

Public Document Pack

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Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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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

19 April 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
CABINET
TUESDAY, 25TH APRIL, 2023 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.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Purpose: To receive any declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 16)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2023.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

STRATEGIC REPORTS

4 COUNCIL PLAN 2023-28 DEVELOPMENT (Pages 17 - 94)

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

Purpose: To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 content for review and sign off.

5 CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT 2021-22 (Pages 95 - 118)

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

Purpose: To report on the findings and improvement plan following the completion of the Corporate Self-Assessment 2021/22.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

6 2022/23 IN-YEAR BUDGET MANAGEMENT – BUDGET MONITORING REPORT MONTH 11 (Pages 119 - 148)

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

Purpose: To update on the latest revenue monitoring position for 2022/23 and claims received from the Corporate Hardship Fund

7 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE 21ST CENTURY, AN OVERVIEW

(Pages 149 - 156)

Report of Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets - Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

Purpose: To explore the benefits and limitations of outsourcing and/or creating shared services as a means to deliver Council services.

8 HYNET CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT; THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CROSS COUNTRY CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE AND CONTINUED MEMBER ENGAGEMENT (Pages 157 - 268)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection

Purpose: To endorse the draft Local Impact Report and delegate any further versions/addendums that may be required during the examination process of the Carbon Dioxide Pipeline.

9 NORTH WALES ENERGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN AND LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN (Pages 269 - 324)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) – Collective Responsibility

Purpose: To approve adoption of the Regional Energy Strategy & Action Plan and support for development of Local Area Energy Plans.

10 PLANNING FOR DARK NIGHT SKIES SPG (Pages 325 - 328)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection

Purpose: To formally adopt a Supplementary Planning Guidance Note on Planning for Dark Night Skies relating to lighting in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), following earlier adoption by Wrexham and Denbighshire.

11 PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS AND ENFORCEMENT (Pages 329 - 336)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

Purpose: To review parking outside schools and advise Members of the current position.

12 **UNIVERSAL PRIMARY FREE SCHOOL MEALS (UPFSM)** (Pages 337 - 344)

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

Purpose: This provide a progress update on local implementation of UPFSM.

13 **HOUSING REGENERATION GRANTS AND LOANS POLICY** (Pages 345 - 356)

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

Purpose: To review and approve the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy.

14 **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER UPDATE REPORT** (Pages 357 - 380)

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

Purpose: To note the update report and continue to support the work being undertaken by the Housing and Prevention Service.

15 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 381 - 382)

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

16 **NEWYDD BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24** (Pages 413 - 432)

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

Purpose: To present the NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd Business Plan 2023/24 for endorsement.

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

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

17 **THEATR CLWYD BUSINESS PLAN** (Pages 433 - 524)

Report of Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

Purpose: To present the Theatr Clwyd Business Plan for 2023-2029 for endorsement.

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 details of proposed contract(s) and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information until such time as the contracts have been awarded.

18 **COMMISSIONING / RE-TENDERING HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT FUNDED DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES** (Pages 525 - 540)

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

Purpose: To approve the commissioning / re-tendering of Flintshire's Domestic Abuse Services funded by the Housing Support Grant.

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
14TH MARCH 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 14th March 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Housing and Communities), Strategic Finance Manager, Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets, Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development, and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

Councillor Roberts and the Chief Executive thanked all staff involved in the work required the previous week during the bad weather. Staff worked extremely hard, in challenging conditions, to ensure that networks remained open and vulnerable people were looked after.

135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

136. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2023 were submitted and confirmed as a correct record, subject to a typographical error under delegated powers.

RESOLVED:

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

137. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that the Council published its equality objectives and four-year Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) in April 2020, fulfilling the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED), as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

The aim of equality objectives was to address the most significant issues and areas of inequality that faced people with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

The Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets said the Equality Act 2010 placed specific duties on public sector organisations in Wales, requiring an

annual report, which must outline progress on meeting the PSED and achieving the equality objectives, be published by 31st March each year. The report was the Council's annual report that highlighted the Council's progress in implementing the SEP and meeting our equality objectives during 2021/2022. The Plan was appended to the report, which achievements being outlined and areas for improvement.

The Chief Executive said it was an important and wide ranging report, with information on the positive work being undertaken by the Council, and what was being done collectively to improve things for people in our communities.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the progress made during the year to meet statutory objectives in relation to equalities be noted; and
- (b) That the progress made against the Strategic Equality Plan 2021/22, prior to publication of the annual report on the Council website be endorsed.

138. GRASS CUTTING POLICY – MANAGING ROAD VERGES AND AMENITY GRASSLANDS TO SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY

Councillor Hughes introduced the report and explained that, in response to a request from the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee, an all-Member workshop was held on Tuesday, 24th January 2023 to learn more about the management of road verges and amenity grasslands, wildflowers and biodiversity. Members sought to find out about the use of pesticides and to gain an understanding of existing policies, the action taken to date and opportunities available. The workshop was a joint portfolio event, which was facilitated by officers from both the Planning, Environment & Economy (PE&E) portfolio and Streetscene & Transportation (S&T) portfolio.

Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities must maintain and enhance biodiversity. Sympathetic mowing of road verges and amenity grasslands could help to meet that duty.

The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the work undertaken to date and consider the opportunities for policy review in the future. In addition, as a portfolio, Streetscene & Transportation routinely reported on the annual performance of the grass cutting service to the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee for assurance purposes. The report therefore also included an update for Cabinet on the performance of the service during 2022.

Councillor Healey commended the working relationship between the Biodiversity Officer and staff in Streetscene to address the important issue.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the work undertaken to date be supported and opportunities to increase biodiversity in managing our road verges and amenity grasslands be considered; and

- (b) That the proposed changes to the grass cutting policy be approved and the targeted reduction in the use of pesticides be supported.

139. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23 (MONTH 10)

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 based on the actual income and expenditure as at month 10.

The report projected 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 was:

Council Fund

- An operating surplus of £0.693m (excluding the impact of the pay award which had been met by reserves), which was a favourable movement of £0.810m from the deficit figure reported at Month 9
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31st March 2023 of £7.024m

Housing Revenue Account

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £3.101m higher than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31st March 2023 of £3.373m

Hardship funding from Welsh Government helped secure over £16m of direct financial help the previous year and payments totalling £4.8m in 2022/23 had continued to be claimed for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments and Winter Fuel Payments within their eligible periods.

The open risks outlined in the report would be kept under close review.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2022/23 budget be noted;
- (b) That the carry forward requests be approved; and
- (c) That the transfer of £0.200m from the contingency reserve to replenish Winter Maintenance Reserve be approved.

140. BUSINESS RATE WRITE OFFS IN EXCESS OF £25,000

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that for individual bad debts more than £25,000, Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) required Cabinet to approve recommendations to write off debts.

Two Business Rates debts totalling £112,526 were deemed to be irrecoverable and write offs were necessary due to Insolvency.

Both companies had ceased trading, were insolvent and were officially in administration or liquidation and in the final stages of being wound up at Companies House. The Business Rate liabilities had now ended in both cases and since unpaid Business Rates were classed as non-preferential debts, there was little or no assets available for non-preferential creditors and successful recovery of the business rates debts was no longer possible.

There were no direct financial implications for the Council or local taxpayers as business rates losses were borne by the National Collection Pool for Wales.

RESOLVED:

That the two write offs totally £112,526, consisting of £37,856 for A.C. Canoe Products (Chester) Limited and £74,670 for FTS Hatswell Limited be approved.

141. STREETSCENE STANDARDS REVIEW 2022-23

Councillor Hughes introduced the report and explained that in 2012, multiple services were combined to create a new Streetscene and Transportation (S&T) portfolio. At that time, Cabinet approved a set of Streetscene Performance Standards which formed the basis of the new portfolio's quarterly performance report. That was then heavily scrutinised by both the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet at the time. Those Streetscene Standards were last reviewed in 2019 and had been subject to minimal change since inception.

The report outlined the intention to review the existing standards and recommend changes that linked more closely to the council plan and portfolio business plan. The authority wanted to ensure that the service continued to meet the needs and expectations of the public and residents it served, whilst making the most efficient use of the available resources.

The uncertainty of future years' financial settlements, the changing demands of the environmental and climate change agenda and the need to provide clear and measurable performance data, would all influence the way S&T delivered services over the coming years. As a service that touched people's lives every day, it was vital to demonstrate real value to the people of Flintshire, but also measure performance in a way that was meaningful and enabled continuous improvement.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) added that the purpose of the report was to illustrate the inadequacies of the existing document and request support from Cabinet for S&T to review and retire the existing Standards. That would be in favour of a more robust and relevant suite of performance metrics that could be measured, monitored and reported more effectively.

The report had been submitted to Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week where it was resolved that a Task and Finish Group would be set up to support the review of the Standards.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal to retire the existing Streetscene Standards document be noted, and 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 be supported. A further report will be presented once the review has been completed; and
- (b) That the recommendation of the Environment and Economy Overview and 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 be supported.

142. HYPNET CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT: CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINE AND CONSENTING PROCESS UPDATE

Councillor Bithell introduced the report and explained that Liverpool Bay CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) Limited (the Developer) was proposing to construct and install a new carbon dioxide pipeline between Ince, near Stanlow, (Cheshire) and Flint, and repurpose an existing natural gas pipeline between Flint and Talacre (the 'Connah's Quay to Point of Ayr Pipeline'). That project was known as the HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and was considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The consenting process was different for an NSIP and an application had been made under the Planning Act 2008 for a permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the proposed Carbon Dioxide Pipeline NSIP.

Integral to the HyNet North West project was the redevelopment and works at the Point of Ayr Gas Terminal, works between the Gas terminal and the Mean Low Water Spring mark, and the construction of three Blocked Valve Stations along the existing 'Connah's Quay to Point of Ayr Pipeline'. The developer would seek consent for those works under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The report sought delegated authority to allow officers to respond to matters arising during the examination of the NSIP, represent the Council in the hearings, provide a response on the Statement of Common Ground, answer questions that arose, and to provide a Local Impact Report.

This report provides details on the project, the two consenting processes and the role of the Local Planning Authority.

The Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) said there was an amendment to the recommendation to remove the words "Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection" so that it was in consultation with the Cabinet. This was supported. He explained that the purpose of the report was to seek

consent to respond to the local impact report which would allow objective information to be submitted to the Inspectors.

A series of briefing sessions would be arranged, commencing with Cabinet.

Councillor Healey thanked the officer leading on the work for the session provided to Members.

RESOLVED:

- (a) 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
- (b) 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).

143. ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION 2024/2025

Councillor Roberts introduced the report which was to advise on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for 2024/25 and to recommend approval.

Consultation must cover the full admission arrangements including the admissions policy, oversubscription criteria, the timetable for admissions and admission numbers (i.e., the maximum number of pupils to be admitted by the admissions authority into each year group). The information was appended to the report.

The current admission arrangements had been in place since 2003 and the majority of parental preferences continued to be met (approximately 96%). The number of admission appeals in recent years was detailed in the table in the report.

The consultation process took place between 13th January 2023 and 3rd February 2023 and no comments were received. There were no changes proposed to the admission arrangements. The proposed admissions timetable had been drawn up in consultation with neighbouring authorities and took into account factors such as allowing parents sufficient time to visit/research schools and express their preferences, the time needed to process applications, etc.

As part of the consultation, Headteachers were asked if there had been any changes to the accommodation at their Schools which could necessitate a review of their Admission Number. No requests had been received. There were changes to the capacity and admission numbers at a number of schools as a result of extensions and/or new builds, and those figures were appended to the report.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed admission arrangements for 2024/25 be approved.

144. REPORT BACK FROM THE CALL-IN OF DECISION NO. 4056 – WASTE STRATEGY REVIEW

Councillor Hughes introduced the report and explained that a decision of the Cabinet – Record No 4056 “Waste Strategy Review” had been called in.

The call-in meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on 1st February 2023.

He said that having considered the decision, the Committee chose Option 3, to refer it back to the decision-making person or body (i.e. Cabinet) for reconsideration. Cabinet had considered the decision taken and the comments made and the decision taken was that for four months (March, April, May and June 2023) waste would be monitored and if there was evidence of a significant decrease in recyclable waste placed in the black bins then Cabinet would re-look at the proposal for three weekly collections.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) said recycling targets still needed to be met to avoid the risk of the Council receiving a substantial fine from Welsh Government (WG). She added that 50% of what was placed in black bins was recyclable, with 27% of it being food waste. There would need to be a significant improvement in recycling by residents to achieve the 64% target in 2022-2023 and 70% by 2024-2-25, alongside the Council carrying out enforcement and running education campaigns.

Councillor Healey supported the proposal put forward by Councillor Hughes.

Councillor Roberts expressed his thanks to the Flintshire residents that did engage with the Council on waste and recycling. If the recycling targets improved there was no desire by the Cabinet to introduce three weekly collections and he urged the residents of Flintshire to help to improve the recycling rates. If black bins were overflowing, it would indicate that there was recyclable material in there and enforcement would be considered.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the decision of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting with regard to Record No 4056 Waste Strategy Review be noted;
- (b) 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
- (c) That a further report be brought back in September 2023.

145. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

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

Revenues

- **Write Offs**

Financial Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources to write off debts between £10k and £25k.

There are three outstanding debts totalling £33,068.40. One relating to outstanding Business Rates and two relating to Corporate Debt invoices. Recovery options have been exhausted in all cases and the outstanding balances are deemed irrecoverable and a write off is considered necessary.

- **Business Rates – Adoption of Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief (RLHRR) Scheme for 2023/24.**

Welsh Government (WG) have extended the business rate relief scheme aimed at supporting businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. Eligible ratepayers will be provided with 75% rate relief during 2023/24.

The scheme is a temporary measure to support businesses and is fully funded by WG. There is also requirement for individual local authorities to adopt the schemes and determine which businesses can be awarded relief using the scheme guidance provided by WG.

Housing and Assets

- **Community Asset Transfer**

The report relates to the Community Asset Transfer of Former Scout Hut Premises and Lane, Park Avenue, Mold.

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, 15 and 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

146. NORTH EAST WALES (NEW) HOMES BUSINESS PLAN 2023/2052

Councillor Bibby introduced the report and explained that the North East Wales (NEW) Homes Business Plan set out key elements of the company's proposed Development Strategy which increases the number of Affordable Rent Properties to be delivered over the next two years, increasing the total number of properties managed by NEW Homes.

There was an obligation of NEW Homes to seek Cabinet approval in respect of any Business Plan that provided the strategic objectives of the company.

RESOLVED:

That the NEW Homes Business Plan 2023/2052 be approved.

147. HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT – EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR THE WALLICH, HOMELESS HUB

Councillor Bibby introduced the report which provided an overview of the contract extension for the Emergency Homeless Hub.

RESOLVED:

That the contract for The Glanrafon – Emergency Homeless Hub for 1 year (end of 2023/24) with an option for an additional year (end of 2024/25) be extended.

148. PLAS BELLIN (LOCAL SOLUTIONS) CONTRACT EXTENSION

Councillor Bibby introduced the report which provided an overview of the Plan Bellin project, which was a supported housing project for families, and the circumstances leading to the Housing Support Teams request for a further one-year extension to their contract.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the change in service delivery model linked to services of housing support for vulnerable families presently delivered from Plan Belin Supported Housing Project for vulnerable families be noted; and
- (b) That the extension and agreed way forward to enable families affected by the sudden sale of Plan Belin to be supported fully as they transition to alternative accommodation within the community be approved.

149. APPROACH TO PAY FOR LEAVERS

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that the annual cost of living pay award, if any, was often agreed part way through a financial year. Previously it had been the Council's practice to retrospectively pay that award to employees who left before the award was agreed, if it was requested.

The Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development outlined the three options which were available.

RESOLVED:

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.

150. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.15 a.m.)

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Chair



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Council Plan 2023-28
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	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 Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 documents that outline the actions, measures and risks that underpin the 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	<p>A full review has been undertaken to ensure the appropriateness and relevance of the well-being objectives, priorities, and sub-priorities going forward. This includes a review of the current Council Plan 2022-23 to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• priority actions that continue from 2023 onwards for sustained attention• priority actions which could be removed as they have been completed or become operational (business as usual); and• emerging new priority areas, actions and measures for 2023-28
1.03	<p>The high-level structure of the Council Plan 2023-28 was agreed in October 2022, and consists of seven priorities, well-being objectives, and a number of sub-priorities as detailed below:</p> <p>Priority: Poverty Well-being Objective: Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient Sub-priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Income Poverty- Child Poverty- Food Poverty- Fuel Poverty- Digital Poverty <p>Priority: Affordable and Accessible Housing Well-being Objective: Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities Sub-priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Housing Support and Homeless Prevention- Housing Needs and Housing Options- Social Housing- Private Rented Sector- Empty Properties* (Removed) <p>Priority: Green Society and Environment Well-being Objective: 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Phosphates Mitigation- Net Zero Carbon Council (Previously called Carbon Neutrality)- Climate Change Adaptation- Flood Risk Management Strategy- Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment

- Fleet Strategy
- Green Environment
- Flintshire Forest
- Green Access
- Renewable Energy* (Removed)
- 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* (Removed)
- Town Centre Regeneration
- Business
- Transport Connectivity
- Digital Infrastructure
- Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets
- Spending Money for the benefit of Flintshire* (Removed)
- 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	<p>Four of the sub priorities presented to Cabinet in October 2022, marked with an * above, have now been removed. The reason why they have been removed from the Council Plan 2023-28 is detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty Properties* – Does not warrant a specific sub priority within the Council Plan going forward as work has now become business as usual. • Renewable Energy* - Does not warrant a specific sub priority within the new Council Plan as this has been captured within the Climate Change and Adaptation sub priority. • Levelling Up* - The Council was not awarded any funding from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Programme. Any actions and risks associated with LUF have therefore, been removed from the Council Plan 2023-28. • Spending Money for the benefit of Flintshire* - Does not warrant a specific sub priority in the Council Plan going forward as social value work has now become business as usual.
1.05	<p>A lot of work has taken place within each of the portfolios to identify the actions, measures and risks that sit beneath each of the sub priorities and underpin the Council Plan. These are detailed within the Council Plan Part 2 document attached (Appendix Item 2).</p>
1.06	<p>To date, there has been no significant changes made to the Council Plan Part 1 or Part 2 documents since reporting to Informal Cabinet.</p> <p>These documents have been considered by the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees however, two Overview and Scrutiny Committees do not meet until 20 April 2023 therefore, any changes following these meetings will be provided as a verbal update at Cabinet. These being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee • Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1.07	<p>Following adoption by County Council, the Council Plan 2023-28 will be available as a web-based document published on the Flintshire County Council website.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>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.</p>

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	To date, all Members have had the opportunity to consider and review the draft Well-being objectives, priorities and sub-priorities before these were agreed in October 2022.
3.02	Overview and Scrutiny Committees have had the opportunity to review the Council Plan Part 1 and Part 2 documents and scrutinise any actions, measures and/or targets set for 2023-28.

4.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT														
4.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</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 high-level Integrated Impact Assessment on the Council Plan 2023-28 has been prepared. This will be supported with an overview of the various Integrated Impact Assessments that will be carried out to support the actions identified within the 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>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td rowspan="7">The 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>Council's Well-being Objectives 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 high-level Integrated Impact Assessment on the Council Plan 2023-28 has been prepared. This will be supported with an overview of the various Integrated Impact Assessments that will be carried out to support the actions identified within the Council Plan 2023-28.	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement	Prosperous Wales	The 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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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 - Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1: An overview of the Well-being Objectives, Priorities, Sub priorities and their definitions</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Council Plan 2023-28 Part 2: How achievements will be measured - Supporting Actions, Measures and Risks</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

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

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

Council Plan 2023/28 – Part 1

Priority Name	Poverty
Description/ Well-being Objective	Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient
Income Poverty Definition: People on low income who are unable to meet day to day living costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing free access to swimming lessons (subject to WG funding), children's outdoor play areas, resources, and information via library services – by March 2024 • Providing free activities and sports sessions during all school holidays within communities across Flintshire (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024 • Further develop our community hub approach giving access to a range of programmes, services, and agencies together in one place – by March 2024 • Explore development of support schemes to mitigate in work poverty – by March 2024 • Delivering Welsh Government support schemes linked to the cost-of-living crisis – by March 2024 • Maximising the number of people signposted for support to facilitate longer term change – by March 2024 • Ensuring that take-up to benefit entitlement is maximised in a timely way by processing claims efficiently – by March 2028 • Maximising the take up of the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme and other financial support – by March 2028
Child Poverty Definition: Children who do not have access to adequate food, clothing, shelter, and education to lead a healthy and active life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging further take-up of the free school breakfast for year 7 pupils eligible for free school meals – by September 2023 • To contribute to the network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion – by September 2023 • Continuing to ensure children and young people have access to transitional play/youth activity to support succession from play opportunities into youth clubs to further support young people's development' - by March 2024 • Providing free access to Fit, Fed and Read sessions during summer holidays providing activities, sport, reading, crafts, and meals (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024 • Providing free physical activity and well-being sessions within the summer School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024
Food Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to develop delivery of a “Hospital to Home” meals service – by March 2024

<p>Definition: People who are not able to access food that meets their daily nutritional needs and requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop of the warm spaces initiative in partnership with organisations and third sector – by March 2024 • Providing free access to Fit, Fed and Read sessions during summer holidays providing activities, sport, reading, crafts, and meals (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024 • Continue to roll out a transported and delivered food service “Mobile Meals” to those who are vulnerable – by March 2026 • Introduce and develop a “Well Fed at Home Service” – by March 2026
<p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Definition: Households that spend more than 10% of their income (after housing costs) on energy</p> <p>Linked to Affordable and accessible housing</p> <p>Linked to Personal and Community Well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes - by March 2024 • Engaging, supporting, and referring vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and wellbeing - by March 2024
<p>Digital Poverty</p> <p>Definition: Inability to interact fully in a digital world when, where and how an individual needs to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aura - Free access to PCs and internet – by March 2024 • Supporting people to use digital technology through Digital Workforce Volunteers – by March 2026 • Continuing to provide free of charge public access to the internet at Flintshire Connects Centres - by March 2026
<p>Priority Name</p>	<p>Affordable and Accessible Housing</p>
<p>Description/ Well-being Objective</p>	<p>Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities</p>
<p>Housing Support and Homeless Prevention</p> <p>Definition: Offering support to people to retain their housing and live well and ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and unrepeatable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify site for a young person’s homeless hub offering accommodation and support services – by June 2023 • Ensuring a multi-agency partnership approach to homeless prevention and develop a culture where homelessness is “everyone’s business” – by March 2024 • Ensuring when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief, and non-recurring – by March 2024 • Progress build project for the new homeless hub accommodation – by December 2024 • Delivering our Rapid Rehousing transition plan – by March 2025 • Promoting housing support and homeless prevention services with our residents and partners – by March 2028

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning a wide range of housing related support that meets the needs of the people of Flintshire – by March 2028
<p>Housing Needs and Housing Options</p> <p>Definition: Helping people to explore their housing options so they can access the right homes to meet their needs</p> <p>Linked to Poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Single point of access service for Housing help and advice – by March 2024 Developing self-service approaches that enable people to identify their own housing options through online support – by March 2024
<p>Social Housing</p> <p>Definition: 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</p> <p>Linked to Poverty</p> <p>Linked to Green and Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the plan for the de-carbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure their thermal efficiency is optimised and the cost of heating homes are minimised - by September 2023 Working with residents to ensure our communities are well managed, safe, and sustainable places to live - by March 2024 In partnership with Denbighshire CC, creating a new Dynamic Procurement System to ensure CPRs are met and provide a wider opportunity for tendering Disabled Adaptation projects – by December 2024 Supporting our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities - by March 2025 Increasing the Council’s housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North-East Wales (NEW) Homes – by March 2028 Working with housing association partners to build new social housing properties and additional affordable properties – by March 2028 Ensuring that any new social housing stock meets DQR standard energy efficiency A rating – by March 2028 Maximising Welsh Government Funding to increase stock capacity – by March 2028 Ensuring increase in stock capacity meets the identified needs and demands – by March 2028 Ensuring that the Council’s housing stock maintains the current Welsh Housing Quality Standards – by March 2028 Implementation of the initial recommendations of the sheltered housing review to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of current and prospective tenants – by March 2028

<p>Private Rented Sector</p> <p>Definition: Supporting the private sector to raise standards in the management and condition of housing and promote tenancy sustainment in our communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a Private Sector Housing Support Team - by March 2024 • Engaging with private sector tenants, giving them a voice, and responding to their needs – by March 2028 • Working in partnership with landlords and private sector agents to better understand their needs – by March 2028
<p>Empty Properties</p> <p>Definition: Bringing empty homes back into use to enhance the local housing market and improve our local communities</p>	<p>REMOVED – Now business as usual</p>
<p>Priority Name</p>	<p>Green Society and Environment</p>
<p>Description/ Well-being Objective</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Phosphates Mitigation</p> <p>Definition: Provision of viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on Special Areas of Conservation protected rivers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing guidance on viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on SAC protected rivers – by March 2024
<p>Net Zero Carbon Council (Changed from Carbon Neutrality)</p> <p>Definition: A net carbon zero Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers – by March 2024 • Developing plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh Government guidance – by March 2024 • Working with Flintshire’s leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions – by March 2024 • A net zero carbon Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery – by 2030 • Aura's Council-owned building assets to contribute towards the wider net carbon zero ambition – by March 2024
<p>Climate Change Adaptation</p> <p>Definition: Be more resilient to the changes that have happened due to climate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the Council’s Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment – by June 2023 • Reviewing the Council’s Flood Risk Management Strategy – by June 2024 • Carrying out flood investigations and alleviation works where appropriate – by March 2024

<p>change and prepare for predicted future change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage – by March 2024 • Ensuring climate change and biodiversity are considered a priority in key decision making across all Council services – by March 2024 • Identifying projects to further support climate adaptation ambitions following Welsh Government guidance – by March 2024
<p>Flood Risk Management Strategy</p> <p>Definition: 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy – by June 2024
<p>Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment</p> <p>Definition: 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the Council's Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment – by June 2023
<p>Fleet Strategy</p> <p>Definition: Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the environmental impact of Aura's fleet via the wider agreement with the Council – by March 2024 • Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet by transitioning to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) – by March 2030
<p>Green Environment</p> <p>Definition: Enhance and increase biodiversity and trees to deliver multiple benefits for people, wildlife, and the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan – by March 2024 • Progressing Ash Dieback Action Plan – by March 2024 • Enhancing the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment Act Wales biodiversity duty – by March 2024 • Developing a strategy to improve biodiversity and carbon sequestration on the agricultural estate – by March 2024

<p>Flintshire Forest</p> <p>Definition: Development of a plan to establish a Flintshire Forest that will identify available land assets, budget requirements and a realistic delivery timescale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a Flintshire Forest Plan – by March 2024
<p>Green Access</p> <p>Definition: The promotion, good management, and protection of our green spaces to deliver multiple benefits to the environment and our residents and visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park through the production of a scoping study – by March 2024 Delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a focus to ensure improved access for all and the promotions of Walking for Health – by March 2024
<p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>Definition: The promotion and support of renewable energy opportunities across the Council Estate and wider communities</p>	<p>REMOVED - Captured within the Climate Change and Adaptation Sub Priority</p>
<p>Active and Sustainable Travel Options</p> <p>Definition: 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of 20mph national legislation - by September 2023 Promoting active travel and further develop the County's walking and cycleway network - by March 2028 Supporting the development of public electric vehicle charging network - by March 2028 Implementing formalised crossing facilities at existing school crossing patrol sites - by March 2028 Declassification of hazardous routes across the county where appropriate through the implementation of engineering initiatives - by March 2028
<p>Circular Economy</p> <p>Definition: Support and promote the Welsh Government's strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the Council's Waste Strategy – by September 2023 Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets – by March 2024 Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing recycling initiatives – by March 2024 Promoting the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises – by March 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a Recycling Waste Transfer Station for the deposit and processing of recyclable materials – by March 2025
Priority Name	Economy
Description/ Well-being Objective	Connecting communities and enabling a sustainable economic recovery and growth
Rural Regeneration Definition: Ensure that Economy interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that Economy interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals – by March 2024 Recruit a Digital Connectivity Officer to support rural communities to access better quality connectivity options – buy June 2023. Commission a data review for rural Flintshire and hold community consultation to better understand rural community needs – by March 2024.
Levelling Up Definition: Prepare and submit bids to the UK Government Levelling Up Fund programme to invest in projects in deprived coastal communities in Flintshire	REMOVED - The Council was not awarded any funding by UK Government from the Levelling Up Fund programme. Any actions and risks associated with LUF have therefore, been removed
Town Centre Regeneration Definition: Regenerate and re-invent our town centres Linked to Personal and Community Well-being Linked to Affordable and accessible housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions – by March 2024 Encouraging and supporting investment in town centre properties specially to facilitate more sustainable uses and including improvements to the environment – by March 2024 Understanding the needs of and supporting community enterprises in town centre locations – by March 2024 Engaging town centre small businesses and promote support packages available to them – by March 2024 Libraries and leisure centres are community well-being hubs with social objectives underpinning their operation – by March 2024
Business Definition: Enable business continuity and encourage appropriate investment Linked to Green Society and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities – by March 2024 Supporting recovery of the County's Street and indoor markets – by March 2024 Supporting growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects – by March 2024 Supporting recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry – by March 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the scale and impact of the social business sector – by March 2024 Supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient – March 2024
<p>Transport Connectivity</p> <p>Definition: Develop and promote effective transport connectivity while supporting recovery and economic growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the Councils integrated transport strategy – by March 2024 Supporting the establishment of CJsCs and delivery of the Joint Regional Transport Plan - by May 2024
<p>Digital Infrastructure</p> <p>Definition: Ensure the digital networks facilitate and support recovery and growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving digital connectivity across the County for businesses and residents – by March 2024
<p>Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets</p> <p>Definition: Achieve Local Development Plan (LDP) policy objectives for growth, protection, and enhancement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring overall Plan performance via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government – by January 2024 Maintaining and update the LDP Housing Trajectory in line with planning decisions made – by March 2024 Making decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted LDP – by March 2024 Referencing the LDP growth strategy in early work on a North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) - by March 2024
<p>Spending money for the benefit of Flintshire</p> <p>Definition: Grow our local economic vitality through social value commitments and procurement strategy</p>	<p>REMOVED - Now business as usual and therefore, does not warrant a specific sub priority within the new Council Plan</p>
<p>Reducing Worklessness</p> <p>Definition: Work with our partners to support individuals to gain employment</p> <p>Linked to Poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordinating a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups – by March 2024 Delivering mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market - by March 2024

Priority Name	Personal and Community Well-being
Description/ Well-being Objective	Supporting people in need to live as well as they can
<p>Independent Living</p> <p>Definition: People will be supported to live as independently as possible through the right type of support, when they need it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to grow the Microcare market, including access to commissioned care packages – by March 2024 • Developing a national, regional, and local approach to Early Years Transformation so that all our children ages 0-7 have the best possible start in life and can reach their full potential – by March 2024 • Supporting people to achieve their mental well-being outcomes by promoting personal and community well-being through open access courses delivered by the Learning Partnership – by March 2024 • Working in partnership with the Community Mental Health Team and Social Services Mental Health Support Service to develop clear pathways for individuals needing access to Mental Health services, and a sustainable model for the future – by March 2024 • Completing a review of Community Mental Health provision and define a model for the future – by March 2024 • Utilising the progression model as a way of promoting people’s independence skills – by March 2024 • Working with Housing to fund a small team of people to support individuals with low level Mental health problems to improve their housing – by March 2024 • Providing additional placements for step down care within our in-house provision (Croes Atti 2) – by March 2025 • Planning for the relocation of Tri Ffordd supported employment project to Maes Gwern in Mold – by March 2025
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Definition: Continue to embed safeguarding procedures so our employees understand how they can help safeguard people in the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the corporate e-learning package – by March 2024 • Preparing for the implementation of the new Liberty Protect Safeguard procedures – by March 2024
<p>Direct Provision to support people closer to home</p> <p>Definition: The services we provide so people can access the support they need in their local community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the recommissioning of advocacy services on a regional basis – by March 2024 • Increasing skills around autism with respect to advocacy – by March 2024 • Delivering a programme of registered Children’s Homes to help avoid the need for residential placements outside Flintshire – by March 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to grow our in-house homecare service to support more people to live at home, utilising a rolling scheme of recruitment – by March 2025 Continuing to grow our in-house fostering service to support more looked after children – by March 2025 Developing childcare expansion and seamless childcare provision across programs – by March 2025
Local Dementia Strategy Definition: Continuing to improve the lives of people living with dementia in Flintshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience – by March 2024
A Well Connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment Definition: Resilient communities where people feel connected and safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing Local Environmental Quality initiatives – by March 2024 Providing community hub sessions which target areas that have high anti-social behaviour and crime rates; to support young people who are at risk and to engage them with partners (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024
Priority Name	Education and Skills
Description/ Well-being Objective	Enabling and Supporting Learning Communities
Educational Engagement and Achievement Definition: Providing diverse learning opportunities to support educational achievement in schools and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the implementation of the revised curriculum for secondary pupils in years 7 and 8 - by September 2023 Embedding the revised processes and procedures in relation to attendance and exclusion, using data to better inform and target interventions at both a pupil and school level - by September 2023 Through the roll out of the Wales Government delivery model for Community Focused schools establish a collaborative approach to reduce school exclusion and improve school attendance - by March 2024 Explore and develop options for in house provision in response to the increasing number of pupils struggling to engage with education due to mental health difficulties - by March 2024 Providing bespoke support for schools through training and development to improve the level of speech language and communication skills for pupils - by March 2024 Continuing to deliver Alternative Provision (Education) and to increase the number of young people on the programme

