

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets**

SUBJECT: **STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT**
2021/22

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- (1) Cabinet note the progress made during the year to meet our statutory duties in relation to equalities; and
- (2) Cabinet endorse the progress made against the Strategic Equality Plan 2021/22, prior to publication of the annual report on the Council website.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: Relevant officers, including the Corporate Equalities Board, were consulted to update the Annual Report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: There are no revenue/capital implications.

There are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Hill', is centered within a light gray rectangular box. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)**

SUBJECT: **GRASS CUTTING POLICY – MANAGING ROAD
VERGES AND AMENITY GRASSLANDS TO
SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: (1) That Cabinet supports the work undertaken to date and considers the opportunities to increase biodiversity in managing our road verges and amenity grasslands; and

(2) That Cabinet approves the proposed changes to the grass cutting policy and supports the targeted reduction in the use of pesticides.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** With the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy.

An all Member workshop was held on 24th January 2023. A copy of the workshop presentations was appended to the report and feedback from the session will be shared with the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Members.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Flintshire County Council is committed to sustainability in its own operations, as well as across the county more widely through the climate change agenda and carbon reduction.

Revenue: The portfolio is currently carrying an in-year revenue pressure of £43k, over and above the £30k revenue budget available for the weed spraying contract, which came about following the recommendation of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee to split the contract into separate areas to ensure more resilience in the supply market. This has been included as an additional cost pressure in the budget for 2023-2024.

Any further changes to the policy would need to take into account the impact on future revenue budgets. The current national and local financial position is under increasing pressure and there is little prospect of the portfolio being able to allocate any substantial increase in revenue funding to this non-statutory service provision; consequently, the ongoing impacts of budget reductions will continue to impose a downward pressure on revenue budgets.

Any suggested and endorsed options would need to be costed and would need to be deliverable within current budgets. Any future MTFS budget solutions to settle a balance budget that reduce grass cutting standards would need to be addressed and may not align to the biodiversity options supported by the Scrutiny Committee and by members at the January 2023 workshop.

Capital: There may be implications for the approved capital programme for 2023-2024 and future financial years for the procurement of plant and equipment. Any capital or revenue commitment will need to be supported through a business case approach, taking account of full costs and possible income sources. The authority will continue to capitalise on any opportunities for grant funding for the development of the service, such as new or replacement plant and equipment.

Staff / Recruitment: The grounds management team appointed three newly promoted charge hands in 2022, who all performed well, adapting to their new roles and adding value to the operation as a whole. Many of the agency staff employed to supplement the teams for the summer season have subsequently been appointed into permanent roles further reducing the cost of the operation.

Plant and Equipment: The McConnell RC28 Robo Cutter, which is the mower used to cut grass on slopes and steep banks, was subject to a recall due to reliability issues and, as such, the team are now trialling the larger RC56 model, which is more suited to steep inclines and bank maintenance. The replacement tractor has performed well with very little down time for repairs and a higher level of quality and performance. The teams have also trialled battery mowers, trimmers and chainsaws, with a view to replacing petrol equipment and reducing the carbon cost of the operation. The battery tools also dramatically reduce staff exposure to HAVS. The intention is to replace all petrol equipment with battery powered units over the next 3 years.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED

Democratic Services Manager



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Finance Manager**

SUBJECT: **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 10)**

- RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**
- (1) To note the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2022/23 budget;
 - (2) To approve the carry forward requests; and
 - (3) To approve a transfer of £0.200m from the contingency reserve to replenish the Winter Maintenance Reserve.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** None.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED

Democratic Services Manager



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

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

SUBJECT: **BUSINESS RATE WRITE OFFS IN EXCESS OF
£25,000**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Approve the two write offs totalling £112,526, consisting of £37,856 for A.C. Canoe Products (Chester) Limited and £74,670 for FTS Hatswell Limited.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** All write offs must be approved by the Corporate Finance Manager, but in the case of write offs over £25,000, Cabinet must be consulted before a decision is taken.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: There are no direct financial implications for the Council or local taxpayers by writing off these debts as business rates losses are borne by the National Collection Pool for Wales. As the Collection Pool is supported by Welsh Government, non-payment of rates does though have a wider impact on the Welsh taxpayer.

Writing off these two debts, amounting to a £112,526 loss of income to the National Collection Pool, is being recommended as a last resort and only on the basis that there is no prospect of successfully recovering these debts.


DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

15th March 2023

SIGNED



Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)**

SUBJECT: **STREETSCENE STANDARDS REVIEW 2022-23**

- RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:**
- (1) That Cabinet notes the proposal to retire the existing Streetscene Standards document, and supports the intended review to replace them with a revised suite of performance metrics that support service standards in order to measure performance against existing statutory obligations, the Council Plan and existing policies. A further report will be presented once the review has been completed; and
 - (2) That Cabinet supports the recommendation of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee that a Member Task & Finish (T&F) Group be set up to support the review of the Streetscene Standards with a view to presenting a further report to both the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet later in the year outlining the details of the review process, any conclusions drawn and subsequent recommendations.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy.

