/10/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27/10/22	Social Services	<b>North Wales Market Stability Report</b> To review the draft Market Stability Report for the region and the priorities within.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27/10/22	Social Services	<b>Annual report on the Social Services Complaints and Compliments Procedure 2021-22</b> That Members scrutinise the effectiveness of the complaints procedure with lessons being learnt to improve service provision.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27/10/22	Social Services	<b>Single Point of Access</b> Single Point of Access team update	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2022/23 Timeline Review</b> To review timelines for Council Plan 22/23 following request from County Council in July.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27/10/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2023-28</b> To agree the proposed Priorities, Sub Priorities and Well-being Objectives for the Council Plan 2023-28.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	27/10/22	Social Services	<b>Day Care Provision</b> To update members on the day care provision in Flintshire.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
November					
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Finance	<b>Statement of Accounts 2021/22</b> To present the final audited version of the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 for approval.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Finance	<p><b>Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2022/23 and Quarter 2 Update</b>            To present the draft Treasury Management Mid-year Review 1<sup>st</sup> April-30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 for comments and recommendation for approval to Cabinet.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Climate Change Strategy</b>            To report on progress with the Climate Change Strategy for 2022-2030.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Asset Disposal and Capital Receipts Generated 2021/22</b>            To report on asset disposals and capital received generated during 2021/22.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Risk Management Update</b> To be assured that the updated risk management framework is comprehensive and functional.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Finance	<b>Financial Procedure Rules</b> To provide the Committee with updated Financial Procedure Rules for recommendation to County Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Governance	<b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee Annual Report</b> To report on activities of the Committee during 2021/22.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Governance	<b>Governance and Audit Committee Action Tracking</b> To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Governance and Audit Committee meetings.	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Governance and Audit Committee	14/11/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Ash Dieback Update</b> To update members on how Flintshire County Council has confronted ash dieback in 2021/22 in line with the Ash Dieback Action Plan, it also reports on progress following an internal audit in July 2021	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> 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.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Levelling Up Fund</b> To provide the Scrutiny Committee with 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.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/22	Streetscene and Transportation	<p><b>Household Recycling Centre Vehicle Permit Policy</b> To review the current household recycling centre (HRC) operations and vehicle permit criteria.</p>	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Biodiversity Sect.6 Reporting</b> To update members on work to deliver the Environment Act Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan in order to report on action to Welsh Government.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Shared Prosperity Fund</b> To provide an update on the development of the programme and to recommend to Cabinet that approval is given for the framework of priorities and processes needed to effectively operate the programme.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 319	15/11/22	Streetscene and Transportation	<p><b>Local Toilet Strategy</b> The advise Scrutiny that the next statutory formal review point for our Local Toilet Strategy is required to follow the local government elections that were held in May 2022, and we now have one year from the date of the elections to review, revise, consult upon and publish updated strategies for our local area. This report sets out the approach being taken and the timescales of the review. This revised Local Toilet Strategy will be presented in March 2023.</p>	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Stores Contract</b> To consider the Stores Contract.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Renting Homes Wales Act</b> To outline changes proposed to the way all landlords in Wales rent their properties to be introduced from 1 December, 2022.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Refugees Update</b> To provide an update on the settlement of Refugees across Flintshire.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/11/22	Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Action Tracking</b> To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/11/22	Finance	<b>Capital Strategy Including Prudential Indicators 2023/24 to 2025/26</b> To present the Capital Strategy 2023/24 - 2025/26 for review.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/11/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26</b> To present the Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26 for review	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/11/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 6) and Capital Programme 2022/23 (Month 6)</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 6) Report and the Capital Programme 2022/23 (Month 6) Report, and Significant Variances.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/11/22	Finance	<p><b>Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26</b></p> <p>To present the Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2025/26 for review.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/11/22	Chief Executive's	<p><b>Employment and Workforce Quarterly Update</b></p> <p>This report covers strategic updates in addition to the quarterly workforce statistics and their analysis.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/11/22	Finance	<b>Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 6)</b> To present the Capital Programme Monitoring report (Month 6) for 2022/23.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	22/11/22	Governance	<b>Council Tax Base for 2023/24</b> To approve the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2023/24 as part of the process of the revenue budget setting and Council Tax setting process for the new year.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	22/11/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26</b> To present the Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26 for recommendation to Council.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/11/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 6)</b> To present the Month 6 Capital Programme information for 2022/23	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	22/11/22	Social Services	<b>Croes Atti 2</b> To provide an update on progress at the new Croes Atti Residential Care Home, Flint.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Cabinet	22/11/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 6)</b> This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2022/23 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 6, and projects forward to year-end.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/11/22	Governance	<b>Joint Procurement Service Annual Report 2021/22</b> To receive a performance update report on the Joint Procurement Service with Denbighshire County Council.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	22/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Shared Prosperity Fund</b> To provide an update on the development of the programme and to request approval for the framework of priorities and processes needed to effectively operate the programme.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	22/11/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26</b> To present the Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26 for recommendation to Council.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Biodiversity Sect.6 Reporting</b> To update members on work to deliver the Environment Act Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan in order to report on action to Welsh Government.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	22/11/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Levelling Up Fund</b> To provide an update on the development of the programme and projects and to request an allocation of capital funding to meet the required match funding expected by UK Government.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	22/11/22	Governance	<p><b>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2021-22 and Complaints made against Flintshire County Council during the first half of 2022-23</b></p> <p>To share the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2021-22. The report also provides an overview of complaints received by each portfolio of the Council between the period 1 April – 30 September 2022.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