	<p>gaining qualifications and achieving their full potential (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2023</p>
<p>Digital Learning Opportunities</p> <p>Definition: Supporting education engagement and achievement through proactive use of accessible digital media</p> <p>Linked to Poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools to have a formally adopted Digital Strategy - by December 2023 • Embedding the delivery plan for Integrated Youth Services by maintaining focus on digital, school and community engagement - by March 2024 • Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura - by March 2024
<p>Learning Environments</p> <p>Definition: Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing construction of the 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa - by March 2024 • Commence construction of the Drury CP refurbishment and extension - by March 2024 • Complete construction of the Penyffordd CP extension - by March 2024 • Scheduling Council approval to progress Wales Government’s Band B Sustainable Communities projects within the Learning Investment Programme - by March 2024 • Commence design development options for a new Welsh medium primary school for Buckley/Mynydd Isa area - by March 2024. • Determine a strategy for school modernisation within the Saltney area - by March 2024 • Progressing the development of a new premises plan for the North-East Wales Archive - by March 2024 • To provide Duke of Edinburgh Award training opportunities for young people in Alternative Provision, schools, and community groups (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024
<p>Learning Community Networks</p> <p>Definition: Supporting our learning communities to engage and achieve through extensive partnership working unpinned by common safeguarding practices</p> <p>Linked to Personal and Community Well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to consolidate the joint working between Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council through the Northeast Wales Archive to provide a sustainable and resilient service - by March 2024 • Aura - Management of the Adult Community Learning (ACL) programme – By March 2024
<p>Specialist Educational Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing year two and commence implementation of year three of the revised legislation for the Additional Learning Needs - by March 2024

<p>Definition: Extending local capacity to support learners with additional learning needs (ALN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence roll out of the strategic decisions for Additional Learning Needs provision to increase the level of in-house provision and reduce the reliance on out of county provision - by March 2024
<p>Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)</p> <p>Definition: Working with schools and partners to support the Welsh Government's strategy to enable one million Welsh speakers by 2050</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the strategic actions for Year 1 of the WESP 5-year action plan - by September 2023 Extending the range of youth services delivered bilingually to encourage young people to retain and use their Welsh language skills into early adulthood - by March 2024 Reviewing Welsh medium resource provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs - by March 2024
<p>Well-being</p> <p>Definition: 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Wellbeing in all Flintshire schools - by March 2024 Improving awareness of trauma informed practice with schools and Education and Youth employees - by March 2024 Running a referral programme for children and young people with ACEs or a disability and their families to provide low cost / no cost physical activity opportunities to improve overall health and well-being (subject to Action for Children funding) – by March 2024
<p>Priority Name</p>	<p>A Well-Managed Council</p>
<p>Description/ Well-being Objective</p>	<p>A responsible, resourceful, and trusted Council operating as efficiently as possible</p>
<p>People</p> <p>Definition: Recruit, retain, develop, and support the well-being of our employees to enable high quality service delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a workforce planning framework for use across the organisation – by September 2023 Implementing a compliant and sustainable new pay model - by October 2023 Maintaining competitive pay and reward, and terms and conditions of employment – by March 2028 (On-going) Recruiting sufficient permanent high-quality staff with suitable qualifications and experience - by March 2028 (On-going) Retaining existing employees by supporting them to carry out their roles effectively, and by ensuring that our total offer for new and existing employees is competitive within the marketplace – by March 2028 (On-going) Reducing the use of agency workers – by March 2028 (On-going) Promoting the Council's Employee Assistance Programme to increase usage – by March 2028 (On-going) Increasing the level of Welsh Language across the organisation – by March 2028 (On-going)

<p>Anti-Racist and Anti-Discriminatory Council</p> <p>Definition: Welsh Government Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan and public sector equality duties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the Workforce Information report to meet our statutory public sector equality duties – by November 2023 • Publish the Strategic Equality Plan annual report to meet our statutory public sector duties and reduce unequal outcomes for people with protected characteristics – by November 2023 • Completing a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh language standards and implement action plan to improve – by December 2023 • Develop and implement an Action Plan to meet Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan – by September 2024
<p>Financial Resilience</p> <p>Definition: Ensuring that the Council is sustainable over the medium to longer term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the funding needs of the Council over the medium term are met through financial planning – by March 2024 • Ensuring robust monitoring arrangements are in place for revenue and capital – by March 2024 • Ensuring that an adequate level of reserves is maintained by the Council – by March 2024 • Ensure robust processes exist for the management and recovery of debt including Council Tax and rent – by March 2024
<p>Flintshire Assets</p> <p>Definition: 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Council progress against the Corporate Asset Management Plan – by March 2028 (On-going) • County Hall Master Plan - Form/Agree Strategy – by March 2028 (On-going) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review and refresh the Corporate Asset Management Plan – Annually ○ Form and agree an options appraisal/strategy for County Hall Master Plan – by March 2024 ○ Form and agree Office Accommodation Strategy – by April 2024 ○ Commercial Estate Rent Review – by April 2024 ○ Review of Industrial Estate Strategy (Area by Area) – by April 2025
<p>Digital</p> <p>Definition: Modernising our services so that they are designed around user needs and are simple, secure, and convenient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide a corporate Contact Centre for handling telephone calls to the Council – by March 2026 • Continue to administer a complaints procedure for customers to provide feedback on their experience with the Council – by March 2026 • Continue to promote My Account as an access channel to access the Council and its services – by March 2026 • Provide access to Council services on the internet in a responsive way (information can be accessed using different devices) – by March 2026

<p>Partnerships</p> <p>Definition: Working collaboratively with partners across the private, public, voluntary and community sectors to achieve shared goals and priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with public sector partners, develop and publish a local Well-being Plan for 2023-28 setting out the local well-being objectives and how the Public Services Board, including the Council, aims to achieve them – by May 2023 • Deliver three engagement events to encourage other organisations to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant, which contribute to Flintshire County Council being re-accredited with the Defence Employers Recognition Scheme Gold Award in 2024 – by March 2024 • Review arrangements with alternative delivery model partners to ensure the ongoing delivery of shared outcomes, priorities and services - by March 2024
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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Plan 2023/28

PART 2

How achievements will be measured - Supporting actions, tasks, and measures

Version 6 – April 2023

Performance Achievements 2023/28

Actions, tasks and measures have been set to monitor progress against an activity or plan. Actions are dated according to the target month for achievement. Performance will be monitored by percentage progress against the actions with supporting commentary.

Priority: Poverty

Well-being Objective: Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Income Poverty	People on low income who are unable to meet day to day living costs	Chief Officer Housing and Communities AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Providing free access to swimming lessons (subject to WG funding), children's outdoor play areas, resources and information via library services – by March 2024
- Providing free activities and sports sessions during all school holidays within communities across Flintshire (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024
- Further develop our community hub approach giving access to a range of programmes, services and agencies together in one place – by March 2024
- Explore development of support schemes to mitigate in work poverty – by March 2024
- Delivering Welsh Government support schemes linked to the cost-of-living crisis – by March 2024
- Maximising the number of people signposted for support to facilitate longer term change – by March 2028
- Ensuring that take-up to benefit entitlement is maximised in a timely way by processing claims efficiently – by March 2028
- Maximising the take up of the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme and other financial support – by March 2028

Associated Risks:

- HA04 - Increased financial risk due to business failures and ability to anticipate Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)
- HA27 - Increasing service demands to respond to HA04

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Average number of calendar days to process new claims for housing benefit and council tax reduction	17	20
Average number of calendar days to process change in circumstances for housing benefit and council tax reduction	3	8
Total spend of Discretionary Housing Payments (%)	130	100

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of children enrolled in free swimming lessons	N/A – New Measure	TBC
Number of free to access outdoor play areas available to children across the county	195	195
Number of items loaned (physical and digital)	176,184	245,000

Priority: Poverty

Well-being Objective: Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Child Poverty	Children who do not have access to adequate food, clothing, shelter and education to lead a healthy and active life	Chief Officer Education and Youth AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Encouraging further take-up of the free school breakfast for year 7 pupils eligible for free school meals – by September 2023
- To contribute to the network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion – by September 2023
- Continuing to ensure children and young people have access to transitional play/youth activity to support succession from play opportunities into youth clubs to further support young people's development' - by March 2024
- Providing free access to Fit, Fed and Read sessions during summer holidays providing activities, sport, reading, crafts and meals (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024
- Providing free physical activity and well-being sessions within the summer School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- None identified

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Total number of children pre-registered for Summer Play Scheme	2,712	2,500 ¹
Total number of children pre-registered for community and school play sessions/support	349	300 ²
Number of children attending Fit, Fed and Read sessions during school holidays	N/A	5,000

¹ Reduced target due to reduced funding for 2023/24 and the initial uptake from Town and Community Councils looks less than previous years.

² Reduced target due to reduced funding for 2023/24 – No Summer of Fun or Winter of Well-being

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of children attending sessions held via Food and Fun	286	400 ³

³ In 21/22 the number of children attending was 286. This is based on 8 schools (9 cohorts) of a max of 40 attending. The target for 22/23 is 400. This is based on 10 schools.

Priority: Poverty

Well-being Objective: Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Food Poverty	People who are not able to access food that meets their daily nutritional needs and requirements	Chief Officer Housing and Communities AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Continuing to develop delivery of a “Hospital to Home” meals service – by March 2024
- Further develop of the warm spaces initiative in partnership with organisations and third sector – by March 2024
- Providing free access to Fit, Fed and Read sessions during summer holidays providing activities, sport, reading, crafts and meals (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024
- Continue to roll out a transported and delivered food service “Mobile Meals” to those who are vulnerable – by March 2026
- Introduce and develop a “Well Fed at Home Service” – by March 2026

Associated Risks:

- Funding discontinues
- Reduced take up from residents

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Numbers of residents enrolled in the “Mobile Meals” service	N/A – New Measure	40
Number of residents supported by the “Hospital to Home” meals service	N/A – New Measure	150
Number of children attending Fit, Fed and Read sessions during school holidays	N/A	5,000

Page 43

Priority: Poverty

Well-being Objective: Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Fuel Poverty	Households that spend more than 10% of their income (after housing costs) on energy	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Reducing the risk of fuel poverty for residents by increasing the energy efficiency of homes - by March 2024 [Linked to Affordable and accessible housing](#)
- Engaging, supporting and referring vulnerable households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and well-being - by March 2024 [Linked to Personal and Community Well-being](#)

Associated Risks:

- PE25 - Domestic energy service is self-funding so remains vulnerable to a shortfall in income levels

Page 44

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Total number of households receiving energy efficiency improvements	1,293	1,200 300 (Quarter)
Providing advice and signposting support to vulnerable households	N/A – New Measure	25 (Quarter)

Priority: Poverty

Well-being Objective: Protecting our communities and people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs and to be resilient

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Digital Poverty	Inability to interact fully in a digital world when, where and how an individual needs to	Chief Officer Governance AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Aura - Free access to PCs and internet – by March 2024
- Supporting people to use digital technology through Digital Workforce Volunteers – by March 2026
- Continuing to provide free of charge public access to the internet at Flintshire Connects Centres - by March 2026

Associated Risks:

- The number of people in digital poverty across Flintshire will increase
- Low-income households will not be able to access the internet
- People will not be able to access Council services online

PS09/45

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
The number of Digital Surgeries held at Connects Centres	N/A – New Measure	3 (Quarter)
The number of Sims issued to people in low-income households	N/A – New Measure	15 (Quarter)
Number of digital stations available across the libraries' network	125	145 (Quarter)

Priority: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Well-being Objective: Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Housing Support and Homeless Prevention	Offering support to people to retain their housing and live well and ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and unrepeated	Chief Officer Housing and Communities
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify site for a young person's homeless hub offering accommodation and support services – June 2023 Ensuring a multi-agency partnership approach to homeless prevention and develop a culture where homelessness is “everyone’s business” – by March 2024 Ensuring when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief, and non-recurring – by March 2024 Progress build project for the new homeless hub accommodation – by December 2024 Delivering our Rapid Rehousing transition plan – by March 2025 Promoting housing support and homeless prevention services with our residents and partners – by March 2028 Commissioning a wide range of housing related support that meets the needs of the people of Flintshire – by March 2028 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA09 – Homelessness continues to increase significantly, and the council is unable to meet demand through staffing, budgetary and accommodation related challenges 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of presentations to the homeless service	1,372	1,400
Percentage of successful prevention outcomes for homelessness under Housing Wales Act 2014	63	70
Percentage of successful relief outcomes for homelessness under Housing Wales Act 2014	57	45
Number of households accommodated by the Council under Housing Wales act 2014 homeless duties	101	150
Average length of stay (days) for those households in interim homeless accommodation under Housing Wales Act 2014	117	130
Number of referrals received through the Housing Support Gateway	1,328	1,400

Priority: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Well-being Objective: Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Housing Needs and Housing Options	Helping people to explore their housing options so they can access the right homes to meet their needs	Chief Officer Housing and Communities

Achievement Actions:

- Create a Single point of access service for Housing help and advice – by March 2024
- Developing self-service approaches that enable people to identify their own housing options through online support – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- Demand and need for housing increases, as evidenced by common housing register and levels of homelessness and current housing market unable to meet demand

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of applicants on the Common Housing Register	2,401	2,400
Customer satisfaction data for the Housing Register Service (%)	32	40
Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by All Housing Partners	619	610
Number of applicants rehoused via SARTH by Flintshire County Council	441	440
Number of households rehoused with significant adaptations requirements	10	10

Priority: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Well-being Objective: Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Social Housing	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	Chief Officer Housing and Communities

Achievement Actions:

- Finalise the plan for the de-carbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure their thermal efficiency is optimised and the cost of heating homes are minimised - by September 2023 [Linked to Green and Environment](#), [Linked to Poverty](#)
- Working with residents to ensure our communities are well managed, safe, and sustainable places to live - by March 2024 [Linked to Green and Environment](#)
- In partnership with Denbighshire CC, creating a new Dynamic Procurement System in order to ensure CPR's are met and provide a wider opportunity for tendering Disabled Adaptation projects – by December 2024
- Supporting our tenants to access technology and create sustainable digital communities - by March 2025 [Linked to Poverty](#)
- Increasing the Council's housing portfolio by building social housing properties and affordable properties for North-East Wales (NEW) Homes – by March 2028
- Working with housing association partners to build new social housing properties and additional affordable properties – by March 2028
- Ensuring that any new social housing stock meets Development Quality Requirements (DQR) standard energy efficiency A rating – by March 2028
- Maximising Welsh Government Funding to increase stock capacity – by March 2028
- Ensuring increase in stock capacity meets the identified needs and demands – by March 2028
- Ensuring that the Council's housing stock maintains the current Welsh Housing Quality Standards – by March 2028
- Implementation of the initial recommendations of the sheltered housing review to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of current and prospective tenants – by March 2028

Associated Risks:

- Delays in pre-construction process due to planning and sustainable drainage approval body (SABS) applications
- Delays to the construction phase caused by current economic turbulence related supply chain issues and costs of living
- Unavailability of a wide range of contractors and supplies to deliver the Adaptations

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of Council Homes under construction	77	85
Number of Council Homes completed	0	22
Number of Affordable Homes under construction via NEW Homes	0	0
Number of Affordable Homes completed via NEW Homes	4	30
Number of Residential social landlords (RSL's) homes under construction	47	96
Number of Residential social landlords (RSL's) homes completed	66	33
100% spend of Welsh Government funding for the PDP	74	100
Increase in stock capacity correlates with demand profile	N/A – New Measure	100
Maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard to all Flintshire County Council stock (%)	100	100
Total number of Small Disabled Adaptations completed	531 (Higher than normal due to covid 20/21 – 349)	320
Average number of days to complete a Small Disabled adaptation	N/A - New Measure	28
Total number of Discretionary Medium Disabled Adaptations completed	32	40
Total number of Mandatory or Discretionary Medium Disabled adaptations	78	60
Average number of days to complete a Mandatory Medium Disabled adaptation	89	122
Total number of Mandatory Large Disabled Adaptations completed	11	8

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Average number of days to complete a Mandatory Large Disabled adaptation	469	456
Total number of Disabled Adaptations completed	652	428

Priority: Affordable and Accessible Housing

Well-being Objective: Housing in Flintshire meeting the needs of our residents and supporting safer communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Private Rented Sector	Supporting the private sector to raise standards in the management and condition of housing and promote tenancy sustainment in our communities	Chief Officer Housing and Communities

Achievement Actions:

- Creating a Private Sector Housing Support Team - by March 2024
- Engaging with private sector tenants, giving them a voice, and responding to their needs – by March 2028
- Working in partnership with landlords and private sector agents to better understand their needs – by March 2028

Associated Risks:

- Demand and need for housing increases, as evidenced by common housing register and levels of homelessness and current housing market unable to meet demand

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Landlords engaged through Flintshire Landlord Forum	40	40

Page 51

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Phosphates Mitigation	Provision of viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) protected rivers	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- To produce guidance on viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on SAC protected rivers – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- R33 - Provision of viable and deliverable options to mitigate the impact of phosphates from new development on SAC protected rivers

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Completion of Flintshire County Council’s Wetlands Feasibility Study Report	N/A	1
Completion of Review of Permits at wastewater treatment works by NRW	N/A	1
Upgrade of Mold and Buckley wastewater treatment works by DCWW	N/A	1

Page 52

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Net Zero Carbon Council	A net carbon zero Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Reviewing the procurement policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from suppliers – by March 2024
- Developing plans towards net zero carbon for our assets in line with Welsh Government guidance – by March 2024
- Working with Flintshire’s leisure and culture trust partners to reduce carbon emissions – by March 2024
- A net zero carbon Council by 2030 and supporting wider decarbonisation actions across the County, making this central to Covid-19 recovery – by 2030
- Aura's Council-owned building assets to contribute towards the wider net zero carbon ambition – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- PE11 - Affordability of the Council being able to achieve its net zero carbon goal. Inability to commit or attract sufficient resource to coordinate the programme and deliver on projects, leading to opportunities not being maximised, actions not delivered, and benefits not realised
- PE36 - Risk of new opportunities arising between now and 2030 that we need to respond to support our carbon ambitions. Advances in carbon calculation methodologies and technological improvements could result in updates needed to the Council's targets and trajectory to 2030
- PE37 - Risk of not meeting public expectation on climate change agenda and democratic and reputational damage this could cause

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Reduction in Council greenhouse gas emissions	46,433	33,521 (total emissions not reduction amount)
Percentage of Councilors received carbon related training	N/A	80
Percentage of employees received carbon related training	N/A	5

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of contracts with carbon impact assessed	N/A	10
Percentage of schools accessing the support package	N/A	15
Percentage of Town and Community Councils accessing the support package	N/A	15

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Climate Change and Adaptation	Be more resilient to the changes that have happened due to climate change and prepare for predicted future change	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the Council’s Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment – June 2023 • Reviewing the Council’s Flood Risk Management Strategy – June 2024 • Carrying out flood investigations and alleviation works where appropriate – by March 2024 • Assessing the feasibility of schemes within land assets for resisting flood and drought while enhancing biodiversity and increasing carbon storage – by March 2024 • Ensuring climate change and biodiversity are considered a priority in key decision making across all Council services – by March 2024 • Identifying projects to further support climate adaptation ambitions following Welsh Government guidance – by March 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE11 - Affordability of the Council being able to achieve its net zero carbon goal. Inability to commit or attract sufficient resource to coordinate the programme and deliver on projects, leading to opportunities not being maximised, actions not delivered, and benefits not realised • PE36 - Risk of new opportunities arising between now and 2030 that we need to respond to support our carbon ambitions. Advances in carbon calculation methodologies and technological improvements could result in updates needed to the Council's targets and trajectory to 2030 • PE37 - Risk of not meeting public expectation on climate change agenda and democratic and reputational damage this could cause • PE46 - Inability of the Council to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Inability to identify risks associated with the impacts of climate change in order to build a resilient service to resilient communities. 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of homes protected in vulnerable flood risk areas in Flintshire	N/A	TBC ⁴
Increase in carbon sequestered (Kg/tCO ₂ e)	N/A	4000 KgCO ₂ e

⁴ A target for homes to be protected can only be set once the Flood Risk Management Strategy is completed.

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Flood Risk Management Strategy	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	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the Council’s Flood Risk Management Strategy – June 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE28 - Risk to service delivery through inability to recruit into vacant posts PE34 - 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 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Completion of the Flood Risk Management Strategy by the revised Welsh Government due date (March 2024)	N/A	1

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment	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	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Reviewing the Council’s Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment – June 2023

Associated Risks:

- PE28 - Risk to service delivery through inability to recruit into vacant posts
- PE35 - 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

PAGE 57

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Percentage compliance with Welsh Government delivery timetable	N/A	100

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Fleet Strategy	Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet	Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation AURA
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the environmental impact of our fleet by transitioning to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) – by March 2030 Reducing the environmental impact of Aura's fleet via the wider agreement with the Council – by March 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of suppliers/contractors to deliver goods, works or services to the agreed costs and specifications Loss or suspension of Vehicle Operators Licence or Environmental Permit 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Total number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles on Fleet	N/A	10

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Green Environment	Enhance and increase biodiversity and trees to deliver multiple benefits for people, wildlife, and the environment	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Delivering an increase in canopy cover as part of the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan – by March 2024
- Progressing Ash Dieback Action Plan – by March 2024
- Enhancing the natural environment through the delivery of the Section 6 Environment Act Wales biodiversity duty – by March 2024
- Developing a strategy to improve biodiversity and carbon sequestration on the agricultural estate – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- PE12 - The implications of Ash Die back on finances and reputation of the Council due to the scale of the problem and the ability to make safe Highways and Council amenity land

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of Green infrastructure improvement and planting projects	N/A	6
Carry out baseline site species surveys on our 12 target sites to inform future increase in biodiversity from our interventions	N/A	12

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Flintshire Forest	Development of a plan to establish a Flintshire Forest that will identify available land assets, budget requirements and a realistic delivery timescale	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a Flintshire Forest Plan – by March 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE32 - Ability to capture the required information to be able to produce a meaningful Flintshire Forest Plan in a timely manner 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Produce a detailed Plan for delivery, to include sites highlighted for inclusion, identified funding for planting and an Engagement Plan	N/A	1

Page 60

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Green Access	The promotion, good management, and protection of our green spaces to deliver multiple benefits to the environment and our residents and visitors	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Exploring opportunities to develop the Flintshire Coast Park through the production of a scoping study – by March 2024
- Delivering the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a focus to ensure improved access for all and the promotions of Walking for Health – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- Bid to Welsh Government Access Improvement Grant is not approved which then impacts on the ability of the service to deliver the improvements

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Utilise external funding to produce management plans and feasibility documents to inform development of the Coast Park	N/A	4 Plans developed
Install Kissing Gates on the network	N/A	40
Surface 1500 metres of footpaths	N/A	1,500m
Remove barriers from the network	N/A	40
Install roadside way markers	N/A	50
Carry out bridleway improvements	N/A	1,200m

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Active and Sustainable Travel Options	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	Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 20mph national legislation - by September 2023 • Promoting active travel and further develop the County's walking and cycleway network - by March 2028 • Supporting the development of public electric vehicle charging network - by March 2028 • Implementing formalised crossing facilities at existing school crossing patrol sites - by March 2028 • Declassification of hazardous routes across the county where appropriate through the implementation of engineering initiatives - by March 2028 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to reputation resulting in negative media reporting and adverse publicity e.g., 20mph • Inability to deliver highway network schemes and infrastructure projects due to service skill levels, training, experience, capacity and resilience • Failure to meet Welsh Government targets for the implementation of public EV charging infrastructure • Failure to implement the required infrastructure changes as required by the 20mph National Rollout • Failure to deliver annual Active Travel Core Programme • Failure to provide resilience to the County's designated school crossing patrol sites through the implementation of permanent infrastructure • Failure to declassify the County's Hazardous Routes through the implementation of improved infrastructure • Failure to complete the Councils ongoing speed limit review with the delivery of a County wide Consolidation Order 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of formalised crossing facilities implemented at existing School Crossing Patrol sites	N/A	3

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Implementation of 20mph national change in legislation on the County's restricted roads	N/A – New Measure	1
Number of hazardous routes declassified through the Implementation of Active Travel infrastructure to provide safe routes to schools	1	1

Priority: Green Society and Environment

Well-being Objective: 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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Circular Economy	Support and promote the Welsh Government’s strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire	Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation

Achievement Actions:

- Reviewing the Council's Waste Strategy – by September 2023
- Achieving Welsh Government recycling targets – by March 2024
- Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing recycling initiatives – by March 2024
- Promoting the option to reuse and repair unwanted items at Household Recycling Centres by partnering with local Charities or social enterprises – by March 2024
- Developing a Recycling Waste Transfer Station for the deposit and processing of recyclable materials – by March 2025

Associated Risks:

- Inability to achieve portfolio objectives and strategic goals due to market or industry changes or wider political, economic landscape
- Risk of withdrawal of revenue support grants and consequential impact on revenue budgets/service delivery e.g., SWMG
- Regulatory risk and the effect of a change in legislation and regulation on responsibilities, costs, resources, service delivery and reputation e.g., enforcement responsibilities, trade waste, bus reform
- Inability to achieve national recycling targets due to increased residual waste tonnages collected
- Inability to influence public behaviours and habits which negatively impact service delivery and income streams e.g., recycling, parking, littering.
- Loss or suspension of Vehicle Operators Licence or Environmental Permit

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted	60.08%	70%
Average Recycling rate across Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)	80.02%	80%

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Reduce the tonnage of residual waste collected from residential properties	N/A	10%
Increase the tonnage of food waste collected from residential properties	N/A	15%
Obtain Welsh Government funding to implement a reuse initiative at the household recycling centres	N/A	1
Implement a trial for the delivery of local benefits/local recycling targets initiative	N/A	1
Number of education campaigns on recycling and waste minimisation undertaken to improve recycling performance	N/A	3

Priority: Economy

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Rural Regeneration	Ensure that Economic interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Ensuring that Economy interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals – by March 2024
- Recruit a Digital Connectivity Officer to support rural communities to access better quality connectivity options – by June 2023
- Commission a data review for rural Flintshire and hold community consultation to better understand rural community needs – by March 2024.

Associated Risks:

- E31 - Ensure that Economy interventions consider and meet the needs of rural businesses and individuals

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Digital Connectivity Officer appointed - June 2023	N/A	1
Rural needs report completed by March 2024	N/A	1

Priority: Economy

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Town Centre Regeneration	Regenerate and re-invent our town centres	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Monitoring the health and vitality of town centres to support effective management and business investment decisions – by March 2024
- Encouraging and supporting investment in town centre properties specially to facilitate more sustainable uses and including improvements to the environment – by March 2024
- Understanding the needs of and supporting community enterprises in town centre locations – by March 2024
- Engaging town centre small businesses and promote support packages available to them – by March 2024
- Libraries and leisure centres are community well-being hubs with social objectives underpinning their operation – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- None identified

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Completion and circulation of town centre performance data analysis report	N/A – New programme of work	1
Completion of initial 3 (of 7) Place Making Plans in partnership with a range of stakeholders	N/A – New programme of work	3
Average number of weekly public opening hours available within leisure centres and library branches in Flintshire towns	536	536

Priority: Economy

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Business	Enable business continuity and encourage appropriate investment	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Supporting small and/or local businesses to engage with public sector procurement opportunities – by March 2024
- Supporting recovery of the County’s Street and indoor markets – by March 2024
- Supporting growth of the local and regional food and drink business sector through marketing and collaborative projects – by March 2024
- Supporting recovery of the tourism and hospitality sectors and rebuild confidence in the industry – by March 2024
- Increasing the scale and impact of the social business sector – by March 2024
- Supporting local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient – March 2024

Associated Risks:

PE09 – Unable to sufficiently regenerate Town Centres through implementation of the Town Centre Strategy due to insufficient resources and the national economic trends impacting upon them

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of small or micro businesses receiving support	2,495	150 (Quarter)
Number of social enterprises receiving support	41	12 (Quarter)
Number of local businesses supported to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient	10	12 (Quarter)

Priority: Economy

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Transport Connectivity	Develop and promote effective transport connectivity while supporting recovery and economic growth	Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the Councils integrated transport strategy – by March 2024 Supporting the establishment of CJsCs and delivery of the Joint Regional Transport Plan – by May 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate local bus services to connect rural communities to the core bus network Failure to adequately represent the County's aspirations within the forthcoming Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) Failure to deliver annual Active Travel Core Programme Failure to reduce the number of Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) road traffic collisions on the Counties Road Network in line with Welsh Government targets Regulatory risk and the effect of a change in legislation and regulation on responsibilities, costs, resources, service delivery and reputation e.g., enforcement responsibilities, trade waste, bus reform 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of schemes delivered through the Welsh Government Active Travel Fund	3	3

Priority: Economy

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Digital Infrastructure	Ensure the digital networks facilitate and support recovery and growth	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Improving digital connectivity across the County for businesses and residents – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- PE24 Failure to deliver the Flintshire element of the Regional Growth Deal will reduce the competitiveness of the County as a business location

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
None identified	N/A	N/A

Page 70

Priority: Economy

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Local Development Plan (LDP) Targets	Achieve LDP policy objectives for growth, protection, and enhancement	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Monitoring overall Plan performance via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and submit to Welsh Government – by January 2024
- Maintaining and update the LDP Housing Trajectory in line with planning decisions made – by March 2024
- Making decisions at Planning Committee in line with the adopted LDP – by March 2024
- Referencing the LDP growth strategy in early work on a North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- Failure to deliver the Annual Monitoring Report to Welsh Government on time
- AMR shows LDP falling behind its housing trajectory
- The need to consider an early review of the LDP
- Failing to make planning decisions in accordance with the adopted LDP
- Slow progress with Strategic Development Plan fails to set context for LDP 2

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Completion of first LDP Annual Monitoring Report and submission to Welsh Government (January 2024)	N/A	1
Completion of annual review of LDP housing trajectory	N/A	1
Percentage of decision made on planning applications in accordance with officer recommendation	N/A	1
Contribution to the scoping of the form and content of the North Wales Strategic Development Plan	N/A	1

Priority: Economy

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Reducing worklessness	Work with our partners to support individuals to gain employment	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy

Achievement Actions:

- Co-ordinating a multi-agency approach to support businesses to recruit people from disadvantaged groups - by March 2024 [Linked to Poverty](#)
- Delivering mentoring and wider support programmes to assist disadvantaged people to re-engage with the labour market - by March 2024 [Linked to Poverty](#)

Associated Risks:

- Failure to help individuals to move into employment, learning or volunteering outcomes

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of individuals entering employment, learning or volunteering	153	185
Number of individuals receiving support	367	425

Page 72

Priority: Personal and Community Well-being

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Independent Living	People will be supported to live as independently as possible through the right type of support, when they need it	Chief Officer Social Services
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to grow the Microcare market, including access to commissioned care packages – by March 2024 Developing a national, regional, and local approach to Early Years Transformation so that all our children ages 0-7 have the best possible start in life and are able to reach their full potential – by March 2024 Supporting people to achieve their mental well-being outcomes by promoting personal and community well-being through open access courses delivered by the Learning Partnership – by March 2024 Working in partnership with the Community Mental Health Team and Social Services Mental Health Support Service to develop clear pathways for individuals needing access to Mental Health services, and a sustainable model for the future – by March 2024 Completing a review of Community Mental Health provision and define a model for the future – by March 2024 Using the progression model as a way of promoting people's independence skills – by March 2024 Working with Housing to fund a small team of people to support individuals with low level Mental health problems to improve their housing – by March 2024 Providing additional placements for step down care within our in-house provision (Croes Atti 2) – by March 2025 Planning for the relocation of Tri Ffordd supported employment project to Maes Gwern in Mold – by March 2025 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SS31 - Commissioned providers exiting the market because of escalating costs, where a long-term sustainable fee model is unaffordable for Flintshire due to being a low funded council SS37 - Vacancy pressures across Social Services due to local, regional and national difficulties in recruitment and retention of qualified and experienced social workers, occupational therapists and direct care staff impact on service delivery 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of Microcare providers	24	34
Number of Microcare customers	N/A	34

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Direct Payments as a % of home-based services	39	38
Percentage of urgent requests for equipment that meet or exceed the national 1 Day response standards	100%	98%
Percentage of requests for equipment that meet or exceed the national 7 Day standard	100%	80%
Percentage of equipment that is re-used	92	70%
Number of courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	N/A	50
Number of attendees for courses delivered by the Learning Partnership	N/A	180

Priority: Personal and Community Well-being

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Safeguarding	Continue to embed safeguarding procedures so our employees understand how they can help safeguard people in the community	Chief Officer Social Services

Achievement Actions:

- Promoting the corporate e-learning package – by March 2024
- Preparing for the implementation of the new Liberty Protect Safeguard procedures – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- S06 - Some individuals are illegally detained awaiting Liberty Protection assessments because there is insufficient capacity to absorb the introduction of Community assessments
- S19 - More children and families experience ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) as family relationships breakdown, or become strained, due to the pressures of lockdown and rising financial pressures

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
The percentage of adult safeguarding enquiries that met the 7day timescale	92.5%	92%
The percentage of children who were reported as having run away or gone missing from home who were offered a return interview	100%	100%
The percentage of reviews of children on the Child Protection Register due in the year that were carried out within the statutory timescales	99%	98%
The percentage of Pre-birth assessments completed within timescales	96%	93%

Priority: Personal and Community Well-being

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Direct Provision to support people closer to home	The services we provide so people can access the support they need in their local community	Chief Officer Social Services
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the recommissioning of advocacy services on a regional basis – by March 2024 • Increasing skills around autism with respect to advocacy – by March 2024 • Delivering a programme of registered Children’s Homes to help avoid the need for residential placements outside Flintshire – by March 2025 • Continuing to grow our in-house homecare service to support more people to live at home, utilising a rolling scheme of recruitment – by March 2025 • Continuing to grow our in-house fostering service to support more looked after children – by March 2025 • Developing childcare expansion and seamless childcare provision across programs – by March 2025 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS01 - Expenditure on out of county placements increases as placement costs increase in a demand led market • SS09 - Insufficient numbers of residential and nursing beds to meet demand because of the long-term fragility and instability of the care home sector and challenges in the recruitment of staff • SS10 - Insufficient capacity to provide the quantities and levels of care to clients at home and in the community because of challenges in recruitment of direct care workers and instability in the care market • SS22 - An insufficient supply of placements leads to young people being placed in unregulated settings 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Rate of people over 65 helped to live at home per 1,000 population	33	34
Number of new foster carer approvals in the year	8	5
People with a learning disability accessing Project Search to improve their employability skills	6	12

Priority: Personal and Community Well-being

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Local Dementia Strategy	Continuing to improve the lives of people living with dementia in Flintshire	Chief Officer Social Services

Achievement Actions:

- Establishing a Dementia Strategy Implementation Group, to include representation from people with lived experience – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- SS24 - Pressures on the care system as unpaid carers and families are not able to continue in their caring role due to the reductions in respite and day services

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of people supported through the Dementia Strategy	600	810

Page 77

Priority: Personal and Community Well-being

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
A Well Connected, Safe and Clean Local Environment.	Resilient communities where people feel connected and safe	Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation, AURA
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working in partnership, actively support and engage with community led groups by developing Local Environmental Quality initiatives – by March 2024 Providing community hub sessions which target areas that have high anti-social behaviour and crime rates; to support young people who are at risk and to engage them with partners (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to influence public behaviours and habits which negatively impact service delivery and income streams e.g., recycling, parking, littering. Inability to deliver future change programmes due to reduced staff resilience and capacity issues Inability or lack of control of business activities that result in environmental damage or impact 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of targeted environmental educational campaigns undertaken promote improved Local Environmental Quality	5	8
Number of community engagement events attended to promote improved Local Environmental Quality	N/A	6
Number of current monthly members with NERS, Well-Being and Junior subscriptions	70	830
Number of community sessions held and number of participants attending	N/A	300

Priority: Education and Skills

Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Educational Engagement and Achievement	Providing diverse learning opportunities to support educational achievement in schools and communities	Chief Officer Education and Youth AURA
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the implementation of the revised curriculum for secondary pupils in years 7 and 8 - by September 2023 Embedding the revised processes and procedures in relation to attendance and exclusion, using data to better inform and target interventions at both a pupil and school level - by September 2023 Through the roll out of the Wales Government delivery model for Community Focused schools establish a collaborative approach to reduce school exclusion and improve school attendance - by March 2024 Explore and develop options for in house provision in response to the increasing number of pupils struggling to engage with education due to mental health difficulties - by March 2024 To provide bespoke support for schools through training and development to improve the level of speech language and communication skills for pupils by March 2024 To continue to deliver Alternative Provision (Education) and to increase the number of young people on the programme gaining qualifications and achieving their full potential (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2023 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EY26 - Ineffective school leadership results in poor pupil outcomes which increases risk of schools being placed in statutory Estyn categories EY37 – Lack of resource/capacity to meet increasing demand for specialist provision for young people 		
Achievement Measures ⁵	Baseline Data (2021/22)	Sept 2022 / August 2023 Target
Reduction in the number of permanent exclusions	9	25

⁵ Measures for exclusions and attendance for 2023/24 will be for the academic year 2022/23 – reported in October 2023. The academic year 2021/22 was impacted significantly by Covid in terms of periods of remote learning, an increase in lower-level disruptive behaviour and a reduction in the range of strategies that schools could use to support pupils. This resulted in an overall reduced level of permanent exclusion and high level of fixed term exclusion. The targets for the 2022/23 were based on the assumption that schools would return fully to face to face learning and that strategies to support and prevent lower-level behaviours could be implemented. These figures were set taking into account the exclusion levels pre-Covid and the work that is being undertaken by services with schools with the aim of reducing overall levels of exclusion.