Trade Unions and workforce.

Senior Management Team and
Operational Managers.

Environment & Economy Overview &
Scrutiny Committee on 7th March 2023.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

In order to measure and record
performance, the portfolio will need to
fully
review historic working practices and
introduce new ways of working at all
levels of the business.

The new standards are intended to have
a positive impact on resources within
the service allowing a more efficient
distribution of work through clearly
defined priorities and structured working
practices where performance is measured
and reported on internally and externally.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

15th March 2023

SIGNED



Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9**

REPORT OF: **Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)**

SUBJECT: **HYNET CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT; CARBON
DIOXIDE PIPELINE AND CONSENTING PROCESS
UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

(1) The Council's response to the Examining Authority with respect to the Local Impact Report on the HyNet Northwest Carbon Dioxide Pipeline be delegated to officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection; and

(2) Responses relating to providing comments on the Statement of Common Ground, providing Written Representations, addressing questions and any matters arising as part of the subsequent Examination and during hearing sessions will be delegated to the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy.

DECISION:

(1) That the Council's response to the Examining Authority with respect to the Local Impact Report on the HyNet Northwest Carbon Dioxide Pipeline be delegated to officers in consultation with the Cabinet; and

(2) Responses relating to providing comments on the Statement of Common Ground, providing Written Representations, addressing questions and any matters arising as part of the subsequent Examination and during hearing sessions to be delegated to the Chief Officer (Planning,

Environment and Economy).

REASON FOR DECISION:

As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:**

The DCO process requires developer led pre-application consultation which has taken place.

Once the planning applications have been submitted for the proposed works and modifications at the Point of Ayr Terminal and the blocked valve stations, consultations will be carried out in accordance with the Development Management Procedure Order.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

DATE PUBLISHED:

15th March 2023

SIGNED



Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**

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

SUBJECT: **ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION 2024/2025**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That the proposed admission arrangements for 2024/25 be approved.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** All statutory consultees have been consulted in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: The Admissions Team manages the Council's Admissions process and is appropriately resourced for these proposals.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED

Democratic Services Manager



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

REPORT OF: **Democratic Services Manager**

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK FROM THE CALL IN OF DECISION
NO. 4056 - WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- (1) That the Cabinet notes the decision of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting with regard to Record No 4056 – Waste Strategy Review; and
- (2) That Cabinet is invited to confirm or amend its previous decision, having regard to the decision of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

DECISION:

- (1) That the decision of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting with regard to Record No 4056 Waste Strategy Review be noted;
- (2) That a further period of monitoring over the next four months, to see whether recycling rates can be improved through education and enforcement, be approved; and
- (3) That a further report be brought back in September.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED



Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13**

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

SUBJECT: **NORTH EAST WALES (NEW) HOMES BUSINESS PLAN 2023/2052**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: To approve the North East Wales (NEW) Homes Business Plan 2023/2052.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: Presented to NEW Homes Board on the 12th January 2023. The report was presented to the Community, Housing & Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th March, 2023.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: The Business Plan and the Profit and Loss Forecast details the financial implications of the company's Development Strategy for the duration of the Business Plan 2023/2052.

The Council have committed to borrowing to on-lend to NEW Homes (detailed in the report). This is to fund the provision of affordable homes throughout the County.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED

Democratic Services Manager



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 14 MARCH 2023 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)

SUBJECT: HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT - EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR THE WALLICH, HOMELESS HUB

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: To extend the contract for The Glanrafon - Emergency Homeless Hub for 1 year (end of 2023/24) with an option to extend for an additional year (end of 2024/25).

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: As detailed in the report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As detailed in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED

Democratic Services Manager



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 15**

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

SUBJECT: **PLAS BELLIN (LOCAL SOLUTIONS) CONTRACT
EXTENSION**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

- (1) To note the change in service delivery model linked to services of housing support for vulnerable families presently delivered from Plas Belin Supported Housing Project for vulnerable families; and
- (2) For Cabinet to approve the extension and agreed way forward to enable families affected by the sudden sale of Plas Belin to be supported fully as they transition to alternative accommodation within the community.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

**CONSULTATIONS
REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** As detailed in the report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As detailed in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED

Democratic Services Manager



FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: **14 MARCH 2023** **AGENDA ITEM NO. 16**

REPORT OF: **Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development**

SUBJECT: **APPROACH TO PAY FOR LEAVERS**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That, based on the legal advice received, employees will only be entitled to receive payment for increases awarded as part of the national negotiating process if they are in employment on the date that any collective agreement is achieved.

DECISION: That the current practice cease with immediate effect and a policy decision be made that employees will only be entitled to receive payment for increases awarded as part of the national negotiating process if they are in employment on the date that any collective agreement is achieved.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: None specific.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As detailed in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 15th March 2023

SIGNED

Democratic Services Manager