December					
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1/12/22	Governance	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b></p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth &amp; Culture Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1/12/22	Education and Youth	<b>Elective Home Schooling</b> To provide the Committee with an update on the levels of pupils being Electively Home Educated and the Council's oversight of this group of learners.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1/12/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2022-23 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (EYC OSC)</b> To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	1/12/22	Education and Youth	<b>Integrated Youth Provision – Delivery Plan Update</b> To provide an update to the Committee on the Integrated Youth Provision Delivery Plan	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/12/22	Governance	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social &amp; Health Care Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee Page 329	13/12/22	Governance	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/12/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Housing regeneration grants and loans policy</b> to ask the Scrutiny Committee to review the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy and to recommend approval to Cabinet.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/12/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Communities for Work</b> To update the Scrutiny Committee on the work of the employability programmes and on the closure of the Communities 4 Work programme and any implications for the Council arising.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Page 8 of 30 Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/12/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Wepre Park Management plan and charging</b> To present and agree the new Wepre Park management plan, and to consider the introduction of car parking charging</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/12/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2022-23 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (EE OSC)</b> To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy, Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/22	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2022-23 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (CHA OSC)</b> To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Flintshire Housing Need Prospectus</b> To provide an update on the Housing Need Prospectus which informs the Social Housing Grant Programme.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Housing Strategy</b> To provide an update on the Housing Strategy.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/22	Housing and Communities	<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Financial Business Plan</b> To consider the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2023/24 and the HRA Business Plan.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/12/22	Governance	<b>Work of the Coroner's Office</b> To receive a presentation from John Gittins on the work of the Coroner's Office.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/12/22	Chief Executive's	<b>Council Plan 2022-23 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (CROSC)</b> To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/12/22	Governance	<b>Joint Procurement Service Annual Report 2021/22</b> To receive a performance update report on the Joint Procurement Service with Denbighshire County Council.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/12/22	Governance	<p><b>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2021-22 and Complaints made against Flintshire County Council during the first half of 2022-23</b></p> <p>To share the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2021-22. The report also provides an overview of complaints received by each portfolio of the Council between the period 1 April - 30 September 2022.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	20/12/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p><b>Wepre Park Management plan and charging</b></p> <p>To present and agree the new Wepre Park management plan, and to consider the introduction of car parking charging</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	20/12/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Housing regeneration grants and loans policy</b> To ask Cabinet to review and approve the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	20/12/22	Planning, Environment and Economy	<b>Communities for Work</b> To provide an update on the work of the employability programmes and on the closure of the Communities 4 Work programme and any implications for the Council arising.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Page 335 January					
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/01/23	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> 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.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/01/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Waste Strategy</b> To review the Councils current Waste Strategy with the objective of achieving Welsh Government statutory recycling targets.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/01/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Grass Cutting Policy</b> To advise Scrutiny of the revised Grass Cutting Policy.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/01/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<b>Streetscene Standards</b> The Streetscene Standards have not been reviewed since 2019. This reports reviews the existing standards and recommend amendments to ensure that the service continues to delivers to the needs and expectations of the public.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/23	Governance	<p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community Housing &amp; Assets Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/23	Housing and Communities	<p><b>Tenant Engagement Strategy</b> To present to committee the draft tenant engagement strategy and provide information on the tenants federation and other forms of consultation.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/23	Housing and Communities	<p><b>Housing Register Service – Customer Satisfaction</b> To present to the Committee the outcome of the customer satisfaction survey and how the Service was addressing and better understanding the data.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)</b>
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Sheltered Housing Review</b> To provide an update to the Committee following the Sheltered Housing review.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Welfare Reform Update /Housing Rent Income</b> To provide an update on the impacts of welfare reforms and the work that is ongoing to mitigate them. To include information on the Tenancy Hardship Grant Scheme (THG).	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Temporary Accommodation Audit Update</b> To provide a progress report on the action plan for service improvement following the audit of the Temporary Accommodation.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Cabinet	17/01/23	Social Services	<b>Maes Gwern</b> To provide Cabinet with an update on progress at the new Maes Gwern development in Mold	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	17/01/23	Governance	<b>Flintshire Connects Annual Report</b> To provide an update on current service delivery and developments within Flintshire Connects Centres.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/01/23	Governance	<b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b> To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
<p>Governance and Audit Committee</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 340</p>	25/01/23	Governance	<p><b>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2021-22 and Complaints made against Flintshire County Council during the first half of 2022-23</b></p> <p>To share the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2021-22. The report also provides an overview of complaints received by each portfolio of the Council between the period 1 April - 30 September 2022.</p>	All Report Types	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Governance and Audit Committee	25/01/23	Governance	<p><b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee Self-Assessment</b></p> <p>To present the results of the Committee's self-assessment which will feed into the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement. It will also form the basis for the provision of any further training required by the Committee.</p>	All Report Types	



COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
February					
Flintshire County Council	14/02/23	Finance	<b>Financial Procedure Rules</b> To approve the Financial Procedure Rules.		
March					
Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/03/23	Housing and Communities	<b>Dynamic Resource Scheduler (DRS) System Update</b> To provide an update following implementation of the DRS System.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

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