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	Sept 2022 / August 2023 Target
Reduction in the number of fixed term exclusions	1,025	1,150
PAM/008 Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools	88.78%	89%
PAM/007 Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools	92.7%	93%
Number of young people gaining qualifications through the Alternative Provision programme	N/A	15

Priority: Education and Skills

Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Digital Learning Opportunities	Supporting education engagement and achievement through proactive use of accessible digital media	Chief Officer Education and Youth, Chief Executive AURA

Achievement Actions:

- All schools to have a formally adopted Digital Strategy - by December 2023
- Embedding the delivery plan for Integrated Youth Services by maintaining focus on digital, school and community engagement - by March 2024
- Increasing take-up of digital learning opportunities supported by Aura - by March 2024 [Linked to Poverty](#)

Associated Risks:

None identified

Page 81

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
All schools to have a formally adopted Digital Strategy by December 2023	N/A – New Measure	100%
Number of Youth Work Sessions Delivered School / Community / Digital	N/A	390 / 400 /100
Number of learners	N/A – New Measure	TBC
Number of sessions	N/A – New Measure	TBC

Priority: Education and Skills

Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Learning Environments	Creating aspirational and flexible learning environments	Chief Officer Education and Youth AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Continuing construction of the 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa – by March 2024
- Commence construction of the Drury CP refurbishment and extension - by March 2024
- Complete construction of the Penyffordd CP extension - by March 2024
- Scheduling Council approval to progress Wales Government’s Band B Sustainable Communities projects within the Learning Investment Programme - by March 2024
- Commence design development options for a new Welsh medium primary school for Buckley / Mynydd Isa area - by March 2024.
- Determine a strategy for school modernisation within the Saltney area - by March 2024
- Progressing the development of a new premises plan for the North-East Wales Archive - by March 2024
- Provide Duke of Edinburgh Award training opportunities for young people in Alternative Provision, schools and community groups (subject to external grant funding) – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- EY13 - Inability to fully deliver on Welsh Government Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment Programme due to financial, workforce and contractor implications

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of young people engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme	50	10

Priority: Education and Skills

Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Learning Community Networks	Supporting our learning communities to engage and achieve through extensive partnership working unpinned by common safeguarding practices	Chief Officer Education and Youth AURA

Achievement Actions:

- Continuing to consolidate the joint working between Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council through the Northeast Wales Archive to provide a sustainable and resilient service - by March 2024
- Aura - Delivery of the Adult Community Learning (ACL) programme – By March 2024

Associated Risks:

- EY24 - Inability to meet national archive accreditation standards due to poor quality of the accommodation
- EY06 - Insufficient funding to deliver new archive premises

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of ACL courses available to the public	210 sessions 69 learners	230 sessions 450 learners

Priority: Education and Skills

Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Specialist Educational Provision	Extending local capacity to support learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	Chief Officer Education and Youth
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing year two and commence implementation of year three of the revised legislation for the Additional Learning Needs - by March 2024 • Commence roll out of the strategic decisions for Additional Learning Needs provision to increase the level of in-house provision and reduce the reliance on out of county provision - by March 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BY 15 - Non-compliance with the Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal (ALNET) Act 2018 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
None identified	N/A	N/A

Priority: Education and Skills

Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP)	Working with schools and partners to support the Welsh Government's strategy to enable one million Welsh speakers by 2050	Chief Officer Education and Youth

Achievement Actions:

- Complete the strategic actions for Year 1 of the WESP 5-year action plan - by September 2023
- Extending the range of youth services delivered bilingually to encourage young people to retain and use their Welsh language skills into early adulthood - by March 2024
- Reviewing Welsh medium resource provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs - by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- BY 17 - Failure to meet the statutory targets in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan due to insufficient parental take up of Welsh medium education

Achievement Measures ⁶	Baseline Data (2021/22)	Sept 2022 / Aug 2023 Target
Number of pupils in year 1 in Welsh medium education	120	130
Number of Year 11 pupils studying Welsh ⁷	102	103

⁶ Achievement Measures for pupils in year 1 and year 11 will be for the academic year 22/23 - reported in October 2023

⁷ Baseline and targets reflect the school cohorts for those year groups already in School. The baseline is last year's year 11 cohort size, and the target is this year's year 11 cohort size.

Priority: Education and Skills

Well-being Objective: Enabling and supporting learning communities

What we will do:

Sub Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Well-being	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	Chief Officer Education and Youth

Achievement Actions:

- Embedding a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Well-being in all Flintshire schools - by March 2024
- Improving awareness of trauma informed practice with schools and Education and Youth employees - by March 2024
- Running a referral programme for children and young people with ACEs or a disability and their families to provide low cost / no cost physical activity opportunities to improve overall health and well-being (subject to Action for Children funding) – by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- OY05 - Insufficient financial resources to support children and young people's emotional health

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
All schools to have a Whole School Approach to Emotional Health and Well-being	N/A – New Measure	100%
Number of referrals received, and number of referrals engaged (ACE)	N/A – New Measure	50 Young People 100 Young People with Disabilities

Priority: A Well Managed Council

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
People	Recruit, retain, develop and support the well-being of our employees to enable high quality service delivery	Chief Executive

Achievement Actions:

- Providing a workforce planning framework for use across the organisation – by September 2023
- Implementing a compliant and sustainable new pay model - by October 2023
- Maintaining competitive pay and reward, and terms and conditions of employment – by March 2028 (On-going)
- Recruiting sufficient permanent high-quality staff with suitable qualifications and experience - by March 2028 (On-going)
- Retaining existing employees by supporting them to carry out their roles effectively, and by ensuring that our total offer for new and existing employees is competitive within the marketplace – by March 2028 (On-going)
- Reducing the use of agency workers – by March 2028 (On-going)
- Promoting the Council's Employee Assistance Programme to increase usage – by March 2028 (On-going)
- Increasing the level of Welsh Language across the organisation – by March 2028 (On-going)

Associated Risks:

- Volatility and change in the employment market which impacts on successful recruitment to vacancies
- Increase in workforce turnover due to employees making personal life choices
- Impact on recruitment and retention if new pay model is unaffordable or implementation is delayed
- Increase in demand for Occupational Health and supplementary services
- Increased numbers of mental health related absences
- Impact of deferred medical events which affects the ability of employees returning to work within previously agreed timescales

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of working days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employees lost due to sickness absence	11.87	2.25 (Quarter) 9.00 (Cumulative)
Percentage of apprenticeships which result in a positive outcome	95	90

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Percentage of permanent employees who leave within first year of employment	1.78	1
Percentage of employees who have completed all of the mandatory modules	1.46	100
Number of employees trained on Mental Health First Aid across the organisation (Increase)	106	150
Number of Mental Health First Aid Champions across the organisation (Increase)	0	30
To increase usage of the Council's Employee Assistance Programme	3.54	5
Percentage of employees undertaking Welsh Language Training (Increase)	1.18	5

Priority: A Well Managed Council

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Anti-Racist and Anti-Discriminatory Council	Welsh Government Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan and public sector equality duties	Chief Executive

Achievement Actions:

- Publish the Workforce Information report to meet our statutory public sector equality duties – by November 2023
- Publish the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report to meet our statutory public sector duties and reduce unequal outcomes for people with protected characteristics – by November 2023
- Completing a Portfolio annual self-assessment against the Welsh Language Standards and implement action plan to improve – by December 2023
- Develop and implement an Action Plan to meet Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan – by September 2024

Associated Risks:

- Non-compliance with statutory duties under Equality and Welsh language legislation

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Strategic Equality Action Plan in place and actions achieved	79%	100%
Workforce Information Report published	0%	100%
Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report published	100%	100%
Portfolio self-assessments against the Welsh Language Standards completed and Action Plans achieved	N/A – New Measure	100%

Priority: A Well Managed Council

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Financial Resilience	Ensuring that the Council is sustainable over the medium to longer term	Chief Executive
<p>Achievement Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the funding needs of the Council over the medium term are met through financial planning – by March 2024 Ensuring robust monitoring arrangements are in place for revenue and capital – by March 2024 Ensuring that an adequate level of reserves is maintained by the Council – by March 2024 Ensure robust processes exist for the management and recovery of debt including Council Tax and rent – by March 2024 		
<p>Associated Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CF01 - Insufficient reserves impact on the financial resilience of the Council CF02 - Impact on the stability of the Medium-Term Financial Plan of negative Welsh Government Local Government Settlements from 2024/25 due to change to fiscal policy CF03 - Increase in costs from suppliers for goods and services due to high inflation and economic factors CF04 - Impact of higher than budgeted National Pay awards on the financial resilience of the Council CF05 - Increase in costs from energy suppliers due to demand, availability of demand and economic factors CF06 - Increase in demand for services including Social Care Sector, Out of County Placements etc. CF07 - Increased levels of Debt recovered from Council Tax and Rents as a result of increased costs for residents CF08 - Increase in interest rate costs over and above budget CF09 - Appetite of Council to borrow to fund capital schemes 		
Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
None identified	N/A	N/A

Priority: A Well Managed Council

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Flintshire Assets	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	Chief Executive

Achievement Actions:

- Monitor Council progress against the Corporate Asset Management Plan – by March 2028 (On-going)
- County Hall Master Plan - Form/Agree Strategy – by March 2028 (On-going)
 - Review and refresh the Corporate Asset Management Plan – Annually
 - Form and agree an options appraisal/strategy for County Hall Master Plan – by March 2024
 - Form and agree Office Accommodation Strategy – by April 2024
 - Commercial Estate Rent Review – by April 2024
 - Review of Industrial Estate Strategy (Area by Area) – by April 2025

Associated Risks:

- Commercial estate – changes in EPC legislation and compliance may affect rental ability
- Time and resource to conduct rent review
- Financial - investment required and income generation potential for commercial and industrial estate

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Review of Industrial Estate Strategy: To review the current use and develop plans which outline how the land/ property use can be optimized on an estate-by-estate basis. To increase energy efficiency within our retained units to meet EPC grade C by 2027 and Grade B by 2030	N/A	70%
Commercial rent review completed: To increase rental income in line with prevailing market rents to make sure that rental income is optimised. To ensure rental consistency within estates.	N/A	100%

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
County Hall Master Plan options appraisal/strategy: To develop a plan which will provide the blueprint for the redevelopment of County Hall site.	N/A	50%

Priority: A Well Managed Council

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Digital	Modernising our services so that they are designed around user needs and are simple, secure and convenient	Chief Officer Governance

Achievement Actions:

- Continue to provide a corporate Contact Centre for handling telephone calls to the Council – by March 2026
- Continue to administer a complaints procedure for customers to provide feedback on their experience with the Council – by March 2026
- Continue to promote My Account as an access channel to access the Council and its services – by March 2026
- Provide access to Council services on the internet in a responsive way (information can be accessed using different devices) – by March 2026

Associated Risks:

- Customers unable to access the Council by telephone
- Failure to collect feedback to improve services now and in the future
- People will not be able to access Council services online

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
80% of telephone calls to the corporate Contact Centre answered	82	80
70% of Step 1 complaints against Council services are dealt with within 10 working days	55	70
The number of My Account subscriptions	22,902	37,268
The number of unique website views	552,990	1,000,000
The number of eforms submitted to the Council	93,742	26,500

Priority: A Well Managed Council

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

What we will do:

Sub-Priority	Definition	Lead Officer (s)
Partnerships	Working collaboratively with partners across the private, public, voluntary and community sectors to achieve shared goals and priorities	Chief Executive

Achievement Actions:

- Working with public sector partners, develop and publish a local Well-being Plan for 2023-28 setting out the local well-being objectives and how the Public Services Board, including the Council, aims to achieve them – by May 2023
- Deliver three engagement events to encourage other organisations to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant, which contribute to Flintshire County Council being re-accredited with the Defence Employers Recognition Scheme Gold Award in 2024 – by March 2024
- Review arrangements with alternative delivery model partners to ensure the ongoing delivery of shared outcomes, priorities and services - by March 2024

Associated Risks:

- Non-compliance with The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - well-being duty, production and publication of Well-being Plan and Annual Progress Report

Achievement Measures	Baseline Data (2021/22)	2023/24 Target
Number of engagement events held to encourage sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant	N/A – New Measure	3
Number of organisations who sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant	N/A – New Measure	3
Production and publication of an Annual Report which reports on progress to achieve the well-being objectives contained within the local Well-being Plan 2023-28	1 ⁸	0 – 2023/24 1 – 2024/25

⁸ 2021-22 Annual Report based on the objectives within the Well-being Plan 2021-23



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Corporate Self-Assessment 2021-22
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Assurance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 sets out a duty to report on performance and states 'A council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements.'

The duty came fully into effect in April 2022 and work has taken place to carry out the organisations first Corporate Self-Assessment. There is no prescribed model for how to undertake a self-assessment. We developed a three-stage process having drawn on our experience and in consultation with national advisors:

Stage one - 'desk-based' analysis and evaluation.

Stage two - opinion sourcing, consultation and engagement.

Stage three - final published assessment and improvement plan.

As an organisation, the results of the Corporate Self-Assessment has identified that there is good evidence of performance against the assessment, scored between good and best practice in 79% of the questions asked. In 15% of the questions, it was identified that there was good / more evidence required and in 6% there was a need for further action.

The theme / question scored as 'very best practice' identified in the self-assessment relates to:

- **Theme F – Partnership Working**

Question: Does the Council engagement in local, regional, and national partnerships and collaborations (F24).

Two Themes / Three questions scored as 'having evidence but further action needed' related to:

- **Theme B – Resource Planning and Management**
Question: Are these strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future? (B11)
- **Theme G – Customer and Community Engagement**
Question: Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community engagement in place? (G27)
Question: Does the Council use Customer Service feedback effectively in reviewing performance and shaping services? (G28)


RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To accept and approve the findings of the Corporate Self-Assessment 21/22
2	To support and approve the opportunities for improvement identified in Corporate Self-Assessment 21/22

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT 2021/22
1.01	The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 sets out a duty to report on performance and states 'A Council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements.' This document aims to achieve the duty set out above for the Act and for the use by the Council.
1.02	Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Council must put in place a system of corporate self-assessment to review the extent to which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) it is exercising its functions effectively, b) it is using its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively, and c) its governance is effective for securing the matters set out in paragraphs (a) and (b).
1.03	The Self-Assessment model focuses on eight themes and considers a set of core questions within each of these themes outlined further in this document. As with all models there will inevitably be overlaps across themes, however, the themes are sufficiently defined and demarked to avoid too much overlapping or duplication. <p>The Self-Assessment Model follows three stages:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stage One - 'desk-based' analysis and evaluation Stage Two - opinion sourcing, consultation and</p>

	Stage Three - final published assessment and improvement plan
1.04	A Project Board was established comprising of a Project Board Chair, a senior responsible officer and officers from across portfolios that are either currently Performance Leads or officers who were part of the Governance Recovery Group during the Council's response phase to the pandemic. Each of the officers who sit on the Project Board are considered to have the ability to conceptualise new models and new ways of working, have an understanding of their service whilst having sufficient seniority within the Council to take the Self-Assessment forward.
1.05	<p>Stage one of the self-assessment was against the themes below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A - Vision, Strategy and Performance • B - Resource Planning and Management • C - Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values • D - Organisational Leadership and Operating Models • E - Innovation and Change Management • F - Partnership Working • G - Customer and Community Engagement • H - Risk Management and Business Continuity
1.06	<p>We drew upon the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) model of evaluation and scoring and evidence capturing as this model is known to be effective. The model is a useful platform for challenging and moderating variations in opinion through facilitated review. The scoring criteria is listed below:</p> <p>Score 5 – Very best practice Score 4 – Good evidence Score 3 – Evidence but further action required Score 2 – Some evidence but lacking in key areas Score 1 – No evidence</p>
1.07	<p>Stage two of the self-assessment sets out the conclusions from the analysis and evaluation of stage one. This was carried out by the project board using peers from other portfolios to keep the assessment focused and to give consistency of check and challenge.</p> <p>During Stage Two the results of the assessment were considered, challenged and evaluated at a specially convened Senior Leadership Academi. A separate consultation process was not undertaken for this year. The final results of the self-assessment are detailed in the graph below:</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Corporate Self-Assessment Results 2021/22</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Score 5 - Very best practice ■ Score 4/5 Good evidence, almost best practice ■ Score 4 - Good evidence ■ Score 3/4 Good evidence, could enhance further ■ Score 3 - Evidence but further action required
1.08	<p>Stage three is being presented here which includes a published assessment and improvement plan which will be led by the Cabinet and run through the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CROSC) and Governance and Audit Committee for input and assurance in March 2023.</p>
1.09	<p>During consultation with Informal Cabinet, CROSC and Governance and Audit Committee, feedback and suggestions were made by both CROSC and the Governance and Audit Committee. Where relevant for this report, Appendix A has been updated to reflect the suggestions made.</p> <p>Improvements to the process were also suggested following the pilot of the Corporate Self-Assessment for 2021/22. These have been included within the programme of work for 2022/23 and covers an improved report format, consultation with the workforce, Trade Union representatives and members.</p>
1.10	<p>Overall based on the range of questions asked against the eight Themes it is considered that the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Does exercise its functions effectively. b) Uses its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively; and c) Has effective governance for securing the matters set out in paragraphs (a & b) <p>This is consistent with the Council Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Performance Report for the year 2021/22.</p> <p>The Self-Assessment has identified two themes / three questions which scored a 3 as 'having evidence but further action needed'. There are always areas where we strive for improvement and the following list of opportunities have been identified following engagement which it is felt can be achieved in the short term and have some real benefits in doing so. This relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme B – Resource Planning and Management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: Are these strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future? (B11) • Theme G – Customer and Community Engagement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community engagement in place? (G27) • Question: Does the Council use Customer Service feedback effectively in reviewing performance and shaping services? (G28) <p>The improvement plan can be found in Appendix A.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Resource implications were felt as this was the first time of carrying out the Corporate Self-Assessment. However now the work has been completed the implications in the future will be less.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Chief Executive, Chief Officers, and Senior Officers (Senior Leadership Academi) have all been consulted on the Corporate Self-Assessment. Cabinet now has the opportunity to consider and review the content of the Corporate Self-Assessment and Improvement Plan. The report and improvement plan was also reported to Corporate Resource Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 th March 2023 and Governance and Audit Committee in on 22 nd March 2023.

4.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Integrated Impact Assessments and Risk Management feed the Corporate Self-Assessment and are assessed within the themes and questions.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A: Corporate Self-Assessment 2021/22

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Council Plan 2021/22 Council Plan Monitoring Reports 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Lisa Brownbill, Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager Telephone: 01352 702231 E-mail: lisa.brownbill@flintshire.gov.uk

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

2021/22

Flintshire County Council
Corporate Self-Assessment

Final

What is the purpose of this document?

This document details the Council’s Corporate Self-Assessment and identifies areas of best practise and areas for further improvement. The document explains:

Section	Content	Page
1.	What the Corporate Self-Assessment is	2
2.	Process of review and timeframe	3
3.	Scoring Criteria	3
4.	Summary of the Effectiveness of the Council’s Corporate Self-Assessment	4
5.	Key themes of the Corporate Self-Assessment:	5
	Theme A – Vision, Strategy and Performance	6
	Theme B – Resource Planning and Management	7
	Theme C – Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values	8
	Theme D – Organisational Leadership and Operating Models	9
	Theme E – Innovation and Change Management	10
	Theme F – Partnership Working	11
	Theme G – Customer and Community Engagement	12
	Theme H – Risk Management and Business Continuity	13
6.	Conclusion and Opportunities for Improvement	14
7.	Certification	16

1. What is the Corporate Self-Assessment?

The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 sets out a duty to report on performance and states 'A council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements.' This document aims to achieve the duty set out above for the act and for the use by the Council.

The Corporate Self-Assessment is a comprehensive assessment of the corporate organisation and not a detailed assessment of the performance of each service portfolio, the assessment themes are designed in this way.

The self-assessment is meant to provide a platform for assurance and self-improvement and would lead to an improvement plan for the organisation.

The Self-Assessment model focused on eight themes and considered a number of core questions within each of these themes outlined further in this document. As with all models there will inevitably be overlaps across themes however, the themes are sufficiently defined and demarked to avoid too much overlapping or duplication.

The Self-Assessment Model followed three stages:

- **Stage One** - 'desk-based' analysis and evaluation of available documents and evidence and some internal triangulation through review and moderation
- **Stage Two** - opinion sourcing, consultation and engagement and 'triangulation'
- **Stage Three** - production of a formal and final published assessment and improvement plan which will be led by the Cabinet and run through both the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Governance and Audit Committee for input and assurance.

The first stage was more evidential e.g., the presence of strategies and evaluative reports e.g. regulatory reports, the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), the Annual Performance Report. The second stage, more qualitative whilst the third stage is the closing stage involving the production and publication of a formal and final assessment and action plan.

2. Process of Review and Timeframe

A timeframe to complete each of the three stages of the Corporate Self-Assessment was identified as follows:

Stage	Task	Timeline
One	Desk-based' analysis and evaluation of available documents and evidence and some internal triangulation through review and moderation	September 2021
Two	Opinion sourcing, consultation and engagement and 'triangulation'	January 2022
Three	Closing stage, production of a formal and final published assessment and action plan. Led by the Cabinet and run through both the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Governance and Audit Committee for input and assurance	March 2023

Page 104
 A Project Board was established comprising of a Project Board Chair, a senior responsible officer, and officers from across portfolios that were either currently Performance Leads or officers who were part of the Governance Recovery Group during the Council's response phase to the pandemic. Each of the officers who sat on the Project Board were considered to have the ability to conceptualise new models and new ways of working, understand their portfolio services whilst having sufficient seniority within the Council to take the Self-Assessment forward.

We drew upon the Council's AGS model of evaluation and scoring and evidence capturing as this model was known to be effective. The model was a useful platform for challenging and moderating variations in opinion through facilitated review.

A report was shared at Governance and Audit Committee in July 2021 on the development of the Self-Assessment model, the proposed model for the first corporate self-assessment was endorsed.

The results of the Stage One were independently examined by Internal Audit and shared at a Senior Leadership Academi where the results were considered, challenged, and evaluated further. Based on the findings within the report, a consultation process was not undertaken for this year.

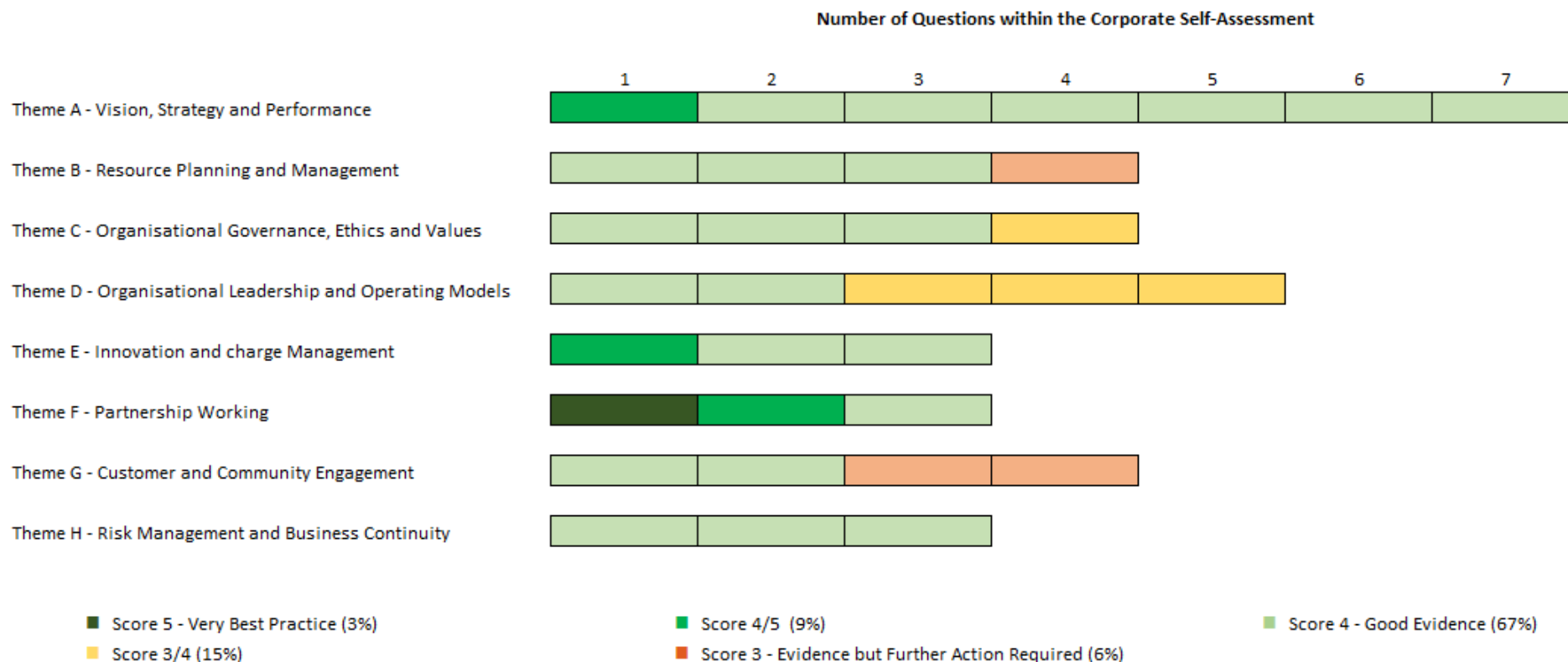
3. Scoring Criteria:

Score 5 – Very best practice,
Score 2 – Some evidence but lacking in key areas,

Score 4 – Good evidence,
Score 1 – No evidence

Score 3 – Evidence but further action required,

4. Summary of the Effectiveness of the Council’s Corporate Self-Assessment



Areas of Very Best Practice:

- (F24) - Council engagement in local, regional and national partnerships and collaborations

Further Action Required:

- (B11) - Strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future
- (G27, G28) - Comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community engagement in place

5. Key themes of the Corporate Self-Assessment

The eight key themes of the Corporate Self-Assessment are listed below:

Theme A	Vision, Strategy and Performance
Theme B	Resource Planning and Management
Theme C	Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values
Theme D	Organisational Leadership and Operating Models
Theme E	Innovation and Change Management
Theme F	Partnership Working
Theme G	Customer and Community Engagement
Theme H	Risk Management and Business Continuity

Against these themes, the Council reviewed whether:

- It was exercising its functions effectively
- It was using its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively
- Governance was effective for securing the above.

Theme A – Vision, Strategy and Performance

Questions		How we do this / How we achieve this
A1	Does the Council have a set of corporate and service strategies in place which set out vision and ambition?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan 2021-22 which sets out the Council’s vision and ambition for the year. • A set of corporate and service strategies were in place which set out the Council’s vision and ambition e.g. the Digital Strategy, MTFs and the Capital Strategy, etc.
A2	Are these strategies locked-in to national and regional Government strategy, and collaborative planning with key partners?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan priorities were clearly defined and locked into national and regional priorities and strategies. • The Council Plan 2021-22 identified clear linkages to national and regional policies/strategies which were captured in the document.
A3	Are these strategies being followed and are they achieving their aims and objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan was reported at Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees for six monthly performance monitoring reviews. • The MTFs and Capital strategy were both updated annually alongside the Council’s budget process. • Service Strategies were reviewed within their set timeframes (set timeframes varied between each of the strategies). • Reports were provided to the relevant committees stating whether strategies were meeting their agreed aims and objectives.
A4	Are these strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan had an annual refresh in 2021/22 to ensure appropriateness. Engagement was conducted with all members of the Council and all Officers in several different ways which included committee meetings and management meetings.
A5	Are these strategies supported by portfolio service business plans which are consistent with the overall aims and objectives of the Council?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the year each Portfolio had recovery business plans in place which supported the Council Priorities set in the Council Plan. These replaced business plans which in the past had aligned with the Council Plan. • Capital schemes included within the Capital Programme were selected based on priorities within the Council Plan and Portfolio Business Plans.
A6	Are these portfolio service plans being followed and are they achieving their aims, objectives, and performance targets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Performance was tracked through Performance measures identified at the initial stage of the Pandemic. These were reported on a six-monthly basis to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
A7	Is there effective democratic oversight of portfolio service direction and performance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance reporting cycles that we had in place ensured that we had robust assurance and scrutiny in place. • Performance reports were approved by Cabinet and shared at relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Theme B – Resource Planning and Management

Questions		How we do this/how we achieve this
B8	Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained strategies for workforce, finance, procurement, and assets in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council had a number of comprehensive and maintained strategies in place which included; People Strategy, MTFS, Housing Asset Management Strategy, Code of Corporate Governance, Procurement Strategy, Asset Strategy and a Capital Strategy.
B9	Are these strategies achieving their aims and objectives at a corporate level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These strategies act as a framework within the Council and underpin all activities operate. Updates were provided to Cabinet and/or Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the progress of the strategies.
B10	Are these strategies achieving their aims and objectives at a portfolio level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These strategies act as a framework within the Council and underpin all activities operate. Updates were provided to Cabinet and/or Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the progress of the strategies.
B11	Are these strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These strategies act as a framework within the Council and underpin all activities operate. The Council's strategies were reviewed and updated annually. Reports were provided to the relevant Committees on the progress of these strategies. However, there were some areas between Portfolios and Corporate that could be improved. This included the timeliness of reviewing and monitoring key strategies and plans which sit below the Council Plan.

Page 108

Areas identified for Further Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were some areas between Portfolios and Corporate that could be improved. This included the timeliness of reviewing and monitoring key strategies and plans which sit below the Council Plan (B11).

Theme C – Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values

Page 109

Questions	How we do this/how we achieve this
<p>C12 Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained frameworks and codes in place for governance, ethics and values?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council’s Constitution, a comprehensive document, was reviewed and maintained during 2021-22. A ‘user friendly’ guide to the Constitution is being developed. • The Council’s Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed and updated by the Corporate Governance Working Group which comprised of senior officers from the relevant portfolios. Their assessments were subject to challenge by statutory officers. • IA Report (ethics) - We ensured that the seven principles of public life were central to decision making. • Code of Conduct - Good conduct was of paramount importance and adherence to the code was ensured by the Council having a robust Standards Committee, the membership of which was refreshed through stringent recruitment of new lay members. • Suite of Policies and Procedures – The Council’s policies and procedures must be kept relevant and focused, and they were updated as required. • We upheld Principle A of our Corporate Governance Framework, which requires us to behave with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law. Our Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was subject to Member challenge, and we plan greater Member involvement in preparing the Annual Governance Statement for 2022.
<p>C13 How well are these frameworks and codes applied and observed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AGS is a self-assessment of our Code of Corporate Governance based on the evidence and knowledge we have within the organisation and was reviewed by Audit Wales.
<p>C14 Is the application of ethics and values evident in the way the Council appraises options and makes decisions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong corporate values are evidenced in the continued delivery of discretionary services/decisions made for the benefit of our residents despite financial pressures to cut such services.
<p>C15 Does the Council work productively with its external regulators and demonstrate sound compliance?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust ethical framework was in place - mapped through to monitoring and reporting structures. • The ethical framework was visible in the Constitution and supporting policies and protocols. • The Council had all policies and protocols expected of a forward-thinking council.

Theme D – Organisational Leadership and Operating Models

Question	How we do this/how we achieve this
D16 Is there strong and effective political leadership?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AGS, Principle A evidence identified a number of documents which set out Codes of Conduct along with the Code of Corporate Governance and also set out a standard to achieve. During 2021/22 the Council had a minority Labour administration. The Council Leader had two deputies, who were, responsible for Governance and Partnerships. The leader of the largest opposition group was the leader of the Independent Alliance. The emphasis was on joint working: regular Group leaders’ meetings were held between the leaders of each of the Council’s political groups and attended by the statutory officers (Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, Chief Officer (Governance)/Monitoring Officer, Corporate Finance Manager/Section 151 Officer and Head of Democratic Services).
D17 Is there strong and effective professional leadership?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AGS Principle A evidence identified a number of documents which set out Codes of Conduct along with the Code of Corporate Governance which also sets out a standard to achieve. Strong and professional leadership was provided through the Chief Officer Team (COT) and the portfolio Department Management Teams, supported by the senior Leadership Academy, comprising of Chief Officers and their portfolio Service Managers.
D18 Does the Council have an adopted organisational operating model and a preferred working culture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council’s ‘flat structure’ operating model was adapted in 2014, following an extensive review. The original structure of Chief Executive and nine Chief Officers moved to one of a Chief Executive and six Chief Officers.
D19 How effective is the operating model?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The structure was effective, and this was demonstrated by the performance of the organisation at corporate performance level and the performance across a number of various projects in which the different areas worked in a collaborative way.
D20 Is it evident that the preferred working culture is pre-dominant and effective?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The working culture was collegiate with officers from different portfolios working together on projects.

Page 110

Theme E – Innovation and Change Management

Question		How we do this/how we achieve this
E21	Does the Council have a proven appetite for innovation and change management?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council Plan was an ambitious document and has been for a number of years. Target dates, measures and actions were stretched/ambitious but realistic in nature. Within the Council Plan there were a number of examples that demonstrated innovation and change management. Given a one year Council Plan has been in place, more often milestones were due at the year end and rolled over into the new Council Plan. To address this a 5 year Council Plan will be used going forward.
E22	How well has the Council implemented its chosen innovation and change programmes and projects against time, budget, transition and performance objectives and targets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance of the Joint Social Value Procurement Strategy demonstrated progress made against the strategy.
E23	How well does the Council compare to its peers in being an innovator?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Wales carried out a Review of local authorities during the pandemic and the Council was reviewed in a number of areas for innovation and change management to ways of working, collaborations, partnership working, technological development – Audit Wales Review.

Theme F – Partnership Working

Question		How we do this/how we achieve this
F24	Does the council engage well in local, regional, and national partnerships and collaborations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a wide amount of evidence throughout a number of documents which demonstrated engagement locally, regionally and nationally. Examples of these documents included the Public Services Board - Wellbeing Plan, Joint Public Service Board Plan, Council Plan 2021/22, AGS - Principle B, Code of Corporate Governance and Regional Emergency Planning.
F25	Do the partnerships and collaborations for which the council is (co) responsible/relies upon have sound and effective governance arrangements in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear terms of reference were agreed where necessary to ensure clarity of the governance arrangements. For example, the Public Service Board Terms of Reference set out the Governance arrangements for the Board.
F26	How well do the key partnerships and collaborations for which the council is responsible/relies upon perform against their aims and objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance of key partnerships and collaboration was strong, an example of this was the performance of Aura Leisure and Libraries against the business plan it set.

Page 112

What has worked well during 2021/22 (Area of Best Practice)

- Engagement in local, regional, and national partnerships and collaborations (F24)

Theme G – Customer and Community Engagement

Question	How we do this/how we achieve this
G27 Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community engagement in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council had a corporate strategy for delivery of Customer Services for, Face to Face, Telephone and Online. Core principles for public engagement and consultation were adopted in 2012 to underpin the Welsh National Principles for Public Engagement.
G28 Does the Council use customer and community feedback effectively in reviewing performance and shaping services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services engaged with customers and communities to gain feedback on performance and drive improvements to help shape services.
G29 How well does the Council perform in meeting its customer services standards and targets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance against Corporate Complaints was monitored and reported to Cabinet, Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Governance and Audit Committee as well as annually to the PSOW annual letter and half yearly update. The Chief Officers Team received monthly performance reports.
G30 How well does the Council engage with stakeholders in framing policy and in the making of key service policy decisions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with key stakeholders such as partners had been identified in the AGS as working well. There was strong evidence of partnership working, relationship management and formal and informal partnerships.

Page 143

Areas identified for Further Improvement

- The Core Principles for public engagement and consultation document is nearly 10 years old and needs review (G27)
- There was no forward work programme for corporate engagement activity which leaves a disjunction between corporate and portfolio activity (G27)
- Lack of understanding across all portfolios of what consultation/engagement is taking place with who, when and why (G27)
- Insufficient understanding of who our range of stakeholders were (G27) & (G28)

Theme H – Risk Management and Business Continuity

Question	How we do this/how we achieve this
H31 Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained strategies for risk management and business continuity in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk management had a review in early 2020, this assisted greatly in managing the Council through the pandemic and ensuring good risk management was embedded. • Risk Registers for each portfolio were produced and for Recovery areas of the organisation at a corporate level.
H32 Have these strategies proved effective in real-time and/or test scenario settings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly developed Risk Management User Guide was rolled out during the early response phase of the Pandemic. Timelines were accelerated and training implemented. Over two months risk registers for each portfolio were developed together with a corporate recovery risk register. These risk registers continued to be managed and maintained throughout 2021/22.
H33 Are these strategies dynamic in adapting to change and ensuring resilience for the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Risk Management User Guide was reviewed and shared with Governance and Audit Committee for review and agreement of the framework. Development takes place yearly to ensure the latest trends and best practice is being upheld.

6. Conclusion and Opportunities for Improvement

The Project Board engaged with all who took part in the Self-Assessment. Based on the range of questions asked against the eight Themes it is considered that the Council:

- a) Does exercise its functions effectively,
- b) Uses its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively, and
- c) Governance is effective for securing the matters set out in points (a) and (b)

This is consistent with the Council Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Performance Report for the year 2021/22. There are always areas where we strive for improvement and the following list of opportunities has been identified following engagement which is felt can be achieved in the short term and have some real benefits in doing so.

Opportunity for improvement	Target Completion Date	Theme which it contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Progress Comment
Forward work programme of consultation/engagement activity across all portfolios to be generated and shared on the web (G27)	March 2024	G - Customer and Community Engagement	Rebecca Jones Gill Watkins	Amber	A programme of consultation and engagement activity across the Council is to be developed based on the input from all portfolios. The outcome of this will be published on our website.

Page 115

Opportunity for improvement	Target Completion Date	Theme which it contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Progress Comment
1) The creation of a consultation and engagement database to be used by all services to register their consultation and engagement activity (G27) 2) The development of a consultation and engagement portal on Flintshire’s website to provide a central resource for closed, current and future consultations/engagements undertaken by the Council (G27) 3) The creation of a consultation and engagement stakeholder database to hold the details of a wide range of network information to ensure that when engaging we are reaching as far and as wide as possible including with the protected characteristic groups (G27) (G28)	March 2025	G - Customer and Community Engagement	Rebecca Jones Gill Watkins	Amber	The Digital Strategy Board rejected a business case to develop a local solution owing to competing priorities and capacity within IT. A third-party solution was due to be procured but a shift in budget priorities resulted in a pressure bid being withdrawn as non-essential spend. The opportunities are long term ambitions subject to funding and/or capacity to develop our own solution.
Review the national position in relation to the National Principles and their standing across Wales - review and reaffirm our commitment depending on outcome of research (G27)	September 2023	G - Customer and Community Engagement	Rebecca Jones	Green	Refreshed National Principles have recently been released by WLGA (August 2022) and these will be communicated to the workforce. They have been updated on our website.
Look at workforce strategies to allow for more flexibility in resource planning and responding to recruitment challenges (B11)	January 2023 - Complete October 2023	B - Resource Planning and Management	Chief Officer Team	Green	Revised vacancy management approval process in place to ensure critical posts are prioritised for recruitment. Recruitment/retention are two of the main themes in the new people strategy (currently in development) and the new People priority in the Council Plan. Initiatives include a new workforce planning framework.

7. Certification

The Corporate Self-Assessment undertaken provides a comprehensive assessment of the organisation and provides a platform of assurance.

Opportunities to improve have been identified through this review. We pledge our commitment to addressing these issues over the coming year and we will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed on behalf of Flintshire County Council

Neal Cockerton – Chief Executive

Cllr. Ian B Roberts – Leader of the Council

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April, 2023
Report Subject	2022/23 In-Year Budget Management – Budget Monitoring Report Month 11
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This monthly report provides the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2022/23 and presents the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 11.

Council Fund

- An operating surplus of (£2.106m) (excluding the impact of the pay award which has been met by reserves), which is a favourable movement of (£1.413m) from the figure of (£0.693m) reported at Month 10.
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 of £8.364m.

Housing Revenue Account

- Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £2.839m higher than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31st March, 2023 of £3.635m

We have continued to claim payments totalling £4.8m in 2022/23 for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments and Winter Fuel Payments within their eligible periods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2022/23 budget.
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2	To approve the carry forward requests included in Appendix 6
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23
1.01	<p>Council Fund Projected Position</p> <p>The projected year end position as at Month 11 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operating surplus of (£2.106m) (excluding the impact of the pay award which has been met by reserves), which is a favourable movement of (£1.413m) from the figure of (£0.693m) reported at Month 10. • A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2023 of £8.364m. <p>To assist with managing risks and maximising the financial resources available to the Council, a review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process has continued throughout the year.</p>
1.02	We have continued to claim payments totalling £5.3m in 2022/23 for Self-isolation and Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement, along with Free School Meals direct payments and Winter Fuel Payments within their eligible periods.

1.03

Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio

The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:

Portfolio/Service Area	Approved Budget	Projected Outturn	In-Year Over / (Under) spend
	£m	£m	£m
Social Services	79.985	80.006	0.021
Out of County Placements	15.101	15.772	0.671
Education & Youth (Non Schools)	10.323	9.935	(0.388)
Schools	108.376	108.376	0.000
Streetscene & Transportation	39.931	41.050	1.120
Planning, Environment & Economy	7.222	6.802	(0.419)
People & Resources	4.670	4.610	(0.060)
Governance	11.281	10.841	(0.440)
Strategic Programmes	6.116	6.185	0.069
Assets	1.034	0.780	(0.255)
Housing & Communities	14.964	14.973	0.009
Chief Executive	1.692	1.599	(0.093)
Central & Corporate Finance	25.987	23.646	(2.341)
Total	326.682	324.576	(2.106)

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 10

1.05

Social Services (£0.391m)

The net favourable movement comprises:

Older People:

- Localities £0.055 - Residential care costs have increased by £0.132m due to demand. Domiciliary care costs have reduced by £0.058m and workforce costs have decreased by £0.025m due to vacancies. The remaining balance of £0.006m is due to minor variances.
- Resources & Regulated Services (£0.060m) – Extra Care service costs have reduced by (£0.079m) due to an additional (£0.047m) of Regional Integration Fund (RIF) funding and a reduction in workforce and supplies costs of £0.032m. There were minor adverse variances of £0.012m for day centres and £0.009m for homecare.

	<p>Adults of Working Age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources & Regulated Services (£0.136m) – This is the net change for Disability Services care package costs. There has been recoupment of surpluses on Direct Payment accounts of £0.080m and additional RIF allocation of £0.067m Professional & Administrative Support (£0.027m) – Vacancy savings have increased due to posts not being filled. Supporting People (£0.043m) – A further allocation from Supporting People funding has been received Residential Placements (£0.066m) – Net reduction on care package costs supporting people with mental ill health. Professional Support (£0.040m) – An additional £0.025m contribution towards a post has been received from Health (BCUHB). <p>Children’s Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal and Third Party (£0.034m) - Children and Young People RIF slippage has been allocated against Direct Payments. Residential Placements (£0.041m) –Welsh Government grant slippage has been allocated against a Flintshire Family Project contract. Professional Support (£0.063m) - Projected adoption costs are unlikely to be incurred this financial year due to length of time for these to be completed. In addition, there has been some additional grant funding allocated to previously reported costs. <p>Safeguarding & Commissioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Systems & Financial Assessments £0.097m – Additional software costs for the first two payments of a new Social Services finance system plus project management costs. Safeguarding Unit £0.025m – This is the net result of a number of minor variances within this service for example an increase in workforce costs of £0.009m and a £0.005m increase in liberty safeguard assessment fees. Good Health (£0.049m) – This variance is mostly due to receipt of a Welsh Government grant of £0.040m for previously incurred costs. <p>Further minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder of the movement totalling (£0.006m).</p>
1.06	<p>Out of County Placements (£0.295m)</p> <p>The movement relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s Services (£0.230m) – Impact of allocation of (£0.285m) from Regional Integration Fund offset by costs of new placement and other rate changes Education & Youth (£0.065m) - Removal of remaining contingency provision
1.07	<p>Planning Environment & Economy £0.088m</p>

	<p>The movement relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional costs for Ash Die Back works and Rights of Way £0.054m committed to 31st March 2023. <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder £0.034m.</p>
1.08	<p>Governance £0.115m</p> <p>The movement relates to the carry forward requests within the ICT service £0.098m, and Revenues £0.050m (Appendix 6 refers)</p> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder (£0.033m).</p>
1.09	<p>Assets (£0.183m)</p> <p>The favourable movement relates to the receipt of additional Design Service fee income (£0.153m).</p> <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder (£0.030m).</p>
1.10	<p>Central & Corporate (£0.841m)</p> <p>The positive movement relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One off windfall income from NDR savings (£0.558m). The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) have recently reduced rateable values on a number of schools, some of which are effective from April 2017 • Further reduction in short-term borrowing costs in the Central Loans & Investment Account (CLIA) in addition to increasing income from temporary investments in line with rising bank interest rates (£0.250m). <p>Minor movements account for the remainder (£0.036m).</p>
1.11	<p>There are a number of minor variances across the other Portfolios each below £0.050m that account for the remainder of the overall movement £0.093m.</p>
1.12	<p>Carry Forward Requests</p> <p>Some requests to carry forward funding into the 2023/24 financial have been received and are recommended for approval (See Appendix 6)</p>
1.13	<p>Tracking of In-Year Risks and Emerging Issues</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>
1.14	<p>Council Tax Income</p> <p>'In-year' Council Tax collection levels, up to February 2023, are 96.1% compared to 96.6% in the previous year. Collections remain challenging as</p>

	<p>the rising costs-of-living are impacting on the ability of some households to make payment of council tax on time.</p>
1.15	<p>Pay Award (Teacher and Non-Teacher)</p> <p>The offer from the National employers for NJC employees of £1,925 on all spinal column points has now been accepted with back pay made to employees in November. This equated to an increase of 2.54% on the highest scale point to 10.5% on the lowest point.</p> <p>The Minister for Education has previously confirmed the pay award for teachers at 5%. However, negotiations on a further supplementary allocation are still ongoing.</p> <p>The Council has provided for an uplift of 3.5% for Teaching and Non-Teaching staff – the increase above this level requires the Council to utilise reserves to fund the difference in the current financial year. Additional funding is expected to be available from Welsh Government for the supplementary allocation to Teachers.</p> <p>The impact on 2022/23 is as follows: The in-year additional cost to date of the 2022/23 pay awards that have been met from reserves is £3.955m after taking into account the reversal of the additional 1.25% rate of National Insurance (NI) from November.</p>
1.16	<p>Other Tracked Risks</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of risks being tracked which may be subject to change and these are summarised below.</p>
1.17	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Impact</p> <p>The Council met to approve a balanced budget for 2023/24 on 23 February 2023.</p> <p>The budget report included an updated medium-term position for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and work on this will continue over the coming months.</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>
1.18	<p>Out of County Placements</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 costs.</p>
1.19	<p>Benefits</p> <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) – Based on current demand, costs are currently projected to be £0.713m below budget.</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.</p>
1.20	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>The service demand currently impacting on 2022/23 outturn will continue into 2023/24 and a pressure of £1.000m has been approved in the 2023/24 budget to reflect this.</p>
1.21	<p>School Transport</p> <p>Increased costs currently impacting on 2022/23 outturn will continue into 2023/24 and a pressure has been included in the 2023/24 budget to reflect this.</p>
1.22	<p>Winter Maintenance</p> <p>Due to some severe weather events over the period December to March, spend is anticipated to exceed the £0.846m annual budget. Therefore, there is likely to be a required drawdown of £0.200m-£0.250m from the Winter Maintenance Reserve in 2022/23.</p> <p>Cabinet approved last month a 'top up' of £0.200m to the Winter Maintenance Reserve to mitigate the risk of increasing costs from more severe winter weather in future years.</p>
1.23	<p>Waste Recycling Infraction Charge</p> <p>Due to the Council not meeting the statutory minimum target for the percentage of municipal waste which must be recycled, prepared for re-use and composted, as specified in Section 3 of the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010 (64%) in 2021/22 - Welsh Government can now take steps to impose a penalty on the Council by way of an infraction fine.</p> <p>A penalty of up to £0.663m has been confirmed so presents a significant financial risk to the Council. Discussions have taken place in March between Welsh Government and the Council as to the reasons for not achieving the target and a decision is still awaited as to whether the penalty will be levied.</p>
1.24	<p>Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies</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>

1.25	<p>Unearmarked Reserves</p> <p>The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2022/23 was £7.098m as detailed in the 2021/22 outturn report.</p> <p>After taking into account the projected outturn and previously approved allocations there is a projected contingency reserve available as at 31 March 2023 of £8.364m.</p> <p>In addition, the Council set-aside a further £3.250m to the carried forward £2.066m COVID-19 Emergency Reserve being a total of £5.316m as a safeguard against the continuing impacts of the pandemic (additional costs and lost income).</p> <p>Some claims for March 2022 were disallowed by WG and Internal claims for Quarter 1, 2 and 3 have been made in 2022/23 relating to additional costs in Schools, Streetscene & Transportation and for income losses within AURA and Holywell Leisure Centre. These currently total £1.706m and the balance on the COVID-19 Emergency Reserve is currently £3.610m.</p>
1.26	<p>Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>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.</p>
1.27	<p>The 2022/23 budget for the HRA is £37.755m which includes a movement of £2.858m to reserves.</p>
1.28	<p>The monitoring for the HRA is projecting in year expenditure to be £2.839m higher than budget and a closing un-earmarked balance as at 31 March 2023 of £3.635m, which at 9.77% of total expenditure satisfies the prudent approach of ensuring a minimum level of 3%. Appendix 5 attached refers.</p>
1.29	<p>The monthly movement of (£0.263m) from Month 10 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate Management (£0.037m) – Reduction in Agency costs (£0.020m) and minor movements (£0.017m) • Debt Management (£0.208m) – Reduction in Interest charge forecasted <p>Minor movements account for the remainder (£0.018m).</p>
1.30	<p>The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £10.898m with the actual contribution projected to be £13.755m at outturn.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As set out within the report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None specific.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 10 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 Appendix 6: Carry Forward Requests

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Various budget records.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Dave Ledsham Strategic Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 704503 E-mail: dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	Budget: 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.

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 11 - SUMMARY

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
Social Services		
Older People		
Localities	0.055	Residential care costs have increased by £0.132m due to demand. Domiciliary care has reduced by £0.058m and workforce budgets have decreased by £0.025m due to post vacancies. The movement balance of £0.006m is due to minor variances.
Resources & Regulated Services	-0.060	The Extra Care service has reduced by (£0.079m) due to an additional (£0.047m) of RIF funding and a reduction in workforce and supplies costs of (£0.032m). There were minor variances of £0.012m for day centres and £0.009m for homecare.
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	
Minor Variances	-0.003	
Adults of Working Age		
Resources & Regulated Services	-0.136	This is the net change for Disability Services care package costs. There has been recoupment of surpluses on Direct Payment accounts of £0.080m and additional RIF allocation of £0.067m
Professional and Administrative Support	-0.027	Vacancy savings have increased due to posts not being filled.
Supporting People	-0.043	A further allocation from Supporting People funding has been received
Residential Placements	-0.066	Net reduction on care package costs supporting people with mental ill health.
Professional Support	-0.040	An additional £0.025m contribution towards a post has been received from BCUHB.
Minor Variances	-0.027	
Children's Services		
Legal & Third Party	-0.034	Children and Young People RIF slippage has been allocated against Direct Payments.
Residential Placements	-0.041	Welsh Government grant slippage has been allocated against a Flintshire Family Project contract.
Professional Support	-0.063	Projected adoption costs are unlikely to be incurred this financial year due to length of time for these to be completed. In addition there has been some grant funded built in against previously reported costs.
Minor Variances	-0.035	
Safeguarding & Commissioning		
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.097	Additional software costs for the first two payments of a new Social Services finance system plus project management costs.
Safeguarding Unit	0.025	This is the net result of a number of minor variances within this service for example an increase in workforce costs of £0.009m and a £0.005m increase in liberty safeguard assessment fees.
Good Health	-0.049	This variance is mostly due to receipt of a Welsh Government grant of £0.040m for which previously incurred costs have been allocated against.
Impact of Covid-19	0.002	
Minor Variances	0.055	
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	-0.391	
Out of County		
Children's Services	-0.230	Impact of allocation of £0.285m from Regional Integration Fund due to slippage offset by costs of new placement and other rate changes
Education & Youth	-0.065	Removal of remaining contingency provision
Total Out of County	-0.295	
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)		
School Improvement Systems	-0.056	Favourable movement in the Early Entitlement service due to a combination of £30k maximisation of Early Years Pupil Development Grant against established staff and £19k Demography due to Spring Term 23 payments to non-maintained settings being less than anticipated, despite the hourly increase from £4.50 to £5.00
Archives	0.025	Increased costs of recharge from Denbighshire CC re. joint service arrangements
Minor Variances	0.053	
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	0.022	
Schools	-0.000	

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
Streetscene & Transportation		
Other Minor Variances	-0.009	
Total Streetscene & Transportation	-0.009	
Planning, Environment & Economy		
Access	0.054	Additional costs for Ash Die Back works and Rights of Way
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	
Minor Variances	0.035	
Total Planning & Environment	0.088	
People & Resources		
HR & OD	0.035	Additional costs for Course/Training Providers
Corporate Finance	0.012	
Total People & Resources	0.047	
Governance		
ICT	0.098	Movement as a result of the carry forward requests £0.075m and £0.036m mitigated in part by vacancy savings and commitment challenge
Revenues	0.028	Movement includes carry forward request £0.050m mitigated by vacancy savings and fee income
Minor Variances	-0.011	
Total Governance	0.115	
Strategic Programmes		
Minor Variances	0.008	
Total Strategic Programmes	0.008	
Assets		
CPM & Design Services	-0.153	Additional fee income earned above budgeted amount
Minor Variances	-0.030	Cumulative variances across the service
Total Assets	-0.183	
Housing and Community		
Minor Variances	0.011	
Total Housing and Community	0.011	
Chief Executive's	0.015	
Central & Corporate Finance	-0.851	At Month 11, receipt of NDR Revaluation Windfall from Flintshire Schools (£0.558m), further reduction in short term borrowing costs due to increasing income from investments in line with rising bank interest rates
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.010	
Grand Total	-1.413	

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
Social Services							
Older People							
Localities	20.868	20.385	-0.483		-0.538	The commissioned Older People Domiciliary and Direct Payment budget is projecting a £0.979m underspend based on current level of demand. There continues to be recruitment and retention challenges within the care sector which limits the amount of homecare that can be commissioned. The residential care budget is projecting a £0.461m overspend due to the cost of placements net of income such as Free Nursing Care, Regional Integration Fund (RIF) contributions and property income. The Localities workforce budget is expected to overspend by £0.016m. There is an underspend on Day Care of £0.032m and an overspend of £0.050m on the Minor Adaptations budget.	
Regional Integration Fund	0.000	0.151	0.151		0.151	The Step Down Regional Integration Fund (RIF) scheme, which enables quicker hospital discharges by placing people into short term care before they can return home safely, has been spent in full and additional funding has not been provided.	
Resources & Regulated Services	9.472	9.422	-0.050		0.010	In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.095m due to employee and running costs and in-house homecare is estimated to underspend by £0.066m. The Extra Care budget is underspent by £0.026m and day care by £0.053m.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.315	1.312	-0.002		0.001		
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	29.890	30.215	0.325		0.461	The PDSI (physically disabled and sensory impaired) budget is reporting a £0.092m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.427m overspent, there have been significant recruitment challenges which have lead to increased agency costs, additionally there has been increased hours of support required due to care needs. The day care and workscheme budget is underspending by £0.009m. Learning Disability care package costs are £0.186m under budget.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.951	1.067	0.116		0.115	These are the costs of care for young adults who are transferring to Adult Social Care services from Childrens Services within this financial year. Care costs are initially estimated but once services have been confirmed the actual costs may be different.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.439	0.373	-0.065		-0.038	Savings from vacant posts	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.847	0.766	-0.081		-0.058	There has been an allocation of RIF funding towards a post	
Supporting People	-0.323	-0.460	-0.137		-0.094	Additional Supporting People funding has been allocated within this financial year	
Residential Placements	1.956	2.386	0.430		0.496	Overspend is due to the net cost of care packages to support people with mental ill health	

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	3.115	3.031	-0.084		-0.040		
Children's Services							
Family Placement	2.862	2.705	-0.156		-0.136	Reduced numbers of in-house foster carers are resulting in lower costs, however this will mean an increased number of Independent Foster Agency placements, which are more expensive, within the Out of County budget.	
Family Support	0.403	0.478	0.075		0.094	Costs are based upon the current activity levels over the last few months and projected forward for the rest of the year. Employee costs, which are mostly sessional staff, are the primary cost driver for this service.	
Legal & Third Party	0.232	0.605	0.373		0.407	Legal costs are overspent by £0.222m due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external legal professionals. Direct Payments are subject to high demand and are overspending by £0.151m.	
Residential Placements	1.312	0.641	-0.672		-0.630	The in-year opening of in-house Childrens Residential Care settings will mean one off cost savings. There are also a number of Welsh Government grants being used to offset expenditure.	
Professional Support	6.447	6.972	0.525		0.588	To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies need to be minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges and demand of Childrens Services.	
Minor Variances	0.717	0.718	0.002		-0.003		
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.906	1.061	0.156		0.059	There are additional costs for an IT system upgrade and also for development of a Social Services finance system. There are also temporary uplift in hours and additional support assistants, which is being funded from the underspend projected in the Business Support Service.	
Charging Policy income	-3.104	-3.182	-0.078		-0.081	Income is generated by demand for chargeable services and based upon each individuals ability to pay resulting from a financial assessment.	
Business Support Service	1.282	1.226	-0.056		-0.072	The underspend is due to vacant posts which are highly unlikely to be recruited to this financial year.	
Finance /Deputyship	0.027	0.079	0.052		0.041	There is an overspend on workforce costs for £0.027m and a shortfall in projected income of £0.022m plus minor variances equalling £0.003m.	
Safeguarding Unit	1.344	1.153	-0.191		-0.216	A consultation for updated Liberty Protection Safeguard legislation continues to be undertaken. Due to the delay in implementing the legislation there will be an in-year saving. In addition there has been some Welsh Government grant funding to offset in-year costs.	
Good Health	0.748	0.691	-0.057		-0.008	Welsh Government have provided an in-year grant of £0.040m which is offsetting costs within this service.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.018	-0.018	-0.018	-0.020		

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	-1.721	-1.771	-0.050		-0.105		
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	79.985	80.006	0.021	-0.015	0.412		
Out of County							
Children's Services	10.097	11.193	1.095		1.325	The projected overspend reflects significant additional demands on the service in the year to date with 37 new placements having been made in the year to date - most of which are high cost residential placements. The projection now includes an allocation of £0.285m from the Regional Integration Fund due to slippage on other projects	
Education & Youth	5.004	4.579	-0.424		-0.360	The latest underspend reflects projected costs for the current cohort of placements and there have been 26 new placements in the year to date with further new placements also likely to emerge in the remainder of the year, for which contingency provision of £0.050m has been made.	
Total Out of County	15.101	15.772	0.671	0.000	0.966		
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)							
Inclusion & Progression	5.496	5.489	-0.008		-0.005	Small variance within the service resulting from a budget c/f request for the underspend, which has occurred by utilising all grants to offset core budget and staff vacancies throughout the year. A c/f request of £280k for the Inclusion service has been agreed. A significant cost pressure has been identified as a portfolio risk. This c/f is required to support the education of pupils who are not attending school, either due to medical difficulties, inc mental health and anxiety, permanent exclusion and the lack of available specialist provision. There is an anticipated £300k pressure for 23-24 and the c/f would help to mitigate some of this pressure. A further £95k c/f has been requested from the EAL/Traveller service. This c/f is required to support schools in enabling them to meet the needs of a large number of children who have experienced Trauma, including the refugee learners, Looked After Children etc. The work will be part of the Corporate Strategy, to ensure that all schools are fully informed and are able to implement Trauma Informed Practice. The aim is to improve wellbeing, reduce exclusions and to increase attendance. Plas Derwen have also submitted a budget c/f request for £35k to use towards the cost of hiring two minibuses. This will enable students to continue to access a range of alternative curriculum activities to support their educational packages. Total budget c/f request = £410k	
Integrated Youth Provision	1.042	0.997	-0.044		-0.068		
Youth Justice	0.335	0.323	-0.012		-0.032		

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
School Improvement Systems	1.909	1.637	-0.272		-0.216	Favourable variance relates to several Welsh Government Grants that are being used against core staff within Early Entitlement and School Improvement Service. Movement of £49k in the Early Entitlement service as a result of maximising further grant against established staff and non maintained payments to settings for the Spring Term have also been lower than anticipated.	
School Planning & Provision	0.694	0.620	-0.074		-0.078	Projected underspend on insurance liability claims costs and some salary savings	
Minor Variances	2.223	2.189	-0.034		-0.111		
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.323	9.935	-0.388	0.000	-0.410		
Schools	108.376	108.376	0.000		0.000		
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	10.273	10.557	0.283		0.273	The service has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.100m for security costs due to vandalism/break-ins at the Household Recycling Centres. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.070m revenue pressure on the community council income budget. The remaining £0.100m is attributable to high sickness levels/agency costs. The service is also expected to cover costs of £0.060m related to the State Funeral and Proclamation Events. The overall overspend is partially offset by additional income achieved through in-house construction work.	
Highways Network	8.165	8.631	0.466		0.478	Highways is incurring a Revenue pressure of £0.400m in Fleet services as a result of rising fuel costs. An additional £0.050m is due to an increase in contractor costs for weed spraying following recommendations made at Scrutiny Committee, which cannot be covered by existing budgets.	
Transportation	10.354	10.803	0.448		0.450	Local bus subsidy 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. Additional pressure of £0.200m in School Transport due to additional routes (PRUs/ALN) for 6 routes in total equating to £2,700 extra per day. School Transport is also facing an additional revenue pressure of £0.030m due to capacity issues on a commercial bus service. Any further cost increases due to rising transport operator costs (fuel, driver wages, insurance, energy etc.) will be closely monitored.	

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
Regulatory Services	11.138	11.060	-0.078		-0.072	The Service is incurring £0.060m revenue pressure due to increased residual waste tonnages, which is creating a risk in achieving WG Recycling Targets. The overspend is largely offset by an underspend of £0.053m due to vacancies within the service, increased rebate rates for the sale of electricity, recycling income and car parking income, which has increased income by £0.064m, including other minor variances with reduction in recycling disposal costs of £0.030m.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Holding Accounts	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000		
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000		
Total Streetscene & Transportation	39.931	41.050	1.120	0.000	1.129		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Community	0.973	1.038	0.064		0.061	Fee income shortfalls in Licensing and Pest Control and historic business planning efficiency £0.024m not realised	
Development	0.203	-0.458	-0.661		-0.673	Favourable variance based on projected over recovery of Fee Income which includes the receipt of two high value one off Planning Fee each approx £0.300m	
Access	1.529	1.713	0.184		0.130	Adverse variance relates to the projected costs of Ash Die Back to March, 2023, together with historic grant income target not realised	
Regeneration	0.835	0.745	-0.090		-0.089	Savings from vacant posts and expenditure on Wales Rally GB not realised as previously anticipated.	
Management & Strategy	1.411	1.482	0.071		0.052	The new Agile Case Management System requiring a commitment for a potential renewal of the contract with Civica for a further one year use of Flare.	
Minor Variances	2.269	2.282	0.013		0.012		
Total Planning & Environment	7.222	6.802	-0.419	0.000	-0.508		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.412	2.471	0.059		0.024	Variance relates to the Historic Business Efficiency Income Target for DBS Checks unachieved, mitigated by minor favourable movements	
Corporate Finance	2.257	2.139	-0.119		-0.131	Variance includes the receipt of a 50% Welsh Government Admin Grant for administering the Free School Meals Programme together with staff savings from vacant posts	
Total People & Resources	4.670	4.610	-0.060	0.000	-0.107		
Governance							
Legal Services	0.934	1.043	0.110		0.097	Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	

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
Democratic Services	2.468	2.378	-0.090		-0.084	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) ; mitigated by the inception of the new Climate Change Committee Chair person Allowance plus minor variances across the service	
Internal Audit	1.050	0.969	-0.082		-0.086	Vacancy savings together with revised/reduced projected cost for Postage within Central Despatch	
Revenues	0.295	-0.051	-0.346		-0.374	The variance results from the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.312m) 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	6.535	6.501	-0.033		-0.108		
Total Governance	11.281	10.841	-0.440	0.001	-0.555		
Strategic Programmes							
ADM's & CAT's	6.069	6.138	0.068		0.061	Adverse variance as a result of an agreed £0.050m contribution to support the Aura Pay award, £0.018m minor variances.	
Minor Variances	0.047	0.047	0.000		-0.000		
Total Strategic Programmes	6.116	6.185	0.069	0.000	0.061		
Assets							
Caretaking & Security	0.314	0.259	-0.054		-0.055	Savings on staffing due to vacancies	
CPM & Design Services	0.694	0.541	-0.153		-0.000	Additional fee income earned above budgeted amount	
Industrial Units	-1.527	-1.608	-0.081		-0.064	Reduced costs of Repair and Maintenance plus some additional rent income	
Minor Variances	1.553	1.587	0.034		0.047		
Total Assets	1.034	0.780	-0.255	0.000	-0.071		
Housing and Community							
Minor Variances	14.964	14.973	0.009		-0.002		
Total Housing and Community	14.964	14.973	0.009	0.000	-0.002		
Chief Executive's	1.692	1.599	-0.093		-0.107	Vacancy savings and staff not at top of scale	

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
Central & Corporate Finance	23.204	20.793	-2.411		-1.560	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recouped against actuarial projections based on the current level of contributions together with a further revised projection on the Central Loans and investment Account (CLIA) at Month 10 where as reported earlier in the year, the Council had not taken out new short or long term borrowing and has invested a significant amount of funds. This pattern has continued during the remaining months of this financial year resulting in no short term borrowing costs being incurred and the Council generating increased income from investments, which have increased in line with bank interest rates. Mitigated at Month 11 by receipt of NDR Revaluation Windfall for FCC Schools	
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.778	-0.005		-0.005		
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.000	0.075	0.075		0.065	IFRS 9 requires that for soft loans interest is accrued at the Effective Interest Rate (EIR) rather than the Contract Interest Rate. Capital financing regulations require that soft loan accounting doesn't impact on Council Tax levels.	
Grand Total	326.682	324.576	-2.106	-0.015	-0.693		

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2022/23 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - Month 11

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
Portfolio		2022/23 £m	2022/23 £m	2022/23 £m		
Corporate						
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
Total Corporate Services		0.608	0.608	0.000		
Housing & Assets						
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
Total Housing & Assets		0.310	0.310	0.000		
Social Services						
Sleep in Pressure not Required	Neil Ayling	0.123	0.123	0.000	C	G
Total Social Services		0.123	0.123	0.000		
Governance						
Single Person Discount Review (One Off)	Gareth Owens	0.300	0.300	0.000	O	G
Total Governance		0.300	0.300	0.000		
Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies		1.341	1.341	0.000		

Page 139

	%	£
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
Total 2022/23 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions)	100	0.000
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	All Portfolios	0.041
Fees and charges increase 1st October, 2022	Full Year effect 1st April 2023	(0.026)
Total Income Efficiency Remaining		0.015

(0.015)

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Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves

	£m	£m
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2022	18.438	
Less - Base Level	(5.769)	
Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet		12.669
Less - COVID-19 Emergency Funding Allocation		5.316
Less - Childrens Services Social Work Costs (approved 21/22)		0.157
Less - Children's Services front door service - agency workers (approved by Cabinet on 28th June)		0.300
Add - Total Balances Released to Reserves (Month 5)		1.208
Add - Additional Revenue Support (Month 8)		2.432
Add - Local Development Fund (LDP) Reserve (Month 10)		0.127
Less - impact of the final pay awards		3.955
Less - Children's Services Legal Costs (Month 9)		0.250
Less - Winter Maintenance Reserve (Month 10)		0.200
Add - Month 11 projected outturn		(2.106)
Total Contingency Reserve available for use		8.364

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Budget Monitoring Report
Housing Revenue Account Variances

MONTH 11 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Housing Revenue Account						
Income	(37.755)	(37.230)	0.525	0.526	We are currently projecting a variance of £0.525m due to loss of rental income in relation to void properties. Of this, £0.401m relates to void properties, £0.098m relates to utilities costs on void properties and £0.050m relates to void garages. Additional income in respect of new properties transferred into the stock during the year (£0.046m). Pressure relating to the draw down of grant in respect of delayed SHARP schemes £0.158m. We are forecasting a reduction in the requirement to top up the Bad Debt Provision of (£0.150). The remaining £0.014m relates to other minor variances.	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	6.723	6.515	(0.208)		Estimated reduction in interest to be recharged to the HRA (£0.208m).	
Estate Management	2.263	1.961	(0.303)	(0.266)	Additional cost of agency positions of £0.160m, which is offset by vacancy savings of (£0.251m) and additional funding from the Housing Support Grant of (£0.120m). Other minor variances of (£0.092m).	
Landlord Service Costs	1.265	1.343	0.078	0.083	Salary savings of (£0.054m) are currently being projected within the service which offset agency costs of £0.023. There is a forecasted pressure on utilities costs of £0.079m. The remaining variance of £0.030m is down to other minor movements.	
Repairs & Maintenance	10.908	10.965	0.057	0.060	Additional net cost of £0.066m in relation to vacant trades positions currently being covered by agency. Admin Vacancy savings of (£0.034m) due to delayed recruitment. Savings on the cost of materials of (£0.102m). Additional cost of fleet forecasted to be £0.154m. Other minor variances of (£0.027m).	
Management & Support Services	2.716	2.549	(0.168)	(0.159)	Savings of (£0.063m) have been projected based on current vacancies within the service and a further (£0.171m) efficiency has been identified through a review of central support recharges. Costs of legal advice in respect of the Renting Homes Wales Act £0.020m. Pressure in relation to insurance costs currently forecasted to be £0.077m. Other minor variances of (£0.031m).	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	10.898	13.755	2.857	2.857		
HRA Projects	0.122	0.123	0.000	0.000		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	2.858	2.858				
Total Housing Revenue Account	(0.000)	2.839	2.839	3.101		

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Carry Forward Requests – Month 11

Governance – ICT

The carry forward of a **£0.070m** in year service underspend is requested to supplement Citrix License budget due to increasing costs. Flintshire had to sign a new contract for the current Citrix license to avoid a significant price increase. In December 2020 the Council Paid £0.297m for a three-year Citrix license to cover all of the authorities IT users. The contract was recently signed and cost the Authority £0.367m, which is a £0.070m or 24% increase. In signing the new agreement recently, this prevented the authority from incurring an additional increase of around £0.073m. The ICT service only has budget to fund the £0.297m renewal in 2023/24.

The carry forward of a **£0.036m** in-year service underspend is requested to assist in resourcing higher level apprenticeships due for completion in August 2023.

Governance – Performance

The carry forward of a **£0.004m** underspend to support the procurement of additional specialist external InPhase training and development for newly recruited staff members to the Performance Team. InPhase is the cloud-based business Management solution used by the Council that supports integrated reporting, together with the creation of infographics. There is currently no available resource within current budget constraints to support this.

Governance – Revenues

The carry forward of a **£0.050m** underspend to provide additional resilience in 2023/24 for the deployment of overtime. During 2022/23 the main focus was on the administering of the 'Cost of Living Support Grants' and as a result there is a considerable volume of work including exemption and discount reviews that were deferred as a direct consequence. In order to reduce and ultimately clear the backlog, overtime requirements are expected to increase and as such would add further pressure to the service, which is already facing the potential for reduced levels of fee income as the current cost of living continues to hinder collections and recovery of fees.

People & Resources

The carry forward of **£0.070m** underspend in Feasibility Studies budget in order to support strategic work around the longer-term options for a number of sites namely Standard, Greenfield Housing Recycling Centre and Alltami Depot.

Education & Youth – School Planning & Provision

The carry forward of **£0.020m** to fund the delayed costs of feasibility studies for future projects at three school sites. In addition, it is requested that **£0.054m** be carried forward to fund costs of future transition requirements.

Education & Youth - Inclusion service

The carry forward an underspend of **£0.095m** for the EAL service to meet the ongoing education needs of children who have experienced trauma, including refugee learners, children looked after, and others who have experienced early childhood experiences and/or the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education & Youth - Pupil Referral Unit

The carry forward of **£0.035m** to facilitate hire of two x 8-seater cars for transport provision. This will enable Plas Derwen students to continue to access a range of alternative curriculum activities to support their educational packages.

Housing & Communities - Carelink

The carry forward an underspend of **£0.084m** to fund new equipment costs for non HRA customers as part of the switchover to digital equipment which must be completed by 2025.

Housing & Communities – Benefits

The carry forward of a further **£0.214m** of the CTRS underspend to mitigate against future unbudgeted service pressures particularly relating to overpayments.

Planning, Environment & Economy

The carry forward of in year underspend **£0.020m** is sought to provide short term agency cover in 2023/24 for the Public Protection Admin Team whilst a permanent member of staff is recruited. This is already a small team, however the long-term absence of one team member, and the imminent departure of another team member to a new post, will mean that some key tasks and duties will not be able to be undertaken – which will have a direct impact on frontline regulatory services in the Planning, Environment and Economy Portfolio.

Assets - Policy

The carry forward of in year underspend of **£0.044m** in respect of core funding agreements to provide support to voluntary organisations. The budget has been reduced in 2023/24 due to an approved budget efficiency item, but there are some legal costs outstanding which will need to be funded in 2023/24.

Assets - Property Asset team

The carry forward of in year underspend of **£0.093m** due to salary savings arising from vacancies to be used in 2023/24 to fund costs of staff to conduct outstanding surveys of the various property and estates and which in some cases may lead to future rent reviews and potential efficiency savings.

Assets - Industrial Units

The carry forward an underspend of **£0.081m** to invest in ongoing R&M of buildings and grounds in order that the assets within these estates are maintained to an appropriate standard.

Streetscene & Transportation

Sustainable Waste Management Grant **£0.090m** – request to carry over the grant received in addition to the anticipated annual target for 2022/23 to address Waste related workforce pressures in the 2023/24 financial year.

Due to delays in getting the work completed in 2022/23, it is requested that **£0.020m** be carried forward to carry out Solar Panel repairs in 2023/24, in order to maximise the future income return from solar energy.

Waste Management Pilot Costs of **£0.070m** are requested to be carried forward, following delays in incurring these costs in the intended timeframe during 2022/23.

Central & Corporate Finance

It is proposed that the unutilised Real Living Wage budget allocation of **£0.254m** is earmarked to support potential financial impacts resulting from the Supreme Court decision in the Harpur Trust vs Brazel case in the calculation of holiday pay entitlements for staff who work for part of the year (i.e., term time). The carry forward would be used to resource any holiday pay liability and mitigate any historic risk, challenge and to support the necessary amendments to Holiday Pay entitlements to ensure future compliance.

Summary of Requests:

Portfolio/Service Area	Carry Forward Request £m
Governance	0.160m
People & Resources	0.070m
Education & Youth	0.204m
Housing & Communities	0.298m
Planning, Environment & Economy	0.020m
Assets	0.218m
Streetscene & Transportation	0.180m
Central & Corporate Finance	0.254m
Total Carry Forward Requests	1.404m

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Delivering Public Services in the 21 st Century, An Overview
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Manager for Capital Programme and Assets
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting held in July 2022, the Councils' Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CROSC) requested a future agenda item to explore the financial benefits of outsourcing and shared services.

Outsourcing and shared services are just two models of alternative delivery of services, there are many more. To provide a holistic overview this report provides a summary of a wider selection of alternative delivery models.

The report also highlights the need to consider broader core principles, and surrounding legislative requirements, when reviewing any service with consideration for a potential change in delivery model.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet notes the different models that can be used as alternatives to deliver services.
2	Cabinet recognise the wider factors, such as legislative parameters and core principles, which need to be observed when considering the delivery of services through alternative delivery models.
3	Cabinet is assured that the Council considers all appropriate alternative delivery models, and the benefits and limitations of these, as part of a broader options appraisal when reviewing services.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODELS, INCLUDING OUTSOURCING AND SHARED SERVICES
1.01	<p>Alternative Delivery Models</p> <p>Outsourcing and shared services are two ways in which the Council can deliver services through alternative models of delivery. However, there are many more.</p> <p>To provide a more comprehensive overview of the range of alternative delivery models available, some of the key models have been listed below with a short explanatory paragraph.</p>
1.02	<p><u>Collaboration</u></p> <p>Collaboration refers to the informal collaboration of two or more partners but could also include the sharing of service delivery and/or more specific forms such as consortia.</p> <p>This model allows for the sharing of expertise and can create efficiencies and/or increase capacity.</p>
1.03	<p><u>Community Asset Transfer (CAT)</u></p> <p>This is where a local authority asset transfers to a community or other social benefit organisation for continued local community use/benefit. This can include the transfer of services but doesn't have to.</p> <p>This model allows the asset to be of use, transferring the responsibility of some elements of the building's maintenance and operation to one or more other organisations.</p>
1.04	<p><u>Co-operative</u></p> <p>An entity that is jointly owned by interested parties (also referred to as members). Members could be employees, third sector organisations or even service users. A co-operative fulfils the interests of all its members.</p> <p>This model can result in increased productivity and shares responsibilities across a potentially broad spectrum of partners.</p>
1.05	<p><u>Independent Trading Company</u></p> <p>A company wholly or partly owned by a local authority, which delivers service(s).</p> <p>An independent trading company would be outside of local authority regulation enabling it to trade externally and benefit from other freedoms. However, to deliver services on behalf of the/a local authority, the local authority would need to conduct a procurement exercise and the company would need to tender in that competitive process.</p>
1.06	<u>Joint Venture</u>

	<p>A joint venture is where two or more partner organisations deliver a service. In this model each partner retains their identity but there is some form of legal agreement or other mechanism that clearly identifies roles and responsibilities and how benefits will be realised and shared.</p> <p>This model enables partner organisations to pool knowledge and expertise when delivering or developing services.</p>
1.07	<p><u>Local Authority Trading Company (TECKAL)</u> This is a company wholly owned by a local authority and which predominantly delivers services on behalf of/to that authority. However, there is some scope for the company to also trade externally.</p> <p>This model allows for council services to be transferred to the company without the need for a competitive tendering process and offers some ability for commercial growth, within certain parameters.</p>
1.08	<p><u>Mutual</u> A mutual is an entity that is owned by and/or has a high level of employee control and delivers public services.</p> <p>This model generally increases employee responsibility and ownership and can increase productivity.</p>
1.09	<p><u>Outsourcing/Procurement</u> In the context of this report, outsourcing/procurement refers to where a local authority procures an external organisation to deliver services on its behalf.</p> <p>Outsourcing/procurement allows a local authority to go out to market, which may offer benefits. For example, access to specialist expertise, skills or knowledge or access to established and/or bespoke supply chains, etc.</p> <p>A local authority can also procure goods and works from external suppliers.</p>
1.10	<p><u>Shared Service</u> A shared service is where two or more local authorities (or in some cases other public sector organisations) look to provide a service jointly. There is often a host organisation.</p> <p>Shared services can create efficiencies and/or enhance capacity and service resilience.</p>
1.11	<p><u>Social Enterprise</u> A social enterprise is an entity where profits generated are reinvested back into the organisations social purpose.</p> <p>Social enterprises are a model that help ensure maximum social and/or community benefit.</p>
1.12	<p>As the above explanations allude, each alternative delivery model will be able to meet different needs and fulfil different purposes. There will also be</p>

	<p>varying impact in terms of employees, level of control retained by the Council, as well as on potential benefits, limitations and challenges.</p>
1.13	<p>The Council's Approach</p> <p>The Council has a track record of seeking out opportunities for redesigning services and utilising alternative delivery models to sustain service provision.</p> <p>This has included some significant and innovative changes, such as the creation of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) – NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Limited; assisting with the 'spin out' of some services, into new delivery models, such as Aura Leisure and Libraries Limited; the implementation of Community Asset Transfers (CATs), such as the swimming pools in Holywell and Connah's Quay, and the creation of shared services, such as the Regional Minerals and Waste Service.</p>
1.14	<p>Rather than looking at specific alternative delivery models, when reviewing a service with a potential for a change in how it is delivered, the Council considers all potential, appropriate models, with a full appraisal undertaken which includes financial and non-financial benefits and limitations, as well as other key criteria, of each model.</p>
1.15	<p>The other key criteria the Council needs to consider, as a public sector organisation, are linked to broader core principles such as value for money; quality; effect on stakeholders, including service users, residents and employees; and broader impacts such as those related to equality and accessibility through to environmental impact.</p> <p>The Council has a system in place whereby an integrated impact assessment, which ensures some of the above core principles are considered in detail, is required for any change in service.</p>
1.16	<p>Welsh Government Guidance</p> <p>The Council also needs to consider appropriate government guidance.</p> <p>In December 2022, Welsh Government launched its guidance "A toolkit for insourcing in Wales" which had been produced by The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) with help from the Association of Public Services Excellence (APSE).</p> <p>This toolkit provides advice and guidance and clearly outlines that insourcing should be a model considered in any review and/or appraisal of options for service delivery. This appears to be on the basis that as an approach insourcing could support a number of wider benefits, including the application of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The financial benefits and limitations of any alternative delivery model are likely to vary depending on the specific model, activity or collaborative

	<p>venture undertaken, the desired outcomes at the time of action and a host of other factors that will have shaped decision making and which may be unique to the specific situation.</p> <p>There will also be a range of other potential benefits, and limitations and challenges, which go beyond those purely related to finances.</p>
2.02	The implementation of alternative delivery models in most cases will have solely a revenue budget impact related to ongoing operational delivery costs, which may include human resource costs.
2.03	To successfully move to any alternative delivery model requires significant time and staff resource to prepare and implement. The preparation time is likely to vary depending on the model and scope but 12 to 18 months preliminary work would not be unreasonable as a guide.
2.04	In most cases use of an alternative delivery model will require some form of contractual arrangement between the Council and the provider. In this respect there will be an ongoing resource requirement from the Council in terms of ensuring those contractual arrangements are compliant with legislation and regulations. For example, a dedicated contract manager may be needed to provide ongoing contract monitoring and management, including checking performance is within contractual requirements.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	An integrated impact assessment has not been completed as the purpose of this report is to provide an exploratory overview of alternative delivery models.
3.02	When outsourcing services, the Council needs to ensure it is compliant with certain regulations and legislation, including The Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
3.03	Before making any change in how services are delivered, the Council will need to check it has the appropriate power(s) for the change. For example, the power to outsource services and provide services through a shared service delivery model is provided under the Local Government Act 1972 (and as subsequently modified).
3.04	<p>Alternative delivery models have varying impact on employees. When a decision is made to move to an alternative delivery model the impact on any existing employees needs to be considered.</p> <p>If any employees are to be transferred as a result, they must be covered by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations as amended. These Regulations look to protect the rights of employees.</p> <p>Although, in some cases secondment of staff may be possible.</p>

3.05	<p>Workforce (two-tier) code of practice: standards for the public sector</p> <p>The Circular: Code of Practice on Workforce Matters 2014 is directed at public sector bodies in Wales, including County Councils. It relates to how workforce matters should be approached when proposing to enter into, or extend, contracts for the provision of services. The guidance aims to improve the social and economic well-being of Wales by ensuring better protection of employee terms and conditions for transferred staff and fairness for new joiners working alongside transferred employees.</p> <p>Contracting exercises, which includes the retendering of contracts, should be conducted on the basis that TUPE Regulations should apply, unless there are exceptional reasons not to. Even where TUPE may not apply in legal terms it is the expectation of UK Government that the principles should apply and employees "...should be treated no less favourably than they would have been had the regulations applied."</p> <p>Employees of a County Council who transfer to a new employer should still have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) or, offered an alternative that is certified as broadly comparable.</p> <p>Any new joiners who work alongside transferred employees are to be offered terms and conditions which are no less favourable overall to those of the transferred employees. Whilst this does not apply to pensions, new joiners should be offered a reasonable provision. This is to prevent a two-tier system – employees working together with some having less favourable terms and conditions than others.</p> <p>The impact of the Code is that whilst it offers protection for employees it may make outsourced contracts/services less desirable to potential suppliers/providers as it limits their options for making economic efficiencies through changes to employee terms and conditions. As such these contracts may be less commercially desirable, particularly if tenders are evaluated/weighted on price.</p>
3.06	<p>The Council is required to confirm on an annual basis, that it ensures, through monitoring arrangements, that the organisations it transferred staff to under any form of outsourcing contract are complying with the terms of the code.</p>
3.07	<p>The Code of Practice: ethical employment in supply chains introduced in 2017 reinforces the obligations of the Workforce code, requiring the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all those undertaking work on an outsourced contract are treated fairly and equally, and Ensure that public sector staff who are transferred as part of a public service which is outsourced to a third party retain their terms and conditions of employment, and Ensure that other staff working on an outsourced public service are employed on terms and conditions that are comparable to the transferred public sector staff
3.08	<p>Even when the Council has an alternative delivery model in place for the provision of services, the Council in most cases will ultimately remain responsible for those services. If the service does not deliver as</p>

	anticipated or desired, and/or it fails to deliver for customers, then the Council is likely to be held responsible for this but may have less control to be able to resolve those issues.
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Not applicable.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>The Welsh Government sourced documents used to inform this report were available under the terms of the Open Government Licence on the National Archive.</p> <p>Under the terms of this licence, sources have been listed below and where an attribution statement is not made it is noted that document(s) contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.</p> <p>Further information on the terms of the Open Government Licence for Public Sector Information can be found online: https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/</p>
6.02	Welsh Government (2014) <i>Circular: code of practice on workforce matter 2014</i> , available online: https://gov.wales/workforce-two-tier-code-practice-standards-public-sector
6.03	Welsh Government (2014) <i>Workforce (two-tier) code of practice: guidance for the public sector</i> , available online: https://gov.wales/workforce-two-tier-code-practice-guidance-public-sector
6.04	Welsh Government (2017) <i>Ethical employment in supply chains: code of practice</i> , available online: https://www.gov.wales/ethical-employment-supply-chains-code-practice
6.05	Welsh Government/The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) (2022) <i>A toolkit for insourcing in Wales</i> , available online: https://www.gov.wales/a-toolkit-for-insourcing-in-wales-html

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
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7.01	Contact Officer: Kelly Oldham-Jones – Strategic Executive Officer Telephone: 01352 702143 E-mail: kelly.oldham-jones@flintshire.gov.uk
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8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Alternative Delivery Model (ADM): Services that are not delivered in-house by councils normally require some form of alternative delivery model to provide them, i.e. outsourcing via a contract with another provider for them to provide services on the council's behalf.</p> <p>Workforce two-tier code of practice: A code directed at public sector bodies which states how workforce matters should be approached when contracting for the provision of services.</p>



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	HyNet Carbon Capture Project; The Council's Local Impact Report for the Proposed Cross Country Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and Continued Member Engagement
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Liverpool Bay CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) Limited (the Developer) is proposing to construct and install a new carbon dioxide pipeline between Ince, near Stanlow, (Cheshire) and Flint, and repurpose an existing natural gas pipeline between Flint and Talacre (the 'Connah's Quay to Point of Ayr Pipeline'). This project is known as the HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

The consenting process is different for an NSIP compared to a traditional planning application for development which would be sought under the Town and Country Planning Act which the Local Planning Authority would determine. An application has been made under the Planning Act 2008 for a permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The application to construct and operate the proposed Carbon Dioxide Pipeline (the NSIP) has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (England) (PINS) who will administer the DCO Application on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The examination of the NSIP proposal commenced on 20th March 2023. Part of the Local Authority's role to inform the decision making process is to produce a Local Impact Report to assist the Examining Authority (PINS) to make a recommendation to the Minister for BEIS.

This report seeks Cabinet's approval of the content of the Council's Local Impact Report which is appended to this report in draft form.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Approve the content of attached draft Local Impact Report.
2	Any addendum to the Council's Local Impact Report that may be required be delegated to the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	A report ¹ was presented to Cabinet on 14 th March 2023 which provided an overview and update of the HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Project, and the consenting process. It also sought delegated authority to respond to matters associated with the Examination of the proposal, including the drafting of a Local Impact Report in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection.
1.02	The Cabinet's Decision ² was such 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.
	<i>Draft Local Impact Report</i>
1.03	As stated in paragraph 1.16 of the Cabinet Report dated 14 th March 2023, the Council's response on matters related to the Planning Act 2008 are an Executive function and are not a delegated function as stated within the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
1.03	A draft Local Impact Report has been appended for Cabinet approval.
1.04	The definition of a Local Impact Report is given in s60(3) of the 2008 Act as 'a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area (or any part of that area)'. The Local Impact Report sets out the local perspective from a purely land-use planning consideration. It is considered that the matters that will arise during the examination are of a technical nature and more suited to officers to address and provide a response.
1.05	In producing a Local Impact Report, the Local Authority is not required to carry out its own consultation with the community. The report should consist of a statement of positive, neutral, and negative local impacts, but

¹ Cabinet Report 14th March 2023; page 197-202

<https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/g5312/Public%20reports%20pack%2014th-Mar-2023%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10&LLL=0>

² Decision of the Cabinet, 14th March 2023, page 11-12

<https://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/documents/g5312/Decisions%2014th-Mar-2023%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2&LLL=0>

	it does not need to contain a balancing exercise between positive and negative planning impacts; nor does it need to take the form of a formal Planning Committee Report. The Examining Authority will carry out a balancing exercise of relevant impacts, and these will include those local impacts specifically reported in the Local Impact Report. The Local Impact Assessment is a matter of fact. The Local Planning Authority is not the decision maker.
1.06	Following the Preliminary Meeting held on 20 th March 2023, the Examination timetable for the project has now been published ³ stating that a draft Local Impact Report is required to be submitted by Flintshire County Council by 17 th April 2023 at Deadline 1. A final Local Authority Local Impact Report is required to be submitted at Deadline 1A on 26 th April 2023 which allows sufficient time for the Cabinet to comment on the attached draft Local Impact Assessment and approve accordingly. This will allow Flintshire County Council to submit the Local Impact Report to the Examining Authority by the prescribed deadline to ensure that they have sufficient information in relation to any local issues that may be identified.
1.05	Failure to submit the Council's Local Impact Report by 26 th April 2023 may result in the Examining Authority refusing to accept the Council's Impact report. Therefore, it is imperative that this deadline is met so that the content of the LIR can be considered by the Examining Authority when making a recommendation to the Secretary of State of BEIS.
1.06	<p>On 21st March 2023, the applicant submitted a 'Notification of intention to submit a change request'⁴ to the Examining Authority which outlines 18 proposed changes to the Draft Development Consent Order, nine of which are in Flintshire. The change request has arisen primarily in response to engagement with landowners and other key stakeholders. The change request is also intended to implement changes that the Applicant has identified through design work and engagement with potential contractors.</p> <p>These changes within Flintshire relate to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The relocation of Cornist Lane Blocked Valve Station to the south east by 120 metres; - Extending the Order Limits to Avoid a newly constructed slurry tank at New Bridge Farm; - Relocation of the Northop Hall Above Ground Installation to the west by 75 metres; - Extension to the construction working hours to include Saturday Morning workings - Increasing the order limits to provide additional space for a new private access track - Reduction of order limits to exclude a public right of way long the south bank of the River Dee

³ Examination Timetable at Annex A; page 37 onwards

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070007/EN070007-001395-HYCO%20-%20Rule%208%20FINAL.pdf>

⁴ Notification of intention to submit a change request:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN070007/EN070007-001390-D.7.5%20Notification%20of%20Intention%20to%20Submit%20a%20Change%20Request%20.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amendment to the access for the Shotton Lane Construction Compound near Ewloe for nature conservation interests - Minor changes in the categorisation of the legend on the land plans
1.07	The Material Change Request was then subsequently submitted on 27 th March 2023. The Examining Authority has a maximum of 28 days to accept or reject this proposed Change Request. Should the Examining Authority accept them, there will be a period of further consultation which will allow the Council the opportunity to provide further comments in addition to the Local Impact Report, should it be deemed necessary.
1.08	It is uncertain if the Examining Authority will accept the Change Request. However, it is requested that any addendum that may be required to be provided by the Council to supplement the Local Impact Report, as a result of these proposed changes be delegated to the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: there are no implications for the approved revenue budget for the planning service for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p>Capital: there are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years</p> <p>Human Resources: there are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	N/A

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The DCO process requires developer led pre-application consultation which has taken place.
4.02	The planning application for works and modifications at the Point of Ayr Terminal has now been submitted and the consultation period commenced on 14 th April 2023.
4.03	The planning application for the three blocked valve stations has also been submitted. However, the consultation on this application is pending due to the Change Request that has been requested for the DCO, and the potential change to the Cornist Lane Blocked Valve Station which would affect the application area of the planning application.

4.04	All consultations will be carried out in accordance with the Development Management Procedure Order.
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	<p>Appendix 1: Development Consent Order Limit for the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline showing ward areas.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Draft Local Impact Report (LIR)</p> <p>Appendix 3: LIR Appendices</p>
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	<p>Development Consent Order application documents: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/hynet-carbon-dioxide-pipeline/?ipcsection=overview</p> <p>Advice notes on the Development Consent Order application process: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/</p> <p>Sign-up to HyNet’s newsletter to be kept up to date with all HyNet related projects: https://hynethub.co.uk/#signup</p>
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7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
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7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Hannah Parish, Planning Manager (Minerals and Waste) Telephone: 01352 703253 E-mail: hannah.parish@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
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8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
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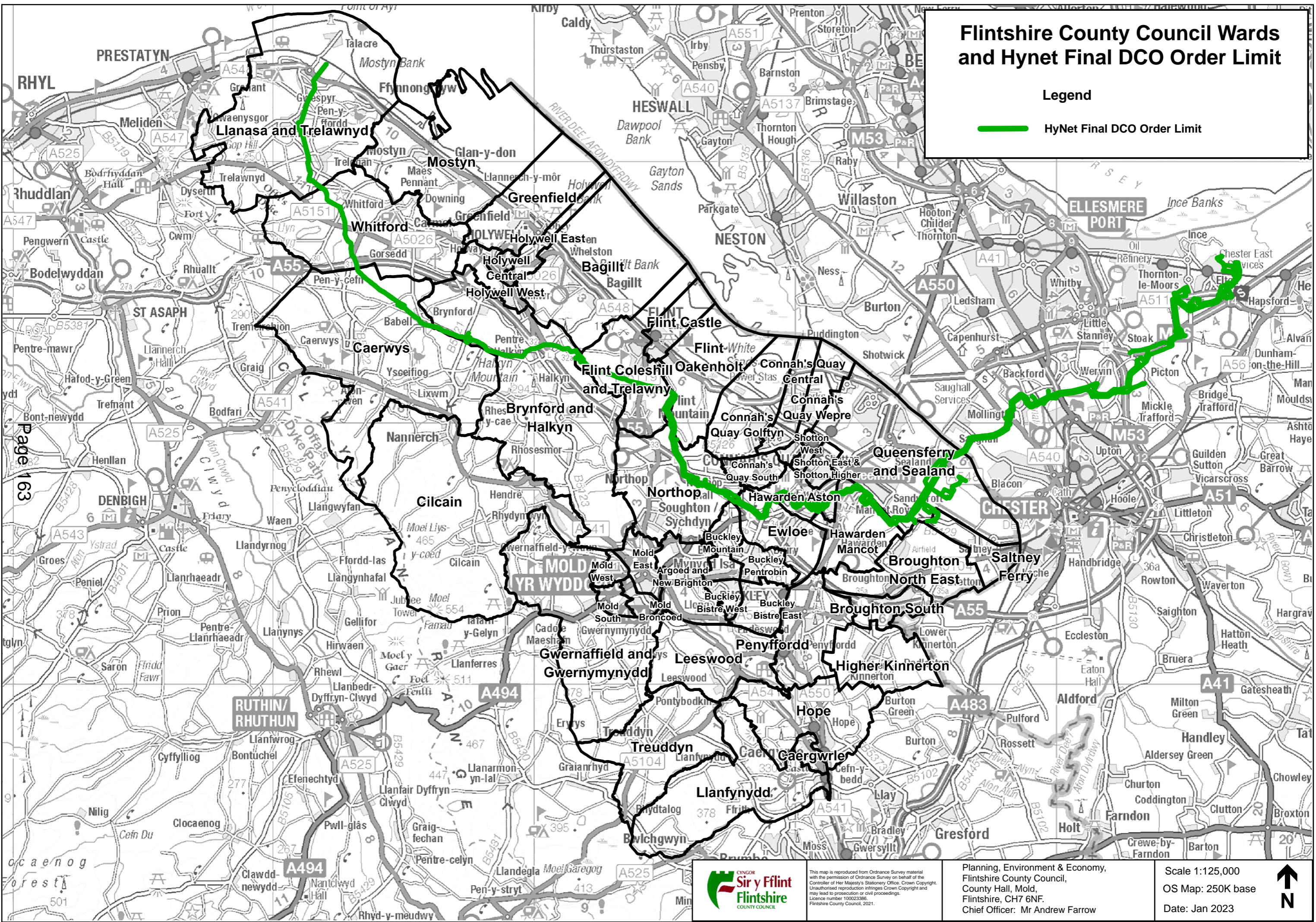
8.01	<p>BEIS (Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy)</p> <p>DCO (Development Consent Order)</p> <p>ExA (Examining Authority)</p> <p>LIR (Local Impact Report)</p> <p>NSIP (Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project)</p> <p>PINS (Planning Inspectorate (England))</p> <p>SoS (Secretary of State)</p>
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Flintshire County Council Wards and Hynet Final DCO Order Limit

Legend

 HyNet Final DCO Order Limit



Page 163



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Planning, Environment & Economy,
Flintshire County Council,
County Hall, Mold,
Flintshire, CH7 6NF.
Chief Officer: Mr Andrew Farrow

Scale 1:125,000
OS Map: 250K base
Date: Jan 2023



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**APPLICATION BY LIVERPOOL BAY CCS LIMITED FOR AN ORDER
GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE HYNET CARBON
DIOXIDE PIPELINE**

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DRAFT LOCAL IMPACT REPORT**

Proposal:	Application by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited for a Development Consent Order
Prepared by:	Hannah Parish
Approved by:	<u>Awaiting approval</u> of Flintshire County Council's Cabinet on 25 th April 2023
Date:	17 th April 2023

CONTENTS

PART A: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. INTRODUCTION
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DCO DEVELOPMENT
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DCO DEVELOPMENT SITE AND SURROUNDINGS
4. RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY AND COMMITTED DEVELOPMENTS

PART B: RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

5. UK GOVERNMENT PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION
6. WELSH GOVERNMENT PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION
7. LOCAL PLANNING POLICY
8. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE
9. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

PART C: ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

10. PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE
11. PLANNING ASSESSMENT FOR THE IMPACT ON THE GREEN WEDGE
12. ARCHAEOLOGY AND BUILT/CULTURAL HERITAGE
13. BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION
14. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT
15. TREES, HEDGEROWS AND WOODLAND
16. NOISE AND AIR QUALITY RESIDENTIAL/PUBLIC AMENITY
17. LAND CONTAMINATION AND SOILS
18. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT
19. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
20. WATER ENVIRONMENT AND FLOOD RISK
21. MINERALS RESOURCES AND SAFEGUARDING

PART D: COMMENTS ON DRAFT DCO, OBLIGATIONS AND DCO REQUIREMENTS

22. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT DCO
23. OBLIGATIONS
24. COMMENTARY ON APPLICANT'S DRAFT DCO REQUIREMENTS

PART E: CONCLUSION

25. CONCLUSIONS

PART F: APPENDICES

Environmental Constraints

- FCC LIR Appendix 1.1 - HyNet Section 4: Environmental Constraints Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 1.2 - HyNet Section 5a: Environmental Constraints Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 1.3 - HyNet Section 5b: Environmental Constraints Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 1.4 - HyNet Section 6: Environmental Constraints Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 1.5 - HyNet Section 7a: Environmental Constraints Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 1.6 - HyNet Section 7b: Environmental Constraints Plan**

LDP Allocations

- FCC LIR Appendix 2.1- HyNet Section 4: LDP Allocations Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 2.2- HyNet Section 5a: LDP Allocations Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 2.3- HyNet Section 5b: LDP Allocations Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 2.4- HyNet Section 6: LDP Allocations Plan**
- FCC LIR Appendix 2.5- HyNet Section 7: LDP Allocations Plan**

Archaeology and Built Heritage

- FCC LIR Appendix 3.1- HyNet Section 4: Archaeology and Built Heritage**
- FCC LIR Appendix 3.2- HyNet Section 5a: Archaeology and Built Heritage**
- FCC LIR Appendix 3.3- HyNet Section 5b: Archaeology and Built Heritage**
- FCC LIR Appendix 3.4- HyNet Section 6: Archaeology and Built Heritage**
- FCC LIR Appendix 3.5- HyNet Section 7a: Archaeology and Built Heritage**
- FCC LIR Appendix 3.6: HyNet Section 7b - Archaeology and Built Heritage**

Public Rights of Way

- FCC LIR Appendix 4.1- HyNet Section 4: Public Rights of Way**
- FCC LIR Appendix 4.2- HyNet Section 5a: Public Rights of Way**
- FCC LIR Appendix 4.3- HyNet Section 5b: Public Rights of Way**
- FCC LIR Appendix 4.4- HyNet Section 6: Public Rights of Way**
- FCC LIR Appendix 4.5- HyNet Section 7a: Public Rights of Way**
- FCC LIR Appendix 4.6- HyNet Section 7b: Public Rights of Way**

Green Wedge

- FCC LIR Appendix 5 - HyNet DCO and Green Wedge**

PART A: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Liverpool Bay CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) Limited ('the applicant' / 'the developer') have applied for an Order granting development Consent for the construction and installation a new carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline between Ince, near Stanlow, (Cheshire) and Flint, and repurposing of an existing natural gas pipeline between Flint and Talacre. The intention of the pipeline is to transfer waste CO₂ from the manufacture of blue hydrogen at Stanlow, out into the former gas fields offshore, utilising the void spaces left from gas extraction. This project is known as the HyNet North West Carbon Dioxide Pipeline and is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
- 1.2 Flintshire County Council's Cabinet, at their meeting on 25th April 2023 approved this Local Impact Report (LIR) of Flintshire County Council (FCC).
- 1.3 The purpose of the LIR is for the Council to advise the Examining Authority (ExA) on local impacts it considers the proposed development will have on the local area by reference to specific issues and material considerations. Details of how negative impacts can be overcome and mitigated for will be provided where relevant. The LIR will also appraise the proposed development's compliance with local planning policy and guidance and offer views on the DCO provisions, and proposed requirements. It is acknowledged that this proposal seeks for consent of a cross country pipeline. However, the scope of this LIR only relates to the impacts of the proposal as it affects the administrative area of FCC.
- 1.4 It is understood that on 27th March 2023 the applicant submitted a Material Change Request to the ExA. At the time of writing, it was not known if this change request will be accepted by the ExA, therefore this LIR has no regard to the proposed changes to the DCO application. Should the Change Request be accepted by the ExA, an addendum may be offered by the Council to supplement this LIR, should it be required.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DCO DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 The DCO proposed development is for a new underground CO₂ Pipeline from Cheshire, England to Flintshire, Wales and associated above ground installations (AGIs). It is understood that the DCO proposed development would form part of the HyNet North West Project ('the Project') which is a hydrogen supply and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project. The objectives of the Project are to reduce CO₂ emissions from industry, homes and transport and support economic growth in the North West of England and North Wales.
- 2.2 The applicant states in their submission that the DCO Proposed Development is a critical component of the Project which, by facilitating the transportation of carbon, enables the rest of the Project to be low carbon. It would also allow onward tie-in to local carbon intensive industries to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- 2.3 The Project is based on the production of low carbon hydrogen from natural gas and includes the development of a new hydrogen production plant, distribution pipelines, and the creation of CCS infrastructure. The DCO Development includes infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of CO₂ which would be captured from proposed hydrogen production facilities and existing industrial sources in the North West of England and North Wales and securely stored in depleted oil and gas fields in Liverpool Bay.
- 2.4 The DCO Proposed Development would comprise:
- A system of pipelines for the conveyance of carbon dioxide, and apparatus and works associated therewith.
 - Ancillary works integral to the construction of the CO₂ Pipeline, including construction compounds and temporary and or permanent access tracks.
 - Land required for the construction of the Carbon Dioxide Pipeline
 - Above ground installations at Flint and Northop Hall
 - Block Valve Stations at Cornist Lane near Flint, land off the B5121 at Pentre Halkyn and land off Racecourse Lane, Babell, Flintshire.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DCO DEVELOPMENT SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

- 3.1 It is understood from the application documents that 'The Site' refers to the land within which the DCO Proposed Development, and if consented and developed would be located, and bounded by the Order Limits.
- 3.2 The Council's LIR relies upon the Applicant's description of the site and surrounding area as set out in the Applicant's Planning Statement, (document reference APP-048) which divides the proposal into seven separate sections, four of which (Sections 4-7) are within the administrative boundary of Flintshire.
- 3.3 The various appendices of this LIR set out environmental constraints, LDP allocations, built conservation constraints and public rights of way associated with each section of the proposed DCO pipeline within Flintshire.

4. RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY AND COMMITTED DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 Planning applications which are extant or pending determination within the DCO order limit, are set out below. It is noted that the majority of these proposals have not been identified within the applicant's planning statement:

- 4.2 Planning applications pending determination that lie within the DCO Order limit:

- Reference: FUL/000111/23 - Newbridge Farm, Holywell Road, Ewloe, Deeside, CH5 3BS; (RETROSPECTIVE) Construction of a slurry tower with cover. Status – pending.

It is understood that this slurry tank has been constructed and therefore the above planning application is retrospective.

The slurry tower is sited where the proposed DCO CO₂ pipeline is proposed to be located. Liverpool Bay CCS is aware of this existing structure and the pending planning application and has included solutions to resolve this within the change request submitted to the Examining Authority.

- Reference: FUL/000073/23 – Land at Mold Road, Ewloe Green, Ewloe, Flintshire, CH5 3BP; Erection of 5 no Holiday Pods. Status; Pending – consultation period open.

The above planning application site for 5 holiday pods lies within the DCO application boundary.

- Reference: FUL/000719/22 - Beeches Farm, Flint Road, Saltney Ferry, CH4 0BW; Construction of a 42m x 13m silage pit with associated apron yards and effluent drainage.

The application site for the above proposal intersects the DCO application boundary. However, it is understood that the proposed location of the structure lies outside of the DCO application boundary.

- Reference: 064210 - Holywell Grid Substation to Point of Ayr, Talacre; Overhead lines from Holywell Grid Station through Lloc to Talacre; pending decision.

4.3 Planning applications approved within the last 5 years (extant permissions) (to March 2018) that lie within the DCO Order limit are detailed in the table below;

Application number	Site Address	Description of development	Decision Date
058130	Church Lane, Aston Hill, Ewloe. CH5 3BF	Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission ref: 057618	13/03/2018
059029	Ashwood House Church Lane, Aston Hill, Ewloe. CH5 3BF	Retrospective application site re-grading to create a level paddock field for horses & siting of a stable block, new native hedge planting & fencing to be used for boundary treatments & site security.	15/03/2019
059865	Ashwood House Church Lane, Aston Hill, Ewloe, CH5 3BF	Application for the approval of details reserved by condition nos. 4 (landscaping) and 6 (fencing) attached to planning permission ref. 059029	10/07/2019
060579	Nant Cottage Pentre Halkyn, Holywell. CH8 8BD	Creation of a track to provide vehicle access	16/02/2022
060648	Beeches Farm Flint Road, Saltney Ferry. CH4 0BW	Erection of two storage sheds to house livestock and construction of foul water lagoon.	02/10/2020

061666	Shell Northop, Ewloe, CH7 6HB	Formation of Electrical Vehicle Charging Bays with associated plant and compound, Electrical Substation and associated Surfacing to existing Petrol Filling Station	02/11/2020
062980	Mold Road, Ewloe Green, CH5 3PB	Construction of new access to Caravan Licence requirements to serve 5 caravans and closure of existing access on Green Lane.	22/10/2021
063100	Little Oakfield Chester Road, Sandycroft, CH5 2EG	Proposed new 45m x 25m horse exercise arena and access track	04/08/2021
064296	Babell Road, Holywell.	Erection of a steel framed shed	11/04/2022

4.4 Relevant applications refused and under appeal which may be of relevance to the examination of this Application for a DCO is:

- Reference: 062820 - 1 Liverpool Road, CH5 3AR; 'Erection of 130no. Dwellings'. this application has now been refused (26th October 2022). It is uncertain if the applicant will lodge an appeal and we are approaching the end of the period for the applicant to lodge an appeal.

PART B: RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

5. UK GOVERNMENT PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- 5.1 The main material consideration in the determination of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are National Policy Statements (NPS), with the most relevant to this examination being the Overarching EPS for Energy, EN-1 (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011) and EN-4 (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011) which is the NPS relating to gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines as there are no specific NPS relating to CO₂ pipelines.
- 5.2 It is understood that the UK Government is currently undertaking a review of the existing energy NPSs to ensure they provide a suitable framework to support decision-making for nationally significant energy infrastructure and to ensure the planning policy framework can deliver investment in the infrastructure needed for the transition to net zero and revised energy NPSs have been published.
- 5.3 The draft NPSs of relevance are Draft Overarching Energy NPS (EN-1) (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2021) and Draft National Policy Statement for gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines (EN-4) (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2021) which would be expanded to address carbon dioxide pipelines. It is considered that whilst these draft NPS are not yet adopted, they are nevertheless an important and relevant consideration in the determination of the Application. However, these documents still only have draft status and therefore the adopted 2011 NPS apply and remain the most relevant policy documents for the determination of this proposal.
- 5.4 The Council considers that Welsh Government and Local planning policies are also material considerations to be afforded appropriate weight. The policies and legislation the Council consider relevant are set out in the sections below.

6. WELSH GOVERNMENT PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLIATION

6.1 It is noted that this project is a cross boundary project which would affect both England and Wales. Therefore, the elements of the proposed development that lie in Wales, should also be considered against Welsh Government Policy and the Development Plan within Flintshire.

6.2 The Council considers the following Welsh Government legislation, policy documents and guidance are relevant:

Legislation:

6.3 The provisions within the following Acts are considered to be material considerations:

- The Wales Act 2017
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Amendment of 2050 Emissions Target) Regulations 2021 which set an amended target of reducing carbon emissions in Wales to net zero by 2050.

6.4 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 puts in place seven well-being goals guiding sustainable development, one of which endeavours to achieve 'A prosperous Wales' in which *"An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work."* It is considered that the proposed development would contribute to achieving the long term goal of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act of achieving a prosperous Wales.

Prosperity for All: Low Carbon Wales (2019).

- 6.5 This Plan sets out the Welsh Government's approach to cut emissions and increase efficiency in a way that maximises wider benefits for Wales, ensuring a fairer and healthier society. It sets out 100 policies and proposals that directly reduce emissions and support the growth of the low carbon economy. Its aim is to assist Wales to meet 2016 to 2020 carbon budget, and 2020 emissions reduction targets. The plan:
- Focuses on future skills needed to ensure we transition our workforce to maximise the opportunities presented by global clean growth.
- 6.6 Policy 34 - Maximise Welsh benefit from major infrastructure projects in Wales
States that although the Wales Act 2017 delivers increased powers to Welsh Ministers, there are still many major infrastructure decisions made by UK Government and others. Welsh Government's approach is to ensure we understand the impacts on Wales and ensure we derive the maximum social and economic benefit from the development.
- 6.7 Policy 57 – Energy Efficiency Schemes UK Government
UK Government's Clean Growth Strategy sets out policies and proposals to accelerate the pace of clean growth. It includes the development of a package of measures to support businesses to improve energy productivity by at least 20% by 2030 including working with the Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS) Council to consider options to deploy CCUS in the UK and maximise its industrial opportunity.
- 6.8 Policy 60 – Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage
The UKCCC assumes that CCUS could significantly reduce Welsh emissions by 2050 but the deployment of CCUS in its Welsh scenarios does not commence until the late 2030s and will be towards the end of the window of UK deployment.

This reflects the greater practical difficulty and cost in the Welsh context relative to other parts of the UK. UK Government's industry led CCUS Council will need to work with Welsh Government when considering steps required to reduce the cost of deploying CCUS in the UK. In July 2018 the Group published its independent report setting out industry's view on how best to progress CCUS in the UK in order to enable the UK to have the option of deploying CCUS at scale during the 2030s, subject to costs coming down sufficiently.

A Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage Network for Wales (2021)

- 6.9 This sets out the approach that the Welsh Government would like to see regarding Carbon Capture Storage (CCS). The document recognises CCS as “a feasible technical option to support Wales in achieving its statutory emissions reduction targets”.

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11, February 2021).

- 6.10 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. The following sections of PPW are considered of relevance to this development:
- Chapter 3 – Strategic and Spatial Choices. In particular section 3.58-3.59 inclusive which relates to the best and most versatile agricultural land and section 5.60 to which relates to development in the countryside and supporting infrastructure.
 - Chapter 5 – Production and Enterprising Place. In particular Section 5.7 – 5.9 inclusive, which sets out the policy framework for renewable and low carbon energy development.
 - Chapter 6 - Distinctive and Natural Places. In particular Section 6.1: The Historic Environment; Chapter 6.3: Landscape; Chapter 6.4: Biodiversity and Ecological Networks; Chapter 6.6: Water and Flood Risk; Chapter 6.7: Air Quality and Soundscape; and Chapter 8: Lighting.

- 6.11 PPW sets out the overriding requirement for sustainable development. The document sets out a number of planning principles as follows:
- Growing our economy in a sustainable manner
 - Making best use of resources
 - Facilitating accessible and healthy environments
 - Creating and sustaining communities
 - Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact
- 6.12 Paragraph 2.27 advises that planning authorities should ensure that social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits are considered in the decision-making process and assessed in accordance with the five ways of working to ensure a balanced assessment is carried out to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Sustainable Development Principle.
- 6.13 Paragraph 3.30 onwards explains climate change, decarbonisation and the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR). This section recognises that the planning system plays a key role in tackling the climate emergency through the decarbonisation of the energy system and the sustainable management of natural resources. One of the key features of the SMNR is recognised as 'facilitating the move towards decarbonisation of the economy'.
- 6.14 The guidance which is key to the consideration of this proposed development is in section 5.7 relating to Energy. Paragraph 5.7.1 states '*The future energy supply mix will depend on a range of established and emerging low carbon technologies, including biomethane and green hydrogen*'. Paragraph 5.7.2 states '*In order to ensure future demand can be met, significant investment will be needed in energy generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure. The system will need to integrate renewable generation with storage and other flexibility services, in order to minimise the need for new generation and grid system reinforcement. Collectively we will need to concentrate on reducing emissions from fossil fuel sources, whilst driving further renewable generation which delivers value to Wales*'.

- 6.15 PPW provides guidance on the electricity grid network and also associated energy storage. Paragraph 5.7.10 states '*Planning authorities should plan positively for grid infrastructure. Development plans should facilitate the grid infrastructure required to support the renewable and low carbon energy potential for the area, particularly areas identified for such development. Planning authorities should support appropriate grid developments, whether or not the developments to be connected are located within their authority*'. Although not specifically stated it would appear that this statement is applicable to all energy networks and not just electricity.
- 6.16 Paragraph 5.9.19 provides guidance in respect of development management and advises that planning authorities should take into account:
- '*the contribution a proposal will make to meeting identified Welsh, UK and European targets;*
 - '*the contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and*
 - '*the wider environmental, social and economic benefits and opportunities from renewable and low carbon energy development*'.
- 6.17 Paragraph 5.9.20 advises that '*Planning authorities should also identify and require suitable ways to avoid, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts of renewable and low carbon energy development*'. It further advises that '*The construction, operation, decommissioning, remediation and aftercare of proposals should take into account:*
- '*the need to minimise impacts on local communities, such as from noise and air pollution, to safeguard quality of life for existing and future generations;*
 - '*the impact on the natural and historic environment;*
 - '*cumulative impact;*
 - '*the capacity of, and effects on the transportation network;*
 - '*grid connection issues where renewable (electricity) energy developments are proposed; and*
 - '*the impacts of climate change on the location, design, build and operation of renewable and low carbon energy development. In doing so, consider whether measures to adapt to climate change impacts give rise to additional impacts*'.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- 6.18 Future Wales is the Welsh Government's national development framework, setting direction for development in Wales to 2040. Future Wales forms part of the statutory development plan for Wales. It is the highest tier of development plan and regard has been had to Future Wales as part of the preparation of the Flintshire LDP which is now adopted, in terms of ensuring general conformity. It has development plan status and therefore forms part of the planning framework, used as a basis for making planning decisions in Flintshire.
- 6.19 Future Wales draws attention on page 13 to the Natural Resources Policy which identifies the need to '*facilitate the decarbonisation of the economy, including energy and transport choices, and promote the principles of a circular economy*'.
- 6.20 Future Wales sets out some 11 outcomes and outcome 11 on page 56 is '*A Wales where people live ... in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient*'. The accompanying text is as follows: '*The challenges of the climate emergency demand urgent action on carbon emissions and the planning system must help Wales lead the way in promoting and delivering a competitive, sustainable decarbonised society. Decarbonisation commitments and renewable energy targets will be treated as opportunities to build a more resilient and equitable low-carbon economy, develop clean and efficient transport infrastructure, improve public health and generate skilled jobs in new sectors. New homes will be energy efficient and will help communities adapt to the changing climate*'.
- 6.21 Future Wales sets out a number of policies. Policy 1 is the overarching framework for where development and growth will be focused in each reach. 'Where Wales will Grow' identifies that Wrexham and Deeside is a National Growth Area where '*.. there will be growth in employment and housing*

- opportunities and investment in infrastructure*'. Policy 1 drives the delivery of the Future Wales Outcomes and ensures Future Wales' policies and the planning system in general are committed to achievement. Key issues listed include decarbonisation.
- 6.22 Policy 17 'Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure' strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet future energy needs. The policy states *'In determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales' international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency*'. It further states *'Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities*'. The policy also, and of relevance to this proposed development, recognises the importance of infrastructure stating *'New strategic grid infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of energy should be designed to minimise visual impact on nearby communities. The Welsh Government will work with stakeholders, including National Grid and Distribution Network Operators, to transition to a multi-vector grid network and reduce the barriers to the implementation of new grid infrastructure*'.
- 6.23 Policy 20 'National Growth Area – Wrexham and Deeside' recognises that *'Wrexham and Deeside will be the main focus for growth and investment in the North region*'.
- 6.24 Policy 21 'Regional Growth Area – North Wales Coastal Settlements', recognises and identifies that the North of Wales will play a role in decarbonising society and supports the realisation of new infrastructure projects.

Technical Advice Notes (TANs) and Welsh Government Planning Guidance.

- 6.25 The following TANs and Welsh Government Practice Guidance are considered to be material considerations:
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5 - Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6 - Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11 – Noise (1997)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12 – Design (2016)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 13 - Tourism (1997)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 – Development and Flood Risk (2004)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 18 – Transport (2007)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language (2017)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21 – Waste (2014)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 23 – Economic Development (2014)
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24 – The Historic Environment (2017)

7. LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

- 7.1 The Flintshire LDP was adopted by the Council on 24th January 2023 and covers the period 2015 to 2030. It forms part of the statutory development plan alongside Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.
- 7.2 The LDP does not contain a specific policy in respect of infrastructure projects and would rely on the framework of strategic and detailed development management policies to be read as a whole. Policy STR6 does recognise the need for infrastructure but is in the context of this supporting particular forms of development such as housing, rather than freestanding infrastructure development. The key relevant policies in the adopted LDP are listed below:

- STR4 sets out strategic principles in respect of sustainable development, design and placemaking and is clearly signposted to subsequent detailed policies
- STR13 strategic principles in respect of natural, built environment, green networks and infrastructure and is signposted to subsequent detailed policies
- STR14 sets out strategic principles in respect of climate change and environmental protection
- PC1 guidance on development within and outside of settlement boundaries.
- PC2 sets out general requirements for all developments
- PC3 addresses design matters
- PC4 sets out guidance on the sustainability and resilience of new development
- EN1 seeks to protect existing sports recreational and cultural facilities
- EN2 addresses green infrastructure
- EN4 seeks to ensure new development respects landscape character
- EN6 provides guidance on sites of biodiversity importance
- EN7 provides guidance on trees, woodlands and hedgerows
- EN8 provides guidance on the built historic environment and listed buildings
- EN13 provides guidance on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development
- EN14 provides guidance in respect of flood risk
- EN15 seeks to ensure new development does not harm water resources

8. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTES

- 8.1 Flintshire's Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes (SPGs) were adopted in line with national guidance including involving public consultation and formal resolution to adopt. It is accepted that the SPGs were prepared in line with the previous Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and particular policies, and it is acknowledged that the UDP no longer forms part of the Development Plan for Flintshire. However, most of the SPG's are still applicable to the broad thrust of relevant LDP policies and reasonably up to date in terms of PPW. It is considered therefore that it would be reasonable that in those instances where the guidance in an existing SPG is both relevant and helpful, the SPG's should continue to be afforded appropriate weight.

8.2 It will be necessary when using a particular SPG to ensure that it still remains consistent with the relevant LDP policy and with PPW11. Any inconsistencies would then need to be addressed in terms of relative weight to be attached.

8.3 The Council has a set of adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Notes. The relevant SPGs for this application are as follows:

- SPG3 Landscaping
- SPG4 Trees and Development
- SPG8 Nature Conservation & Development
- SPG8a Great Crested Newt Mitigation Requirements
- SPG28 Archaeology

9. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 The Council consider the following technical sources and guidance documents to be material planning considerations:

- Welsh Government LANDMAP: the all-Wales Geographical Information (GIS) based resource for assessing landscape character and quality. LANDMAP is the formally adopted methodology for landscape assessment in Wales and informs planning related uses and landscape baseline conditions at both local and landscape scale.
- Cadw guidance document 'Setting of Historic Assets in Wales Guidance' (CADW, May 2017).
- Welsh Government Predicative Agricultural Land Classification: predicative Map
- Welsh Government Practice Guidance: Planning Implications of Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy (February 2011)
- Welsh Government Practice Guidance: Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy – A Toolkit for Planners (September 2015)

PART C: ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

10. PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

- 10.1. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Amendment of 2050 Emissions Target) Regulations 2021 has set an amended target of reducing carbon emissions in Wales to net zero by 2050.
- 10.2. PPW provides strategic policy support for renewable energy developments of all scales. At 5.7.14 it states the Welsh Government has set targets for the generation of renewable energy, which includes a target of 70% of electricity consumption in Wales to be generated from renewable energy by 2030.
- 10.3. Future Wales, the National Plan 2040 forms part of the adopted development plan for all local planning authority areas in Wales.
- 10.4. Future Wales Policy 17 sets out strong support to the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs. It states that, in determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales' international commitments and the Welsh Government target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency.
- 10.5. Policy 1 drives the delivery of the Future Wales Outcomes and ensures Future Wales' policies and the planning system in general are committed to achievement. Key issues listed include decarbonisation.
- 10.6. LDP Policy EN13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development states that:
*“All renewable or low carbon energy proposals will be permitted provided that:
i. the development does not prejudice the purpose of the ILSAs [indicative local search areas] to maximise opportunities for large scale solar PV development;*

- ii. the siting, design, layout, type of installation and materials used do not have a significant adverse effect on the character and features of the proposed location;*
- iii. there would not be unacceptable loss of public amenity or accessibility to the area;*
- iv. the impact of the development upon agriculture, forestry, recreation and other land uses is minimised to permit existing uses to continue unhindered;*
- v. there would be no individual or cumulative significant adverse effect on the landscape, particularly the AONB and its setting;*
- vi. any associated ancillary buildings or structures are sensitively sited and designed to minimize their impact on the character and quality of the locality;*
- vii. in sensitive areas where above ground connections will have an unacceptable adverse effect on the landscape, connection lines and pipes should be located underground;*
- viii. adequate provision has been made in the scheme for the restoration and aftercare of the site on the cessation of use.*

10.7 Of relevance, the explanatory text that accompanies Policy EN13 states: *“The Council is aware that the energy sector is going through significant changes in the light of the need to de-carbonise energy production. Innovative new energy sources such as hydrogen are being developed and there may be opportunities for such development within the County given its long standing energy production role’.*

10.8 Welsh Government has declared a climate emergency in Wales and has set plans for the public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030 (Welsh Government, 2019). As a result, FCC has set the target date of 2030 to decarbonise Council operations and promote the protection and enhancement of the county’s natural environment. FCC has published a Climate Strategy – 2029/30) to help meet this goal (Flintshire County Council, 2021).

- 10.9 The applicant's 'Needs Case' [APP-049] and the Planning Statement [APP-048] considers the Energy and Planning Policy and Legislative context for this proposed development. The documents set out general conformity with NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-4.
- 10.10 From a carbon reduction perspective, the Council are supportive of the proposal due to the anticipated carbon emissions savings that would be prevented from entering the atmosphere. As such, the HyNet project would contribute to carbon reduction and, in turn aid the UK in its target to be net zero carbon by 2050.
- 10.11 The wider HyNet project would also contribute to relieving the strain on the national electricity grid, as it is understood that some of the Hydrogen produced would be used in energy generation to supply domestic buildings.
- 10.12 The decarbonisation of heat within the UK's housing stock will largely be met by the installation of heat pumps, with targets of 600,000 per year installed by 2028. Combined with the introduction of electric vehicles and their associated charging infrastructure, this represents a significant increase in demand on the country's electricity network, the reinforcement of which, to cope with the aforementioned increased demand, will no doubt come at a significant cost.
- 10.13 A significant proportion of the area covered by the HyNet network is largely industrial, currently emitting large amounts of carbon emissions, and if a proportion of this can be captured this would be beneficial, not just for the immediate areas in which the Hydrogen production plant is proposed in Cheshire, but also for Flintshire and beyond. Furthermore, should the DCO application for a carbon dioxide pipeline be consented, this would provide opportunities in the future (subject to separate consenting) for large CO₂ emitting industries to capture their carbon and connect and 'tie-in' to the proposed HyNet CO₂ pipeline for offshore storage.

10.14 The project therefore would contribute to the reduction of CO₂ in the atmosphere and would make a significant contribution to the national and local effort to alleviate the climate change emergency. The Council agree that the proposal would deliver clear and substantial benefits on a local, regional and national level.

10.15 However, from a 'green' perspective there are a number of constraints and drawbacks with the wider HyNet project. HyNet proposes the production of what is known as 'Blue' Hydrogen; using natural gas (a fossil fuel) in order to accelerate the move to a zero carbon energy network. This appears to be somewhat counter intuitive as it does not represent an avoidance of emissions and it may further encourage investment into natural gas industries and potentially away from the renewable energy sector. Whilst it can be noted that 'Blue' Hydrogen represents somewhat of a stop gap, if hydrogen networks are to be developed then ultimately these need to switch to renewable energy enabled 'Green' Hydrogen in order to truly reach net zero carbon, which is currently not particularly feasible at scale, although this is being further developed as part of UK Government's 'twin track' approach.

10.16 **Conclusion on assessment of impact:**

- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL**
- Operational Phase: **POSITIVE**

11. PLANNING ASSESSMENT FOR THE IMPACT ON THE GREEN WEDGE

- 11.1. Paragraph 4.3.62 of the applicant's Planning Statement [APP-048] states that the Order Limits do not conflict with any land designated as 'green wedge'. However, the Council does not agree with this statement. Within the application documents, the applicant has failed to identify that a large proportion of the proposed development would potentially affect a number of green wedges that are designated in the adopted Flintshire LDP under Policy EN11.
- 11.2. The following table lists the green wedges that would potentially be affected by the proposed development with corresponding project 'Works Nos' noted. FCC LIR Appendix 5 – 'HyNet DCO and Green Wedge' provides a map of the locations of green wedge and its relationship with the Order Limits.

Green Wedge Areas - Policy EN11	Works No's affected
11. Connah's Quay – Northop Hall / Ewloe / Shotton	Works Nos 40B – 43A affected
12. Shotton – Mancot – Hawarden – Ewloe	Works Nos 34 – 39 affected Including Aston Hill BVS
13. Hawarden – Mancot – Hawarden Airport – Saltney (S of R. Dee)	Works Nos 33 – 34 affected
15. Sealand – Cheshire Border (N of R. Dee)	Works Nos 29 – 31C affected

- 11.3. Paragraph 5.10.1 of EN-1 states that an energy infrastructure project will have direct effects on the existing use of the proposed site and may have indirect effects on the use, or planned use, of land in the vicinity of other types of development. Specifically, regarding Green Belts, paragraph 5.10.4 explains that the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the most important attribute of Green Belts is their openness. Paragraph 5.10.18 states that in Wales, 'green wedges' may be designated locally. These enjoy the same protection as Green Belt in Wales and the Secretary of State should adopt a similar approach.

- 11.4. PPW (2021) states at paragraph 3.68 *“Green wedges are local designations which essentially have the same purpose as Green Belts. They may be used to provide a buffer between the settlement edge and statutory designations and safeguard important views into and out of the area. Green wedges should be proposed and be subject to review as part of the LDP process.”*
- 11.5. Paragraph 3.71 continues, *“To maintain openness, development within a Green Belt and green wedge must be strictly controlled”*. Paragraph 3.73 states *“When considering applications for planning permission in Green Belts or green wedges, a presumption against inappropriate development will apply. Substantial weight should be attached to any harmful impact which a development would have on the purposes of Green Belt or green wedge designation.”*
- 11.6. Paragraph 3.74 states that *“Inappropriate development should not be granted planning permission except in very exceptional circumstances where other considerations clearly outweigh the harm which such development would do to the Green Belt or green wedge.”*
- 11.7. The general planning policy presumption against ‘inappropriate development’ applies with equal force in relation nationally significant energy infrastructure projects.
- 11.8. Construction of new buildings in a Green Belt or Green Wedge is considered to be inappropriate development unless it meets the criteria as set out in PPW paragraph 3.75. Certain other forms of development may be appropriate in the Green Belt or Green Wedge provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. PPW paragraph 3.77 lists low carbon energy generation and engineering operations as other development that may be appropriate, provided they preserve its openness.

11.9. Policy EN11 of the adopted Flintshire LDP echoes this policy stance and states:
Within the designated green wedges development will only be permitted for:

- a) justified rural enterprise needs;*
- b) essential facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation, cemeteries, and other uses of land which maintain the openness of the green wedge and which do not conflict with the purpose of including land within it;*
- c) limited extension, alteration or replacement of existing dwellings;*
- d) small scale diversification within farm complexes where this is run as part of the farm business; or*
- e) the re-use of buildings provided that:*
 - i. the original building is substantial, permanent and capable of conversion without major reconstruction;*
 - ii. the new use will not have a greater impact on the openness of the green wedge and the purposes of including land within it; and*
 - iii. the building is in keeping with its surroundings.*

Certain other forms of development may be appropriate in the green wedge provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. These are: mineral extraction; renewable and low carbon energy generation; engineering operations; and local transport infrastructure. Other forms of development would be inappropriate development unless they maintain the openness of the green wedge and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it.

11.10. Whilst the applicant has not identified that the proposal would potentially affect the green wedges within Flintshire, the Order Limits also fall within land designated for the Cheshire West and Chester Green Belt. Chapter 5 of the applicant's Planning Statement [APP-048] provides a detailed assessment of Green Belt Policy. This assessment is considered transferable in the consideration of the impact the proposed development would have on the green wedge within Flintshire.

- 11.11. It is noted that due to the strategic, linear nature of the DCO Proposed Development, the applicant has stated that it is necessary for the pipeline and associated infrastructure to pass through the Cheshire West and Chester Green Belt to avoid settlements and unnecessary conflict with other development. The same justification would apply for the pipeline crossing through the green wedges of Flintshire.
- 11.12. Within the Flintshire green wedges, the proposal would comprise a permanent underground pipeline and a permanent BVS at Aston Hill. The table above and appended plan shows the DCO limits in relation to the Flintshire Green Wedges and respective 'Works Nos'. There would also be a total of four temporary construction compounds to facilitate the construction.
- 11.13. Paragraph 5.2.5 onwards of the applicant's Planning Statement [APP-488] discusses the nature of the elements of the DCO Proposed Development within the Cheshire Green Belt and considers whether these elements should be considered appropriate development in the Green Belt, or whether there is a need for a case for very special circumstances to be made. Whilst the applicant has not identified that the proposal would fall within the Flintshire Green Wedges, it is considered that the commentary and considerations provided in the Planning Statement in relation to the proposal in the Cheshire Green Belt are transferable and applicable for the consideration of the appropriateness of the proposal in the Flintshire Green Wedge as the features of the development are comparable.
- 11.14. The Council would agree that by its very nature, the DCO Proposed Development would principally be an 'engineering operation' and therefore is likely to be excluded from the definition of inappropriate development in the green wedge, provided it preserved its openness.

- 11.15. This approach is consistent with other similar gas pipeline schemes and confirmed by the statement in paragraph 5.10.12 of EN-1: *“An applicant may be able to demonstrate that a particular type of energy infrastructure, such as an underground pipeline, which, in Green Belt policy terms, may be considered as an “engineering operation” rather than a building is not in the circumstances of the application inappropriate development.”*
- 11.16. PPW paragraph 3.77 lists engineering operations as other development that may be appropriate provided they preserve its openness. Likewise, Policy EN11 of the Flintshire LDP states that engineering operations may be appropriate in the green wedge provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it.
- 11.17. The Council would agree with paragraph 5.2.7 of the Planning Statement with regards to the consideration of the pipeline within the Cheshire Green Belt and that this assessment is applicable to the Flintshire Green Wedge. As the sections of pipeline would be buried underground, this element of the development is considered to be appropriate development within the green wedge for which there will be no harm to the open character of the green wedge or conflict with the purposes of including land within it.
- 11.18. The permanent BVS within the Flintshire green wedge comprise the BVS at Aston Hill. The features of this development would be comparable to those detailed within the Planning Statement at paragraph 5.2.10. The Council would concur that this BVS would also be considered to be an engineering operation essential to the operation of the DCO proposed development.
- 11.19. Due to their scale and nature of the development, it is unlikely that these facilities would preserve the openness of the Green Wedge in this location and therefore, this BVS in the green wedge would be considered to be ‘inappropriate development’.

- 11.20. However, whilst it is considered that the Aston Hill BVS would impact the openness of the green wedge, as the development being proposed is necessary to efficiently and safely operate a gas pipeline, the presence of the BVS in the green wedge is not considered to conflict with the purposes of the designation, as set out in PPW at paragraph 3.67.
- 11.21. In relation to the temporary construction compounds proposed in the green wedge, the Council concurs with the assessment provided by the applicant. Seemingly there is no guidance with regards to how temporary effects on the opens of the green wedge should be considered, however, any effect would be temporary and short term.
- 11.22. Once the construction is completed, the compounds would be removed and the pipeline would not be visible, and the land restored. Therefore, the Council would concur with the assessment that there would be no long-term harm of the openness of the green wedge.
- 11.23. A case for very special circumstances has been made by the applicant in their Planning Statement at paragraph 5.2.23. This is in relation to the effect on the openness of the Cheshire Green Belt and not the Flintshire green wedge. It is considered that the applicant should provide a case for 'very exceptional circumstances' for inappropriate development in the Flintshire green wedge in relation to the Aston Hill BVS so that a judgement can be made as to whether the harm of the BVS on the green wedge would be outweighed by the need for the development. It is the Council's view that exceptional circumstances would be demonstrated in this instance.
- 11.24. **Conclusion on assessment of impact:**
- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL**
 - Operational Phase: **NEGATIVE (ASTON HILL BVS ONLY),
ALL OTHER ELEMENTS – NEUTRAL**

12. ARCHAEOLOGY AND BUILT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

- 12.1. Planning Policy Wales (PPW 11) Chapter 6 'Distinctive and Natural Places' states there should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of a conservation area or its setting and Section 6.1.10 indicates that where a development proposal affects a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting, and any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.
- 12.2. Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN24) at 1.23 states *"Planning Policy Wales identifies how local planning authorities must treat World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, unscheduled nationally important archaeological remains, listed buildings, conservation areas and registered historic parks and gardens in Wales in their consideration of planning applications and producing development plans. This includes the impact of proposed developments within the settings of these historic assets."* Impact on setting is therefore a material consideration to be afforded weight.
- 12.3. Policy EN8: Built Historic Environment and Listed Buildings of the adopted Flintshire Local Development Plan seeks to preserve the County's buildings and features of special architectural and historic importance, and their settings. It states in criterion b. that *"Development should preserve Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings and where appropriate the preservation of other archaeological remains, having regard to the intrinsic importance of the remains and the need for the proposed development"*.
- 12.4. Appendices FCC LIR Appendix 3.1 through to FCC LIR Appendix 3.6 show the locations of listed buildings/heritage assets in Flintshire in the vicinity of the proposed DCO development.

- 12.5. The Environmental Statement Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage [APP-060] assesses the Cultural Heritage Assessment which includes the assessment of archaeology in and around the Order Limit.
- 12.6. The Council would also respectfully defer to the Examining Authority to any comments or representations made by CADW, and the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) on matters relating to Archaeology and Built Heritage.
- 12.7. It is understood however from discussions between the Council and CPAT that following pre-application discussions and on-going liaison and advice, the applicant has completed as much pre-determination evaluation trenching as possible in advance of examination and this has been progressing over recent months. It is understood that the initial stage of archaeological trenching of locations based on the geophysics results has taken place. It is understood that this information will be included in an addendum to the Environmental Statement Chapter 8 relating to Cultural Heritage. This will update the predicted impacts and proposed mitigation.
- 12.8. It is also understood that an additional 2% trial trench sample evaluation will be completed following Detailed Design of the remainder of the DCO Proposed Development, focussed on the refined 32m wide working width for the construction of the Carbon Dioxide Pipeline.
- 12.9. The Council has been advised that following the initial evaluation trenching that nothing significant has been found. However, a number of locations did contain undated features of local interest would need further archaeological investigation prior to the pipeline being constructed, should it receive consent, and this would be secured by Requirement 10 with regards to the need to produce a pre-commencement written scheme for the investigation areas of archaeological interest relevant to that stage.

12.10. It is understood that CPAT and the applicant are in agreement with the mitigation suggested in the Environmental Statement, and the agreed outline Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation [APP-223]. CPAT have confirmed that the outline Written Scheme of Investigation is largely robust and appropriate. This gives the Council and CPAT confidence that the evaluation work already recommended by CPAT, together with additional evaluation and mitigation options suggested by the applicant's consultants, would be adequately address any archaeological impacts arising from the proposals for the proposed DCO development.

12.11. Conclusion on assessment of impact:

- Construction Phase: **NEGATIVE**
- Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

13. BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION

13.1. PPW11 Section 6.4 'Biodiversity and Ecological Networks', current legislation and the Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity SPG, which stress the importance of the planning system in meeting biodiversity objectives through promoting approaches to development which create new opportunities to enhance biodiversity, prevent biodiversity losses, or compensate for losses where damage is unavoidable.

13.2. PPW11 sets out that *"planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity"* (Section 6.4.5). PPW also draws attention to the contents of Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which sets a duty on Local Planning Authorities

to demonstrate they have taken all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. It is important that biodiversity and resilience considerations are taken into account at an early stage when considering development proposals (Section 6.4.4).

13.3. LDP Policy STR13: Natural and Built Environment, Green Networks and Infrastructure sets out the strategic policy framework for conserving, protecting and enhancing the quality and diversity of Flintshire's natural environment including biodiversity and it also aims to promote opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ensure resilience.

13.4. LDP Policy EN6: Sites of Biodiversity Importance states:

“Development likely to significantly affect any site of international importance, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will be subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Development will only be permitted where it is possible to ascertain no adverse effect on the integrity of the Site or where there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and compensatory measures are secured.

Development likely to impact the special features of a Nationally Designated Site will only be granted in exceptional circumstances where appropriate compensation can be provided.

Development proposals that would have a significant adverse effect on locally designated sites or site with other biodiversity and / or geological interest, including priority species, will only be permitted where:

- a. it can be demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the biodiversity or geological importance of the site; and*
- b. it can be demonstrated that the development cannot reasonably be located elsewhere; and*
- c. any unavoidable harm is minimised by effective mitigation to ensure that there is no reduction in the overall biodiversity value of the area. Where this is not feasible compensation measures designed to create, restore and enhance biodiversity must be provided.*

Development that results in the restoration, enhancement and creation of habitats will be supported especially where this promotes the resilience of ecosystems.

- 13.5. The applicant has considered and assessed the impact on biodiversity and nature conservation interests which is provided in the Environmental Statement, Chapter 9 [APP-061] and accompanying appendices; Appendix 9.1 – 9.10 [APP-091 to APP-116]. Chapter 9 of the ES sets out the mitigation principles and emphasises the importance of embedded and secondary mitigation without which there would be potential for significant impacts.
- 13.6. As part of the preparation for this DCO application, extensive ecological surveys have been undertaken as set out in Table 9.3, Table 9.8, and Table 9.10 of the ES Chapter 9 with regards to Receptor Survey Area with Reference to Best Practice Guidelines, Summary of Species Survey Results and Embedded mitigation designed for the DCO Proposed Development respectively.
- 13.7. The exact route of the pipeline would be determined at the detailed design stage. Therefore, the impact assessment assumes worst case scenario with regards to mitigation requirements. The detailed design would aim to reduce impacts further, however this may well be limited by actual timing of works and length of time within one locality. It is unlikely that the works would be undertaken at the least sensitive time of year for all species for the whole length of the pipeline, meaning that not all habitats and species can be buffered as proposed.
- 13.8. FCC LIR Appendix 1.1 through to FCC LIR Appendix 1.6 show the environmental constraints in relation to the DCO application.
- 13.9. Table 9.12 of Chapter 9 of the ES sets out Design and Mitigation Measures and their Delivery Mechanisms. This sets out the measures and reasoning which are then detailed within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP), Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) and Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC).

- 13.10. At each stage of the development, it is understood that the detailed CEMP, LEMP and REAC would be agreed by the Local Planning Authority as set out in the requirements of the draft DCO. Action, commitments and mitigation including monitoring requirements are aligned and cover habitats and species thoroughly within the Order Limits. NRW species licences may require additional mitigation and monitoring especially for species such as Great Crested Newt (GCN), which are widespread within Flintshire.
- 13.11. The OLEMP sets out the tree and scrub planting mitigation which is to be welcomed. It is not clear however if the areas are specifically chosen for their mitigation value or landowner agreement. It would be beneficial to include opportunities for other habitats such as grassland and pond enhancements.

Biodiversity Net Gain/ Net Benefit

- 13.12. In Wales, PPW11 sets out in paragraph 6.4.5 that *“planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity”*. This policy and subsequent policies in Chapter 6 of PPW 11 respond to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 13.13. As the submitted Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment provided within the applicant’s submission [APP-231 to APP-236] states, BNG is specified through the metric, comments within this LIR have been relied on by colleagues in Cheshire West and Chester Council with regards to actual gains (as opposed to benefits as the Welsh Government guidance refers).
- 13.14. However, discussions have taken place with regards to what Flintshire County Council’s Countryside Service can achieve through off site habitat compensation. Discussions are also being undertaken with other organisations and private landowners particularly with regards to woodland planting. Securing

these biodiversity gains or benefits for the long term should be secured via legal documentation and a draft Heads of Terms should be provided by the applicant for the purpose of the DCO.

- 13.15. In addition the Welsh policy means there is an opportunity to look at wider benefits for ecosystem resilience which includes the specified proposals set out in the BNG report but could include wider species opportunities namely for the GCN which are prevalent in Flintshire.
- 13.16. Habitat and Species impacts and mitigation are summarised below but ultimately these will depend on the detailed design and what mitigation can and can't be achieved within the DCO.

Designated Sites

- 13.17. FCC LIR Appendix 1.1 through to FCC LIR Appendix 1.6 show the locations of the various designated sites in relation to the DCO application.
- 13.18. The applicant has provided a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which provides information to inform an Appropriate Assessment [APP-226]. Table 6.11 provides a summary of Stage 1 Screening Results. Section 7 of the HRA Stage 2 incorporates mitigation measures to address potential effects on European Sites as specified within the OCEMP and REAC.

River Dee Special Area of Conservation

- 13.19. The proposed DCO CO2 pipeline if consented would cross under River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at a minimum depth of 15m with the entrance/exit pits situated at least 16m from the riverbanks outside the designated boundary. Drilling fluid/mud would be required to keep the borehole open, made up of bentonite and biodegradable polymers. The crossing is anticipated to take up to four weeks with 24hour working.

- 13.20. **Migratory fish**; the crossing depth of 15m below the river bed, the intensity of vibration at the riverbed is predicted to be negligible but the lighting required for 24hour working has the potential to cause disturbance. Dust generated from open cut trenches within 50m of the River Dee could result in smothering of vegetation/habitats or a deterioration of water quality without mitigation.
- 13.21. **Otter**; no otter field signs were recorded along the River Dee but they are known to occur. Otter were recorded along Wepre and Alltami Brooks which are hydrologically connected to the River Dee and within the home range (32km for male otters and 20km for female). Open cut techniques on the pipeline have the potential to cause entrapment. The need for 24hour working with lighting together with the equipment noise and vibration has the potential to prevent otter commuting along the River Dee. However, the entrance/ exit pits are expected to be a minimum of 125m apart and the width of the River Dee and natural topography should still allow otter to move along the river.
- 13.22. Mitigation measures are set out in the OCEMP and REAC to avoid dust and lighting impacts, with detailed reasonable avoidance measures and the potential need for otter licences dependent on the detailed design.
- 13.23. The River Dee is accepted as functionally linked to the Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)/ Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar/SAC. No Dee Estuary SAC (estuarine habitats) features are proposed to be impacted due to crossing at a minimum depth of 15m below the riverbed and with the entrance/exit pits at least 16m from the river banks.
- 13.24. SPA and Ramsar qualifying species include Shelduck, teal oystercatcher and curlew were recorded in low numbers (less than 0.1% mean monthly counts). Redshank were recorded in more significant numbers with over 1% peak and mean monthly count of passage birds and over 1% peak wintering birds. The topography of the River Dee at the crossing site means that works at the

entrance/ exit pits is not predicted to be in the line of sight of SPA birds using the mudflats but noise disturbance may still cause an impact. The crossing is anticipated to take up to four weeks and will include 24hour working requiring lighting which could result in the disturbance of mudflat habitat.

- 13.25. Mitigation measures are set out in the OCEMP and REAC to avoid disturbance and lighting impacts. If timing of works is limited to specific summer months, then there would be no impact on passage or wintering Redshank.

Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites SAC

- 13.26. The Deeside and Buckley New Site SAC is designated for the great crested newt (GCN) habitat. The Order Limits falls just outside the Deeside and Buckley Newt SAC boundary which has compartments to the north and south of the newbuild infrastructure boundary, including south of the A55.
- 13.27. Brewery Pond, Waterbody 161, within the SAC has confirmed breeding and occurs 250m to the north west of the DCO at Wepre Woods. It is accepted that the majority of GCN stay within 250m of breeding ponds but a proportion of GCN will migrate over 500m-1km. FCC's Supplementary Planning Guidance 8a, Appendix 1 references 500m buffer to the Deeside and Buckley SAC for planning purposes. Waterbody 10 falls within this buffer so it is potentially linked to the proposal but the ES assume presence.
- 13.28. The SAC compartments/GCN habitats are linked by hedgerows and agricultural land. The proposed pipeline if consented would result in temporary direct habitat loss, potential mortality, disturbance and fragmentation without mitigation. As stated in the REAC, all species specific mitigation and predicted impacts to GCN would be captured under an EPS mitigation licence application subject to agreement with Natural Resources Wales. No adverse impact on the integrity of the SAC is predicted as a result. Further surveys are proposed to inform this licence. However, GCN populations have been recorded adjacent to

the DCO application boundary from Ewloe to Flint. Therefore, the majority of the pipeline within Flintshire has the potential to impact GCN terrestrial habitat.

- 13.29. The DCO development is expected to last 16 months but with teams working simultaneously. Installation of the pipeline within 50m of the Deeside and Buckley SAC is estimated to last up to 3 months but the overall impact on GCN along the length of the pipeline Flintshire will be much longer. Reasonable avoidance and mitigation measures required for the NRW licence have yet to be detailed. North East Flintshire is a GCN hotspot¹ and while the DCO works do not intend to impact existing ponds, connectivity would be impacted. There is an opportunity to provide mitigation and enhancement opportunities for example pond restoration of the Habitat Suitability Index poor ponds.
- 13.30. The GCN licence is likely to require specific mitigation to benefit the Flintshire GCN population which would be over and above that agreed within the LEMP. The licence requirements would need to be included in details submitted to the LPA as part of the approval of the LEMP.

Sessile Oak Woods

- 13.31. Deciduous woodland functionally linked to Annex 1 woodland at Wepre is present within the DCO where it crosses Alltami Brook. Open cut trench techniques are proposed at Wepre Brook, Alltami Brook and New Inn Brook which could result in silt or contaminants entering the water course which could have detrimental effect downstream.
- 13.32. Mitigation measures are set out in the OCEMP and REAC. Loss of functionally linked deciduous woodland would be mitigated through the planting of native species at a ratio of 3:1, replacement planting will be in an area functionally

¹ Spatial Conservation Status Modelling of the Great Crested Newt in Anglesey and North-East Wales
A.P.Arnell & J.W.Wilkinson, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, CCW Contract Science Report No
1044 2013

linked to the SAC and set out in the OLEMP. Area 57K is adjacent to Alltami Brook so it is presumably the specified mitigation although this is not clear. Hydrogeological effects due to open trench techniques will be avoided by pollution prevention measures as detailed within the REAC.

Wildlife Sites (WS) and Ancient woodlands within 50m:

- 13.33. FCC LIR Appendices 1.1-1.6 show environmental constraints along each section of the proposed pipeline. Wildlife Sites and Ancient Woodland have largely been excluded from DCO which is to be welcomed. The DCO boundary encroaches into the edge of Leadbrook Wood WS, and Coed y Cra WS. Brook Park Farm Wood WS/ancient woodland included within trenchless installation as cannot be avoided.
- 13.34. New Inn Brook Wood WS and Warred Wood WS occur 16m west and 41m south respectively. Little Leadbrook Wood and Church Lane Ewloe Wood Ancient woodland are adjacent to/within DCO boundary.

Habitats

- 13.35. Table 9.7 of Chapter 9 of the ES [APP-061] sets out the habitats present within the Order Boundary and their importance. Primarily habitats of low ecological importance (eg agricultural land and existing hard-standing) are proposed for permanent built structures including AGIs and BVSs within Flintshire and temporary compound and storage areas and there is no objection to the siting of these on ecological grounds.
- 13.36. Specific pond (Predictive System for Multi-metrics PSYM) surveys were conducted on ponds within the DCO boundary but these were recorded as generally poor due to poor water quality, livestock poaching and low macrophyte diversity. As stated above, loss of deciduous woodland would be mitigated through the planting of native species at a ratio of 3:1; replacement planting sites have been specified within the LEMP.

- 13.37. It is considered that there is an opportunity for other habitat creation within the LEMP. For example, LEMP site 57M Northop Hall is recorded on the Phase 1 habitat map as semi-improved grassland. However, there may be an opportunity to enhance at least part of the grassland rather than turn it all into woodland. Similarly, there may be opportunities to enhance ponds within the DCO boundary that are considered to be of poor quality to benefit the aquatic habitat and also potentially GCN.
- 13.38. Table 9.10 of Chapter 9 of the ES [APP-061] sets out the embedded mitigation designed for the DCO Proposed Development which would include micro siting to avoid water bodies, sensitive habitats, trees hedgerows as much as is practicably possible. This is welcomed but will await the detailed designs.
- 13.39. It is considered that the detailed design stage will need to demonstrate the following embedded mitigation.
- *Where opportunities exist for routing through existing gaps in hedgerows, scrub and woodlands, avoiding the need to remove vegetation, these will be prioritised. Where hedgerow removal is required to facilitate construction, it has been assumed this will be kept to a maximum width of 15 m (this includes both hedgerows and the trees that sit within hedgerows).*
 - *Retained waterbodies within the construction easement of the DCO Proposed Development will be demarcated by a minimum 5 m exclusion buffer to avoid/reduce potential adverse impacts to waterbodies, associated terrestrial bankside habitat and associated aquatic receptors from construction.*
 - *Stand-off distances around watercourses will be implemented prior to the commencement of works and clearly demarcated through the use of physical barriers (fencing, tape or similar). A minimum 8 m buffer will be demarcated around non-tidal main river watercourses.*
 - *Plant, personnel and site traffic will be constrained to a prescribed working corridor through the use of temporary barriers, where practicable, to firstly avoid and secondly minimise damage to habitats, encroachment of the construction*

easement, and potential direct mortality and/or disturbance of fauna located within and adjacent to the construction corridor.

Protected Species identified within/adjacent to DCO corridor

- 13.40. **Great crested newt** are widespread within North East Flintshire. No GCN ponds are proposed to be permanently lost as a result of this development but works would be in close proximity to a number of breeding ponds from Ewloe to Flint, as stated above.
- 13.41. **Bats; Bat roosts.** With regards to the impact of the development on bats and bat roosts there are a limited number of buildings or structures along the pipeline and DCO corridor within Flintshire. One barn; ref B133 is a confirmed day roost which is used by 4 Common pipistrelles and 3 Soprano pipistrelles occurs within the DCO boundary at Aston. Where practicable a 10m buffer will be retained around the confirmed roost, otherwise an NRW license and mitigation will be required.
- 13.42. Ongoing surveys and aerial tree climbing inspections of trees classified as moderate or high suitability dependent on Potential Roost Features (PRF). Tree roosts are notoriously difficult to locate. A number of trees have been recorded as day roosts used by a single Common or Soprano Pipistrelle. (One Noctule maternity roost recorded to date T321 in Cheshire). Where practicable, tree roosts will be retained with an exclusion buffer of 10m.
- 13.43. Trees to be felled would be subject to further assessments and relevant licences as required. Bat activity of foraging and commuting bats were recorded, and a number of hedges assessed as excellent relating to bat usage particularly where connected to ancient woodland. Bat species recorded include lesser horseshoe bats, Brown long eared, Myotis spp, Noctule as well as Pipistrelles spp.

- 13.44. The REAC sets out specific measures for “Faux hedges” to be used during construction to maintain connectivity of good or excellent assessed hedgerows which is to be welcomed. Their design will be determined at the detailed design stage but may include straw bales, live willow screening or trees in pots.
- 13.45. Badger permeable fencing is proposed where required which is welcomed. Any main setts would be retained in situ with a 30m buffer which would be confirmed at the detailed design stage. A number of outlier setts would be closed under licence.
- 13.46. **Barn owl**; BOB3 is confirmed with breeding barn owls. Temporary closure of the nest box is proposed as detailed within the REAC, with placement of additional nest boxes. Barn Owls are known within this locality, and there are a number of regularly monitored nest sites here and to the south west at Moor lane. The placement of new boxes should take existing records into account and there needs to be liaison with the recorders.
- 13.47. **Breeding birds** – reasonable avoidance measures set out in the REAC to avoid vegetation clearance during nesting season. The detail design and associated timetable would need to take this into account.
- 13.48. Reasonable avoidance measures for reptiles and water vole are set out in the REAC. Otter are known to use the majority of rivers and small tributaries within Flintshire for commuting and foraging. Although outside the DCO boundary, the activity recorded through the ES surveys along Wepre Brook at Northop Hall is significant. Pre commencement surveys will be undertaken at least 3 months prior to construction works to update mitigation measures required.
- 13.49. **Fish**; eDNA surveys of Brooks and “Drains” have been undertaken. Significant records include Brown/Sea trout in Broughton Brook plus Eels in most other watercourses. Open trench work would need to take these species into

account. Seasonal restrictions may limit working in these watercourses 1st October – 31st April for European eel unless exemptions are granted. With regards to Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) a Biosecurity Management Plan would be prepared at Detailed Design to be implemented during construction to prevent the spread of INNS.

- 13.50. The Council considers the species surveys and ecological assessment carried out to be satisfactory and would be in general agreement with the conclusions set out in Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement [APP-061], subject to adequate ecological mitigation and compensation measures being secured through imposition of requirements.
- 13.51. Furthermore, in order to ensure compliance with Planning Policy Wales and the duties set out in the Environment (Wales) Act, the development is also required to incorporate biodiversity enhancements measures into the schedule of works in addition to the necessary ecological mitigation and compensation, in order to achieve a net benefit to biodiversity interests.
- 13.52. Conclusion on assessment of impact:
- Construction Phase: **Neutral with mitigation**
 - Operational Phase: **Positive with mitigation and Biodiversity BNB**

14. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

- 14.1. The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1 provides a number of statements and guidance of relevance to the landscape, including green infrastructure and visual impacts of energy infrastructure in general.
- 14.2. The National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4) within section 2.21, Gas and Oil Pipelines Impacts: Biodiversity

and Landscape and Visual, also provides policy guidance with regards to long term impacts and appropriate assessment and mitigation of pipeline features.

- 14.3. PPW11 sets out key guidance and planning policies for development and achieving good design throughout Wales with reference to landscape and natural spaces.
- 14.4. Policy STR13: Natural and Built Environment, Green Networks and Infrastructure of the adopted Flintshire LDP sets out the strategic policy framework for conserving, protecting and enhancing the quality and diversity of Flintshire's natural environment including landscape.
- 14.5. General Requirements Policy PC2 states that *“All development should harmonise with or enhance the character, local distinctiveness and appearance of the site, existing building(s) and surrounding landscape/ townscape.”*. Furthermore, Policy PC3: Design states that *“All development should retain existing landscape and nature conservation features and incorporate opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity.”*
- 14.6. Policy EN4: Landscape Character states that: *“New development, either individually or cumulatively, must not have a significant adverse impact on the character and appearance of the landscape. Landscaping and other mitigation measures should seek to reduce landscape impact and where possible bring about enhancement.”*
- 14.7. The applicant's Environment Statement, Chapter 12 [APP-064] considers the impact of the development on landscape and visual amenity. It covers the development's anticipated effect on the landscape and visual amenity. The Environmental Statement also contains Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment appendices; 12.1-12.4 [APP-138-141 respectively].

- 14.8. No significant concerns have been identified by the Local Planning Authority relating to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) process and the assessments that have been made for the construction, operational and decommissioning stages of the DCO.
- 14.9. The Landscape Analysis at paragraph 12.3 of Chapter 12 of the Environment Statement states that there will be a '*Moderate adverse effect*' on three Landscape Character Areas during the construction stage but these will be '*Negligible adverse (not significant)*', in landscape terminology, once construction is complete. Similarly, where '*Minor adverse effects (not significant)*' have been identified on other Landscape Character Areas during construction stage it is predicted that these will decrease to a '*Negligible adverse (not significant)*' on completion. These effects reflect the nature of the DCO which would be largely underground.
- 14.10. The visual impacts on receptors in the landscape are set out in Table 1 of Appendix 12.4 - Visual Analysis [APP-141] and highlight the longer term visual impact on receptors resulting from the Above Ground Installations (AGIs) at Flint and Northop Hall, together with the Block Valve Stations (BVSs) at Babell, Pentre Halkyn, Cornist Lane and Aston Hill. The visual impacts are dependent on the site's visibility, the sensitivity of the receptor to change and magnitude of the effect.
- 14.11. By year 15 of operation, it is anticipated that the landscaping will have largely diminished the adverse visual effects noted in the first year of operation. The visual impact on receptors will be greatest during the construction of the pipeline and difficult to mitigate.
- 14.12. It is considered that the 'moderate adverse' effects identified for certain receptors are acceptable for a short period, taking into account the mitigation and enhancement measures proposed to address site specific concerns

proposed in paragraph 12.10 of the Chapter 12 of the Environment Statement [APP-064].

- 14.13. The proposals include an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) which proposes landscape layouts for the AGIs and BVS, and there are minor concerns relating to these. However, should the development receive consent, there is an opportunity at the approval of the requirements prior to each stage of the development for officers to work with the appointed contractor's landscape specialists, later in the development process, to improve these layouts and ensure the AGIs and BVSs assimilate as much as possible with the surrounding countryside, whilst recognising their design limitations.
- 14.14. The OLEMP makes provision for environmental mitigation to be carried out elsewhere where 'like for like' replacement cannot be carried out. The areas comprise of woodland planting (with scrub planting on the pipe's easement) and are identified in Table 1. The Proposed Mitigation Areas in Flintshire amount to 36.4 acres. The provision of these areas of planting should provide a net enhancement of the landscape, although it is acknowledged that there would be limitations on planting directly over the pipeline to maintain an easement.
- 14.15. In addition to the OLEMP a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment stating that the applicant is committed to achieving at least a 1% net gain in Priority Habitats on land. It is considered necessary to require a legal agreement to secure this.
- 14.16. In Wales, Priority Habitats include Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland and Native Species Rich Hedgerows with Trees. The commitment is to be pursued through engagement with landowners and other stakeholders on land not associated with the DCO, which would result in further enhancement of the landscape's character, however they may not necessarily occur within the landscape affected by the pipeline.

14.17. Overall, the evaluated impact of the DCO on Flintshire’s landscape (as a resource and receptors experiencing it), is considered to be neutral with positive impacts expected to be gained when schemes of landscaping have been implemented and are establishing. To some extent the degree of positive impact will dependent upon landowners’ and other stakeholders’ willingness to be involved with the commitment of achieving Biodiversity Net Benefit.

14.18. Conclusion on assessment of Landscape impact:

- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL**
- Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL (Positive subject to Biodiversity Net Benefit and additional Planting)**

14.19. Conclusion on assessment of Visual impact:

- Construction Phase: **NEGATIVE**
- Operational Phase - **Pipeline: NEUTRAL**
- Operational Phase – **AGIs and BVS: NEUTRAL (Subject to successful landscaping)**

15. TREES, HEDGEROWS AND WOODLAND

15.1. The applicant’s ES Volume III has provided an Arboricultural Impact Assessment to accompany the DCO application [APP-115 and Ref APP-116].

15.2. Flintshire LDP Policy EN7: Development Affecting Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows states that:

“Development proposals that will result in significant loss of, or harm to, trees, woodlands or hedgerows of biodiversity, historic, and amenity value will not be permitted.

Where the impact of development affecting trees, woodlands or hedgerows is considered acceptable, development will only be permitted where:

- a. the development maximises their retention through sensitive design measures; and*
- b. where the removal of trees is considered necessary, suitable replacements shall be provided elsewhere within the site; and*
- c. it results in a net benefit in biodiversity.”*

- 15.3. With respects to trees and woodland, it is evident that the applicant has sought to minimise impact to trees and woodlands as much as possible, by the careful planning of the DCO Pipeline route through the open countryside.
- 15.4. No trees or woodlands subject to Tree Preservation Orders or within planning Conservation Areas have been identified as being impacted by the new pipeline or AGIs/BVS. The route of the propose DCO CO₂ pipeline passes underneath an ancient woodland near Northop Hall as shown on FCC LIR Appendix 1.3 within Section 5 of the DCO Pipeline; at Works no 44. It is proposed to install the pipeline in this location using a trenchless crossing to avoid any direct impact on the ancient woodland. Other trenchless crossings (e.g. for roads) will also enable trees growing along the line of the pipe to be retained which is welcomed.
- 15.5. The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) [APP-115 and Ref APP-116] was undertaken at the Preliminary Design Stage on ‘a reasonable worst-case basis’. The methodology used appears robust with the assumption that all trees within a 32m buffer zone of the pipeline will be removed (16m either side) and trees within the Newbuild Infrastructure Boundary ‘At Risk of Removal Aiming to Retain’. This acronym demonstrates that as the design has not been finalised there is a degree of uncertainty over which trees can be retained at this stage. However, it is stated that 82% of the tree features (Trees and Groups of Trees) have the potential to be retained on implementation of the scheme.

- 15.6. It should be noted that the AGI/BVS have been subject to site specific AIAs which have not identified any significant arboricultural impacts.
- 15.7. The OLEMP [APP- 229] sets out in Section 6 a maintenance and management schedule for landscape works which would be developed further at the detailed design stage. It is noted that within the maintenance schedule that during the 5-year maintenance any dead, dying or diseased trees, shrubs or hedges would be replaced, and with respects to native tree planting or woodland planting the maintenance period would be 10 years which is welcomed.
- 15.8. As outlined under the above section on Landscape and Visual there are several methods of securing replacement tree planting. The evaluated impact on trees and woodlands reflects the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment with a loss of trees and groups of trees in the construction and early operational stages but in the longer term resulting in an increase in tree and woodland cover. A reasonable assessment of the DCO's impact on trees and woodlands would be a minor positive effect and at the worst neutral. The degree of positive tree and woodland change will be dependent on the success of landscape planting.
- 15.9. Conclusion on assessment of impact:
- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL**
 - Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

16. NOISE AND AIR QUALITY – RESIDENTIAL/PUBLIC AMENITY

- 16.1. Policy STR14 of the adopted Flintshire LDP: Climate Change and Environmental Protection states that:

“The Council will seek to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure appropriate environmental protection in the County through:

vi. Ensuring that new development has regard to the protection of the environment in terms of air, noise and light pollution”

- 16.2. Policy PC2 General Requirements for Development states that
*“All Development should:
“not have a significant adverse impact on the safety and living conditions of nearby residents, other users of nearby land/property, or the community in general, through increased activity, disturbance, noise, dust, vibration, hazard, or the adverse effects of pollution”*
- 16.3. Chapter 15 of the applicant’s Environmental Statement [APP-067] assesses the proposed development in terms of noise and vibration and Chapter 6 considers air quality [APP-058]. Mitigation measures set out in the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments [APP-222] are acceptable. The detail however will be subject to approval at each stage of the development.
- 16.4. The Council’s Public Protection Officer has noted potential local impacts on residents, tourists in terms of their amenity and enjoyment of the County, the use of the public right of way network and the potential impact on local businesses and commercial premises.
- 16.5. There are potential strategic impacts of the proposed development arising from noise from construction and maintenance vehicles, including anticipated expected increase in traffic. Operational noise, construction noise, maintenance, and decommissioning stages.
- 16.6. There is also a potential impact for dust arisings from construction and maintenance vehicles, including increase in traffic, during all aspects of operational, maintenance and decommissioning stages. Also, there is potential for a reduction in air quality from all aspects of operational, maintenance and decommissioning stages.

- 16.7. Artificial light would be used for operational works and security at sites during non-daylight hours which may give rise to an impact on residential amenity.
- 16.8. Whilst the mitigation measures stated within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP) and Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) are noted, the operational and construction hours are unclear. Concerns are raised with regards to out of hours reasonable working time parameters and if there is potential requirement for consent under the Control of Pollution Act.
- 16.9. More detail is required with regards to the mitigation of noise during construction and decommissioning stages. However, it is understood at each stage of the development a full CEMP would be submitted for approval. Therefore, the Council seeks to ensure that a greater level of detail is submitted with regards to noise mitigation at each stage for subsequent approval.
- 16.10. A single point of contact is required to be identified in the detailed CEMP to ensure clarity on who and by what methods communities should direct concerns/queries to. The Council's Environmental Protection Officer would also need to discuss further with the responsible person the application submitted by the developer (for the controls of noise on site in accordance with the Control of Pollution Act 1974) so that the Council can authorise this once mitigation is approved during construction and at the decommissioning.
- 16.11. Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 allows the project to apply for consent. Given potential noise complaints this is deemed a necessary step and as explained in the DCO. Early dialogue with the Council's Environmental Protection Team is required and approval given. The Council would serve the appropriate notice at each required stage, once we have all the information about secondary mitigation measures, which currently is not available.

16.12. Conclusion on assessment of impact:

- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL (Subject to satisfactory control)**
- Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

17. LAND CONTAMINATION AND SOILS

17.1. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) guidance sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The primary objective of the PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

17.2. Policy STR14 of the adopted Flintshire Local Development Plan sets out strategic principles in respect of climate change and environmental protection and states that: *“The Council will seek to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure appropriate environmental protection in the County through:*

- vi. Ensuring that new development has regard to the protection of the environment in terms of contaminated land.”*

17.3. PC2: General Requirements states that all development should not result in or be susceptible to problems related to, contamination, either on or off site.

17.4. The Council’s contaminated land officer has provided the applicant with pre-application advice, and there has been ongoing discussions with the applicant’s consultants. In terms of dealing with land contamination, the approach to that had, for the most part, been put in place in the applicant’s Environmental Statement Chapter 11 relating to land and soils [APP-063].

17.5. The extent and scope of the applicants’ approach to land contamination is an agreed point in that the methodology, extent of impact and proposed mitigation are agreed. It is understood that information relating to the findings of the sampling and any remediation which may be necessary, will be submitted in due course.

- 17.6. Conclusion on assessment of impact:
- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL**
 - Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

18. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

- 18.1. The Development Management Manual advises at paragraph 9.4.3 that material considerations must be fairly and reasonably related to the development concerned, and can include the number, size, layout, design and appearance of buildings, the means of access, landscaping, service availability and the impact on the neighbourhood and on the environment; and the effects of a development on, for example, health, public safety and crime. The highway impacts of development should therefore be regarded as a potential material consideration.
- 18.2. LDP Policy PC2 states that: *“All development should, ...*
- a) *not have an unacceptable effect on the highway network or highways safety as a result of problems arising from traffic generation, inadequate and poorly located parking spaces, servicing and manoeuvring;”*
- 18.3. This reflects general principles set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW 11) and TAN 18 – Transport, in support of sustainable development.
- 18.4. The proposed DCO development proposes the use of a number of existing and new access points that would be constructed to facilitate various elements of the proposal; all accesses being derived from the Local Highway Network there for the existing highway infrastructure would be used to route vehicles to the application sites during construction.
- 18.5. The Transport Assessment [APP-161] that supports the application looks at the worst-case scenario over the construction phase of the project and assesses the peak month being August 2024.

- 18.6. The Council agrees with the conclusions of the Traffic & Transport Chapter 17 in the Environmental Statement and Transport Assessment [APP-161] and accepts that the adverse impacts on the highway network, for the construction phase, can be adequately mitigated. The operational/maintenance phase of the project having an insignificant impact on the highway network.
- 18.7. The Local Highway Authority has considered the content of the application and discussed the impacts likely to be experienced on the network. The Local Highway Authority is satisfied that the development can be managed on the Local Network and accords with national and local planning policies in respect of sustainable development. The Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [APP-224] (OCTMP) and IWTP framework documents are agreed in principle.
- 18.8. Full details of the access locations, design and visibility will be submitted, as required by the DCO, would be submitted for approval prior to each stage of development. The detail contained in the OCTMP is considered acceptable and full Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be submitted, as required by the DCO, prior to each stage of development. The full CTMP's shall include details relating to parking facilities being provided for contractor's vehicles (numbers & layout) at the construction compounds.
- 18.9. The Local Highway Authority does however wish to see the construction phase carefully managed to reduce the impact on the highway network.
- 18.10. For information to the ExA, the Roads Review Panel recently released their report and recommendations to the Welsh Government, one of which related to the removal of the proposed A55 'Red Route' as a new road scheme. The Welsh Government has yet to finalise its response to the Panel's recommendations, as there are ongoing considerations following a notice of motion. The Flintshire LDP was adopted prior to the panel's report being published, and the Red Route

is therefore referenced within Policy PC10 New Transport Schemes, under criterion i., and is shown on the proposals maps as a protected route. Until such a time as the Welsh Government publish their formal response to the Road Review Panel Report, the position must be assumed to be as set out in the LDP and it cannot be said at present that there will not be any potential conflict between the Hynet proposals and this road scheme.

18.11. Conclusion on assessment of impact:

- Construction Phase: **NEGATIVE**
- Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

19. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

19.1 Appendices FCC LIR Appendix 4.1 to 4.6 provide plans showing the public right of way network in relation to the proposed DCO application. The following table provides commentary on the proposed DCO and its potential impact on the Public Right of Way network within Flintshire. The commentary is provided for each affected Works No.

19.2 Generally speaking, it is considered that the applicant has identified all the affected public rights of way that would be affected by the proposal and they propose to making provision for temporary diversions during construction, which is welcomed. The Council's main concerns surround construction compound areas, permanent access tracks at some locations, and we have a significant interest in Deeside Lane and Bridleway No. 9 being identified as being used for the construction access for traffic (works no 30E).

Work No.	Proposal	PROW comments
Work No. 30D	The creation and use of a temporary logistics and construction compound for the use during the construction of the authorised development, within the location shown on Sheet 13 and 14 of the Work Plans.	Our concerns are not necessarily to do with the site being used as a construction compound but the access track that is being proposed (Work No. 30E). The proposed access track would tie into this compound and would impact on the public rights of network to a great effect. During the construction this would have a negative effect on the public right of way.

<p>Work No. 30E</p>	<p>Creation and use of a temporary construction access from the A548, within the location shown on Sheets 13 and 14 of the Work Plans, including—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) improvement of an existing junction with the public highway; (b) improvement of road surfacing and provision of new hard surfacing; and (c) creation of visibility splays. 	<p>The proposed construction access track is along Public Bridleway No.8 (309/8/10) from its junction with Sealand Road in a southerly direction to the junction with Deeside Lane (309/10/30). The construction access track then continues along Deeside Lane to the proposed pipeline construction.</p> <p>Bridleway No. 8 is an unmade track which is not part of the adopted highway network. The Local Authority (LA) is under a duty to maintain it only to a standard for users on foot and on horseback. Deeside Lane has highway status as a public footpath only and the LA is only required to maintain the route up to a footpath standard. Both tracks are currently unsuitable for the proposed usage that would come with this proposal.</p> <p>The LA do not argue with the route being used as a temporary construction access on the basis that it is suitably upgraded to serve the construction traffic that would be using it. We do not feel that it would be suitable to use any type of crushed stone/aggregate for the track as this would generate dust pollution that would be detrimental to anybody walking the rights of way and also to the neighbouring properties and businesses. The use of the bridleway and Deeside Lane would also increase potential conflict between walkers and vehicles.</p> <p>To support the proposal of Bridleway No. 9 and Deeside Lane being utilised as the temporary construction access track we are requesting that the entire route under 'Work No. 30E' be upgraded to a tarmac surface. This would be suitable for the construction traffic, limit the dust pollution to walkers and the community and be an improvement for users as part of the legacy of the Hynet project. The details of the specification of this should be agreed</p>
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		<p>as part of the approval of details at that stage in the development. This would mitigate against any negative effect of the development during the use of this track during construction.</p> <p>The Council would welcome the applicant entering into a legal agreement to ensure this section of the right of way network is upgraded to a standard suitable to sustain heavy traffic.</p>
Work No. 31	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 873 metres in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 millimetres) between Work No. 30 and Work No. 32.	The main concern is regarding Work Nos. 31B and 31C rather than the pipeline itself. Work No. 31B is described as a permanent access and would directly impact PROW 307/2. The Local Planning Authority would need to see detailed plans at the construction stage for this phase to be satisfied that the public right of way is adequately incorporated into the design. At the very minimum, the route would need to be temporarily closed during the period that this area is used as a compound and access track.
Work No. 31B	Creation and use of a permanent access from the B5129, within the location on Sheet 14; Work Plans— (a) improvement of an existing junction with the public highway; (b) improvement of road surfacing and provision of new hard surfacing; and (c) creation of visibility splays.	As per above, the construction of a permanent access from the B5129 would directly affect PROW 307/2 and we would need to see proposals that satisfy us that the right of way is adequately incorporated into the design and protected along its current alignment.
Work No. 33	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 2.5km in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 millimetres) between Work No.32 and Work No. 34.	The PROW affected by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works.
Work No. 33C	Creation and use of a permanent access from Chester Road East, within the location shown on Sheets 15	This area is PROW 308/4/10 the proposal is not too concerning as this is already used as a short vehicular access to the adjacent Church and property. The stiles

	and 16 of the Work Plans, including— (a) improvement of an existing junction with the public highway; (b) improvement of road surfacing and provision of new hard surfacing	currently in-site should be replaced with kissing gates upon completion of the access track. PROW 308/1 and 308/3 are also affected and would require temporary diversions during the works.
Work No. 35	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 1.9km in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 millimetres) between Work No.34 and Work No. 38.	The PROW no. 303/32 affected by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works.
Work No. 38	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 377 metres in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 millimetres) between Work No. 35 and Work No. 39.	There are a number of PROWs affected by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works.
Work No. 38B	Creation and use of a temporary construction access from Lower Aston Hall Lane, within the location shown on Sheet 17 of the Work Plans, including— (a) improvement of an existing junction with the public highway; and (b) improvement of road surfacing and provision of new hard surfacing.	This would appear to cross PROW 303/26/10. The route would need to be adequately incorporated into any new access. In the DCO this is described as a temporary access but the work plans state Work No. 38B to be a permanent access . It would be helpful to have this clarified.
Work No. 39	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 402 metres in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 millimetres) between Work No. 38 and Work No. 40.	303/25/20 is in the work area but doesn't appear to be affected. More detail in the construction phase will be required if the pipeline is affecting the route of the footpath.
Work No. 40	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 561 metres in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 millimetres) between Work No. 39 and Work No. 41...	Work No. 40 includes Church Lane which is recorded as PROW 303/25/20. The lane is also private vehicular access to properties. Church Lane would need to be restored back to the same condition following the installation of the pipeline.

		303/24/10 is also affected and runs from Old Aston Hill towards Aston Hill Farm. The same applies to this lane as above. 303/22/10 appears to be affected but necessary diversions are in place.
Work No. 40B	The creation and use of a temporary working area for the use during the construction of the authorised development, within the location shown on the Work Plans, including construction of a haul road, temporary construction accesses and working areas and laydown areas.	The corner of this proposed site is crossed by PROW 303/24A/10. The route would need to be temporarily closed during its use as a compound area. As the route is a good link towards Ewloe, a temporary diversion should be provided but this isn't set out on the work plan.
Work No. 41	Construction of an underground CO ₂ pipeline approximately 1.1km in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 millimetres) between Work No. 40 and Work No. 42...	The PROW affected 303/20 by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works.
Work No. 41C	Creation and use of a permanent access from the B5125, within the location shown on Sheet 18 of the Work Plans, including— (a) creation of a new bellmouth junction with the public highway; (b) improvement of road surfacing and provision of new hard surfacing.	This small area marked as a permanent access appears to be directly where we currently have a stile and public footpath sign. The footpath affected 303/143 would need to be protected and stile replaced with a kissing gate following construction.
Work No. 42	Construction of an underground CO ₂ pipeline approximately 1.8km in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 mm) between Work No. 41 and Work No. 43.	The PROW affected by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works. PROW 303/143 runs through the site and no temporary diversion has been shown which suggests it won't be affected during construction clarification is required.
Work No. 43	Construction of an underground CO ₂ pipeline approximately 611 metres in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 mm) between Work No. 42 and Work No. 44.	The PROW affected by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works.

Work No. 44	Construction of an underground CO ₂ pipeline approximately 2.5km in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4mm) between Work No. 43 and Work No. 47.	We have concerns related to the compound and surrounding area with regard to PROW 414/4. These concerns are regarding Work Nos 44C, 45 & 46 (see comments below).
Work No. 44C	The creation and use of a temporary logistics and construction compound for the use during the construction of the authorised development, within the location shown on Sheet 20 of the Work Plans, including— (a) office, welfare and security facilities; (b) a parking area; (c) power supplies and temporary lighting; (d) pipe equipment and fittings storage; (e) plant storage; (f) a fabrication area; (g) a plant wheel wash area; (h) waste processing and management areas; and (i) fencing and gating.	The proposed compound is on the line of PROW 414/4. At present this is a field footpath. The footpath needs to be restored back to its previous condition (if not better), following completion of the AGI at this location and the compound no longer being required.
Work No. 45	Construction of an AGI at Northop Hall, comprising equipment for the control and interface of the Stanlow AGI to Flint AGI Pipeline, within the location shown on Sheet 20 of the Works Plans.	The AGI itself doesn't appear to be on the line of the PROW 414/4 therefore the AGI would not permanently affect PROW 414/4 and a diversion would not be required.
Work No. 46	The creation and use of a permanent vehicular access to the authorised development, from B5125 within the location shown on Sheet 20 of the Works Plans, including— (a) improvement of road surfacing and provision of new hard surfacing; (b) creation of a new bellmouth junction and visibility splays; (c) installation of utilities.	This proposed new permanent access would create a junction right on top of where PROW 414/4 meets the junction of B5125. The footpath needs to be adequately incorporated into this junction design with the proposed new vehicular access to ensure pedestrians are not in conflict with vehicles unnecessarily. We would request that the proposed design for the AGI and associated track is reviewed by the PROW team before any progression.

Work No. 47	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 2.4km in length and with an external diameter of 36 inches (914.4 mm) between Work No. 44 and Work No. 50.	The PROW affected by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works.
Work No. 50	Construction of an underground Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipeline approximately 422 metres in length and with an external diameter of 24 inches (609.6 millimetres) between Work No. 47 and the existing pipeline.	The PROW affected by the pipeline in this section are adequately protected with temporary diversions during works.

19.3 Conclusion on assessment of impact:

- Construction Phase: **NEGATIVE**
- Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

20. WATER ENVIRONMENT AND FLOOD RISK

20.1. Planning Policy Wales confirms that factors to be taken into account in making planning decisions (material considerations) must be planning matters; that is, they must be relevant to the regulation of the development and use of land in the public interest, towards the goal of sustainability. The drainage / flooding impacts of a development proposal are a material consideration.

20.2. PPW Section 6.6.22 to 6.6.29 identifies flood risk as a material consideration in planning and along with TAN 15 – Development and Flood Risk, which provides a detailed framework within which risks arising from different sources of flooding should be assessed. TAN 15 advises that in areas which are defined as being of high flood hazard, development proposals should only be considered where:

- new development can be justified in that location, even though it is likely to be at risk from flooding; and

- the development proposal would not result in the intensification of existing development which may itself be at risk; and
- new development would not increase the potential adverse impacts of a flood event.

Flood Risk:

- 20.3. Flooding is also an important consideration for any new development as a large proportion of the site is mostly within a C1 Flood Risk Zone as defined by TAN15 and is therefore an area at risk of coastal flooding (served by significant infrastructure including flood defences). It will also be necessary to have regard to the new TAN15 and Flood Map for Planning which is due to come into force in June 2023, although it has been indicated by Welsh Government that this date may be pushed back as the consultation on the further revisions to the draft TAN has only just closed. Works Nos 29 – 35 all lie within a C1 Flood Risk Zone which is illustrated on FCC LIR Appendix 1.1. Land within works no 43 also lies within a C2 Flood Risk Zone.
- 20.4. The Council would respectfully defer to comments from Natural Resources Wales, as the statutory body for coastal and fluvial flood risk, on matters relating to flooding.

Land drainage

- 20.5. The Council has additional duties and powers associated with the management of flood risk under the Land Drainage Act. As Land Drainage Authorities, Ordinary Watercourse consent would be required for any permanent or temporary works that could affect the flow within an ordinary watercourse under their jurisdiction in order to ensure that local flood risk is not increased.
- 20.6. Flintshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is responsible for the management of risks associated with local sources of flooding such as ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater.

20.7. It is noted that the REAC [APP-222] states that consents would be sought from LLFA for works affecting for Ordinary Watercourses.

20.8. From a local flood risk and land drainage perspective, the LLFA would like to offer alternative wording within the Supplemental Powers contained in Part 4 of the draft DCO which are outlined within paragraph 22.5 below.

Surface Water Drainage:

20.9. Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 makes sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) a mandatory requirement on all new developments involving more than a single dwelling or a construction area more than 100m².

20.10. New developments of more than a single dwelling or a construction area more than 100m² must have:

- Sustainable drainage systems to manage on-site surface water;
- Surface water drainage systems designed and built in accordance with mandatory Welsh Government standards for sustainable drainage;
- Approval of the surface water drainage systems by the SuDS Approving Body (SAB).

20.11. It does not appear to be the case that supplementary powers are being sought through Part 4 of the DCO with respect to the duties under Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As such, separate, formal approval from Flintshire County Council as the SAB is therefore required in relation to the surface water drainage and SuDS features.

20.12. The DCO application also includes for the provision of temporary hardstanding areas for temporary construction compounds and access routes. It is not clear from the application documents how the Applicant will mitigate any impacts to watercourses, highways, or property as a consequence of any runoff from these

temporary hardstanding areas. It is understood that temporary hard standing areas are not usually considered as part of an application for SAB approval. However, on the basis that these temporary hardstanding areas are likely to be in excess of 100 M², the length of time that these 'temporary' hardstanding areas maybe considerable, consent via the SAB may be a practical means for consideration and the applicant would be invited to include these areas that are proposed to be 'temporary' as part of the SAB application process. Early contact could also be made with the SAB via a request for pre-application advice.

20.13. As the planning process should not duplicate other legislative controls, the Council does not wish to make any observations on the provisional surface water drainage strategy for the AGI and BVS as it will be controlled through the SuDS approval process. Furthermore, any works involving watercourses would require ordinary water course consent. What is not clear however, is how the applicant intends to deal with run-off and surface water issues in relation to those areas of hardstanding that are below the threshold for SAB consent, and those elements of the project that do not create hardstanding but effect watercourses such as works effecting ditches.

20.14. Conclusion on assessment of impact:

- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL**
- Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

21. MINERALS SAFEGUARDING

- 21.1. Key national land use planning policies are provided by Planning Policy Wales (PPW11), in particular Section 5.14 which relates to the sustainable extraction of minerals. Supplementary guidance is provided the following Minerals Technical Advice Notes (MTAN 1).
- 21.2. Minerals Technical Advice Note 1 (MTAN1): Aggregates, Minerals Planning Policy (Wales), providing guidance on how the land use planning system should contribute to the sustainable supply of aggregates and sets out detailed advice on aggregates, such as limestone, sand and gravel.
- 21.3. Policy EN23 states: “Non-mineral development within Mineral Safeguarding Areas as defined on the proposals map will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:
- a. *The mineral underlying the site does not merit extraction, or*
 - b. *The need for the non-mineral development outweighs the need to protect the resource, or*
 - c. *The mineral can be satisfactorily extracted prior to the non-mineral development, or*
 - d. *The development is of a temporary nature or can be removed within the timescales within which the mineral is likely to be needed, and*
 - e. *Essential infrastructure that supports the supply of minerals would not be compromised or would be provided elsewhere.*

All applications for development, with the exception of householder applications, in these areas shall be supported by a Mineral Safeguarding Assessment.

Proposals for non-mineral development on sites of 4ha or more, which are underlain by Category 1 sand and gravels shall be supported by a Prior Extraction Assessment”

- 21.4. Chapter 11 of the applicant's Environmental Statement [APP-063] acknowledges that the proposed DCO development would intersect multiple Mineral Safeguarding Areas. This is also shown on FCC LIR Appendices 2.1 – 2.5 which shows the Flintshire LDP allocations and includes the locations of Mineral Safeguarding Areas.
- 21.5. A Minerals Resource Assessment (MRA) has been provided to accompany the application [APP-131 and Ref APP-132]. The Council largely concurs with the conclusions of the MRA which states that the mineral resources located within the MSA do no present workable or viable mineral prospects due to poor quality resources, and due to the constraints associated with the site areas. Some of the resources are also sterilised by existing infrastructure or development.
- 21.6. Chapter 14 of the applicant's Environmental Statement [APP-066] refers to the requirement of producing a Material Management Plan (MMP). It confirms that a MMP would be produced by the Construction Contractor(s) as a Requirement of the DCO (as part of requirement 5 of the draft DCO with regards to the production of a CEMP) [APP-024]. This is welcomed to ensure that limited incidental extraction of mineral resource can be managed.
- 21.7. Conclusion on assessment of impact:
- Construction Phase: **NEUTRAL**
 - Operational Phase: **NEUTRAL**

PART D: COMMENTS ON DRAFT DCO, OBLIGATIONS AND DCO REQUIREMENTS

22. GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT DCO

- 22.1 The Local Highway Authority is satisfied with the proposed draft DCO requirements which will ensure that full traffic management plans and construction worker travel plans will be approved in consultation with the Local Highway Authority prior to the commencement of any stage of development.

Part 2

- 22.2 Flintshire County Council do not agree with the current words of the provisions as set out in the draft DCO Part 2; Principal Powers, article 9 with regards to 'Defence to proceedings in respect of statutory nuisance'. The current wording of the draft DCO would effectively remove the main control the Local Authority would have under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

- 22.3 It is considered unclear whether the current wording of the draft DCO is based on legislation that contains powers to over-ride other existing statute. It is unclear if the Local Authority would have the authority to override either the Control of Pollution Act 1974, and the Environmental Protection Act 1990, irrespective of its content. Clarification is therefore required in respect the defence to proceedings and arbitration in respect of statutory nuisance for noise and its interplay with existing statute and the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

Part 3

- 22.4 Article 11 (3) of Part 3, Streets is noted that '*The undertaker must restore to the reasonable satisfaction of the street authority any street that has been temporarily altered under this article*'. However, the Council considers it necessary to also include within the DCO the provisions of Section 72 of the New Roads and Steet Works Act 1991. This would ensure remedial works to be carried out by the developer should there be a subsequent failure in the highway network after restoration.

Part 4

- 22.5 Part 4; Supplemental powers, article 19; Discharge of water. It is considered that Article 19 (5) should also include reference to seeking Ordinary Watercourse consent. The Council suggest that the following wording should be considered: *“The undertaker must not, in carrying out or maintaining the works pursuant to this article, damage or interfere with the bed or banks or construct any works within any Ordinary Watercourse without obtaining Ordinary Watercourse Consent from Flintshire County Council.”*
- 22.6 Additional the following wording should also be inserted after the word ‘soil’ in the final sentence of Article 19(6) *“silt, sediment or other solid substance etc”*.
- 22.7 Part 4; Supplemental powers, article 21; Authority to survey and investigate the land. Reference is made to accessing land for the purpose of sampling and to trial holes/pits. The Council consider that this is too restrictive an approach and may not be sufficient to yield the information needed. Whilst it is not expected that there will be a need to drill boreholes, trial pits are generally only to be used for visual inspection of the condition of the ground where appropriate or where there is a known aspect which needs only indicative information. So, for example, to find the edge of a feature, to visually inspect buried wastes or to enable semi-quantitative sampling to be undertaken such as to chase a plume of contamination to allow locations for accurate exploratory methods or sampling to be targeted.
- 22.8 The Council would suggest that alternative terminology is used based upon the likely exploratory techniques that the assessment of land contamination to be carried out will rely upon. For example, window/windowless sampling. It is likely that alternative methods of exploring the ground conditions at the different points along the route of the pipeline; including the BVS, will need to be relied

upon to enable the samples required to be collected and so there appears to be a conflict between the approach to be taken in terms of assessing and addressing land contamination and the scope of the DCO.

- 22.1 For this reason, it is suggested that the DCO is amended to allow for a broader scope of exploratory methods to be used to enable the works proposed. The current wording of the DCO is considered too restrictive
- 22.2 Part 6; Miscellaneous and general, article 44. Certification of plans, part (m): a document number is required for the outline written scheme of archaeological investigation. It is understood from the examination that this document is [APP-223] that this reference should state D.6.5.2.

23. OBLIGATIONS

- 23.1. The applicant's Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment [APP-231 to APP-236] states that the applicant will achieve the required Biodiversity Net Gain (Biodiversity Net Benefit in Wales) through engagement with private landowners using the off-site compensation scenarios.
- 23.2. As set out in Section 13 above, should Development Consent be granted, the Council considers it necessary to secure a package of nature conservation management contributions secured by legal agreement to ensure the successful delivery and implementation of the required Biodiversity Net Benefit in Wales and Biodiversity Net Gain in England. It is considered that a legal agreement is required to ensure compliance and the long-term management of off-site biodiversity compensation scenarios to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain/Net Benefit is achieved.

- 23.3. Furthermore, as set out in Section 19 above, should Development Consent be granted, to support the proposal of Bridleway 9 and Deeside Lane being utilised as the temporary construction access track, the Council considers it necessary for the entire route under 'Work No. 30E' be upgraded to a tarmac surface.
- 23.4. The upgrading of the Bridleway is considered necessary to ensure that it would be suitable for the construction traffic that would use it. By providing an appropriate surface for construction traffic this would limit the dust pollution to walkers and the community. It would also provide an improvement for users as part of the legacy of the HyNet project and should be secured by a legal agreement.

DRAFT

24. COMMENTARY ON APPLICANT'S DRAFT DCO REQUIREMENTS

24.1. The Council has reviewed the applicant's Draft Planning Requirements set out in Schedule 2 of the DCO and has and the following observations to make.

Part / Schedule	Issue/Observation	Recommendation
Schedule 2: Part 1: Requirements (pp. 63-70)		
1: Interpretation	In the definitions there is no reference of a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) The Council considers the submission of a DEMP at the appropriate time necessary – see comments later at point 16: Post construction environmental management plans	It is suggested to include within the Requirements the need to submit a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) therefore please can this be listed in the Interpretation.
2: Time limits of 7 days to respond	It is considered that 7 days isn't sufficient to respond.	Having reviewed other DCOs 14 days seems to be standard. Suggested amendment to increase the time limits to 14 days to allow Officers to ensure compliance.
3: Stages	<p><i>"The authorised development may not commence until a written scheme setting out all stages of the authorised development including a plan indicating when each stage will be constructed has been submitted to each relevant planning authority."</i></p> <p>The requirement does not require the stages scheme to be approved or for the undertaker to undertake the development in accordance with the submitted approved stages.</p>	<p>Suggested wording:</p> <p>No part of the authorised development may commence until a written scheme setting out all stages of the authorised development including a plan indicating when each stage will be constructed has been submitted to and approved in writing by each relevant planning authority. The authorised development shall then be undertaken in accordance with the approved stages plan unless approved in writing by each relevant planning authority in accordance with Requirement 17.</p>

<p>4.(1) Scheme Design – Above ground development</p>	<p>The requirement only allows for above ground elements to be in “general accordance with the general arrangement plans”</p> <p>This is too vague to enable other assessments / detailed mitigation e.g. Visual and ecological impacts LEMP. Mitigation against worst case scenario may well result in unnecessary mitigation resulting other impacts / effects</p> <p>Detailed design would no doubt be required to allow Detailed LEMP or CEMP scheme to be undertaken?</p>	<p>It is recommended that an additional requirement is included to provide detailed design for approval for all above ground infrastructure on a stage-by-stage basis. Details include the need to see the elevations for example. Can be provided alongside the CEMP and LEMP?</p> <p>Or as a submission with each design stage?</p>
<p>4.(2) Scheme Design - Changes to above ground development</p>	<p>Question over what the “environmental effects” actually include? There is no definition is provided in Requirement 1 within the interpretation.</p> <p>Importantly clarity is required with regards to who determines if the changes cause materially new environmental effects?</p> <p>And what are the mechanisms for approval?</p>	<p>Suggested that a definition is included or wording amended to provide clarity</p>
<p>4. (3) Scheme Design - Parameters</p>	<p>AGI and BVS – Maximum height of buildings and structures including operational fencing and lighting columns – 5m from ground level.</p>	<p>The current wording would allow for buildings and operational fencing up to 5m in height, which would not be visually acceptable.</p> <p>Recommend separate AGI parameters for buildings, lighting columns and fencing or specify accordingly – clarity is needed</p>
<p>5. (2) CEMP</p>	<p>‘Substantially’ is this too vague?</p>	<p>Recommendation to remove the word “substantially”</p>

5. (2) (a-m) CEMP – Management plans, Working Methods and Mitigation Measures	Specific measures for construction works are missing including plant and equipment detail; night-time noise levels; minerals safeguarding is not specifically referenced in the MMP	<p>Include the following additional measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail of all construction plant and equipment. • Specify noise limits and mitigation (day and night-time). • The Material Management Plans should be renamed to Material and Minerals Management Plan to ensure Minerals Safeguarding (in accordance with outline minerals safeguarding assessment). • Address / mitigate identified risks from contamination. • A mechanism for review should also be included
8. (1) Surface Water Drainage	Not all Works numbers are listed. Where there are BVS location and all AGI works.	Include works Nos. for all BVSs and AGIs Cross reference check is required.
9. Contaminated land and Groundwater	Only addresses unexpected contamination	Include an additional requirement to address mitigate identified Contaminated Land or incorporate into the CEMP (5.2)) as recommended above
11. (1) LEMP	Lots of detail in combining ecology and Landscape – has the potential to miss important elements	Recommendation to separate the landscape and ecological matters and the inclusion of an additional Requirement to ensure important items are not missed.
	Does the LEMP include measures to protect Heritage?	Detail inclusion of heritage matters
11. (2) LEMP – Inclusion	Missing heritage measures	Detail inclusion of heritage matters
11. (2) (d) LEMP – Inclusion	“features”	Definition of features in the ES – include LWS, Statutory Sites, heritage features, landscape features etc?.

<p>13. Construction Hours (1-5)</p>	<p>The current wording of requirement 13 (3) (c) would appear to allow works outside of the stated construction hours in any eventuality – this is quite open-ended.</p> <p>The proposed exceptions and definitions in relation to the proposed construction working hours are not considered acceptable.</p>	<p>Consider more precise wording.</p>
<p>15. Restoration of Land</p>	<p><i>“Subject to article 34 (temporary use of land for carrying out the authorised project)], any land within the Order limits which is used temporarily for or in connection with construction must be reinstated to a condition fit for its former use, or such other condition as the relevant planning authority may approve, within 12 months of completion of the authorised project.”</i></p> <p><i>“fit for its former use”</i> - not precise or enforceable and would not secure return the higher grades of agricultural land back to their former grading / condition including drainage etc...</p> <p>Requirement 15 as a whole is not precise or enforceable and does not require the approval of a scheme of restoration and aftercare if required.</p>	<p>Re-word to require full detail of restoration scheme or remove and combine into Requirement 16</p> <p>Or include more detail in the soil management plan</p>
<p>16: Post construction environmental management plans</p>	<p>Operational Maintenance and management and decommissioning are distinctly separate stages of the project and cannot be easily dealt with together in one scheme?</p> <p>Does not detail restoration aftercare?</p>	<p>Split into two requirements for the approval of schemes for restoration/aftercare if necessary on agricultural land and one for decommissioning.</p> <p>Include a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP).</p>

		<p>As above - Detail of restoration and aftercare needs to be provided for approval can be incorporated here or a detailed scheme approved under Requirement 15.</p> <p>Need to include wording for scheme to be completed / undertaken in accordance with approved details.</p>
17. (4) Amendments	<p>“42 days” notification period</p> <p>The current wording is not flexible as there is no ability to agree an extension of time if required</p>	<p>Suggestion to use a standard period for decision of 56 days (8 Weeks)</p> <p>Include provision to agree an extension of time i.e. <i>“within such longer period as may be agreed by the undertaker and the host authorities in writing”</i></p>
Schedule 2: Part 2: Applications made under requirements (pp. 70-72)		
19.(1) pp70 - Applications made under requirements	<p>Notice of decision is required within 42 days</p> <p>This period is too short and not in accordance with standard timescales for determining applications.</p>	<p>Suggestion to use standard period for decision of 56 days (8 Weeks)</p>
20. pp70 - Multiple relevant authorities	<p>Any request for comments on multiple authorities – “21 days”</p> <p>Timescale is short and doesn’t allow any agreed extensions of time.</p> <p>This is in effect a pre-app to and between the two authorities – the need for timescales at all is questioned?</p> <p>If a timescale is accepted there should at very least be the ability to agree an extension of time. The current wording is not acceptable.</p>	<p>Remove provision or provide a reasonable extended period of time and ability to agree an extension of time i.e. <i>“within such longer period as may be agreed by the undertaker and the host authorities in writing”</i></p>

<p>21. (2) pp70 - Further Information</p>	<p><i>“(2) If the relevant authority considers further information is necessary and the requirement does not specify that consultation with a requirement consultee is required, the relevant authority must, within 5 business days of receipt of the application, notify the undertaker in writing specifying the further information required. Notification required in 5 business days to specify further information required.”</i></p> <p>Even for internal consultees it is not considered reasonable to only allow 5 working days for notification for further information.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the admin time, consultees will need time to fully review the provided material to be able to advise if further information will be required. This is not considered reasonable or acceptable.</p>	<p>Amend to longer and reasonable time scale, include the provision for allowing an extension of time for an agreement.</p>
<p>21. (3)) pp70 - Further Information</p>	<p><i>“(3) If the requirement specifies that consultation with a requirement consultee is required, the relevant authority must issue the consultation to the requirement consultee within five business days of receipt of the application and must notify the undertaker in writing specifying any further information requested by the requirement consultee within five business days of receipt of such a request and in any event within 21 days of receipt of the application.”</i></p> <p>The timescales stated are unreasonable.</p> <p>Requiring a specified timescale for consultation of external bodies is not considered reasonable or necessary. This can be adequately dealt with under an agreed extension of time under Schedule 2 Part 2 (19(1)).</p>	<p>Amend to longer and reasonable time scale, include the provision for allowing an extension of time for an agreement.</p>

21. (4)) pp70 - Further Information	<p>“(4) If the relevant authority does not give the notification mentioned in sub paragraphs (2) or (3) or otherwise fails to request any further information within the timescales provided for in this paragraph, it is deemed to have sufficient information to consider the application and is not thereafter entitled to request further information without the prior agreement of the undertaker.”</p> <p>This provision effectively removes the LPA entitlement to request further information if the 5 day timescales are missed.</p> <p>This is unreasonable.</p> <p>If insufficient info has been provided the host authority should have the right to ask for further information as deemed necessary. If this was to remain in place the Host Authority, if missing it's 5 day notice period, would have no choice but to refuse the requirement application – this would be counterproductive.</p>	Remove provision.
22. pp71 - Fees	<p>Fee of £97 does not reflect any current fee for planning</p> <p>Return of fee does not allow for the provision of an extension of time.</p> <p>The Council questions the timescales for dealing with applications made under requirements</p> <p>What evidence has been provided for the timescales suggested for the application to be refunded?</p>	<p>Clarification on fees and a suggestion to align with current fee schedule</p> <p>Include in the provision - unless an extension of time has been agreed in accordance with Schedule 2 Part 2 (19(1))</p> <p>Clarification on timescales</p> <p>Suggestion to use a standard period for decision of 56 days (8 Weeks)</p>

PART E: CONCLUSION

25. CONCLUSIONS

25.1 The proposed impacts of the DCO application are summarised in the table below:

Material Consideration	Conclusion on assessment of impact	
	Construction phase	Operational Phase
PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE	Neutral	Positive
IMPACT ON THE GREEN WEDGE	Neutral	Neutral Negative Aston Hill BVS Only
BUILT AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	Negative	Neutral
BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION	Negative	Positive with mitigation and Biodiversity Net Benefit (BNB)
LANDSCAPE IMPACT	Neutral	Neutral (Positive subject to BNB and additional Planting)
VISUAL IMPACT	Negative	Pipeline: Neutral AGI/BVS: Neutral (subject to successful landscaping)
TREES, HEDGEROWs AND WOODLAND	Neutral	Neutral
NOISE – RESIDENTIAL/PUBLIC AMENITY	Neutral (subject to satisfactory mitigation)	Neutral
LAND CONTAMINATION AND SOILS	Neutral	Neutral
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	Neutral	Neutral
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY	Negative	Neutral
WATER AND FLOOD RISK	Neutral	Neutral
MINERALS SAFEGUARDING	Neutral	Neutral

PART F: APPENDICES

Part F comprising the following have been submitted to the Examining Authority separately

Environmental Constraints

FCC LIR Appendix 1.1 - HyNet Section 4: Environmental Constraints Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 1.2 - HyNet Section 5a: Environmental Constraints Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 1.3 - HyNet Section 5b: Environmental Constraints Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 1.4 - HyNet Section 6: Environmental Constraints Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 1.5 - HyNet Section 7a: Environmental Constraints Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 1.6 - HyNet Section 7b: Environmental Constraints Plan

LDP Allocations

FCC LIR Appendix 2.1- HyNet Section 4: LDP Allocations Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 2.2- HyNet Section 5a: LDP Allocations Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 2.3- HyNet Section 5b: LDP Allocations Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 2.4- HyNet Section 6: LDP Allocations Plan
FCC LIR Appendix 2.5- HyNet Section 7: LDP Allocations Plan

Archaeology and Built Heritage

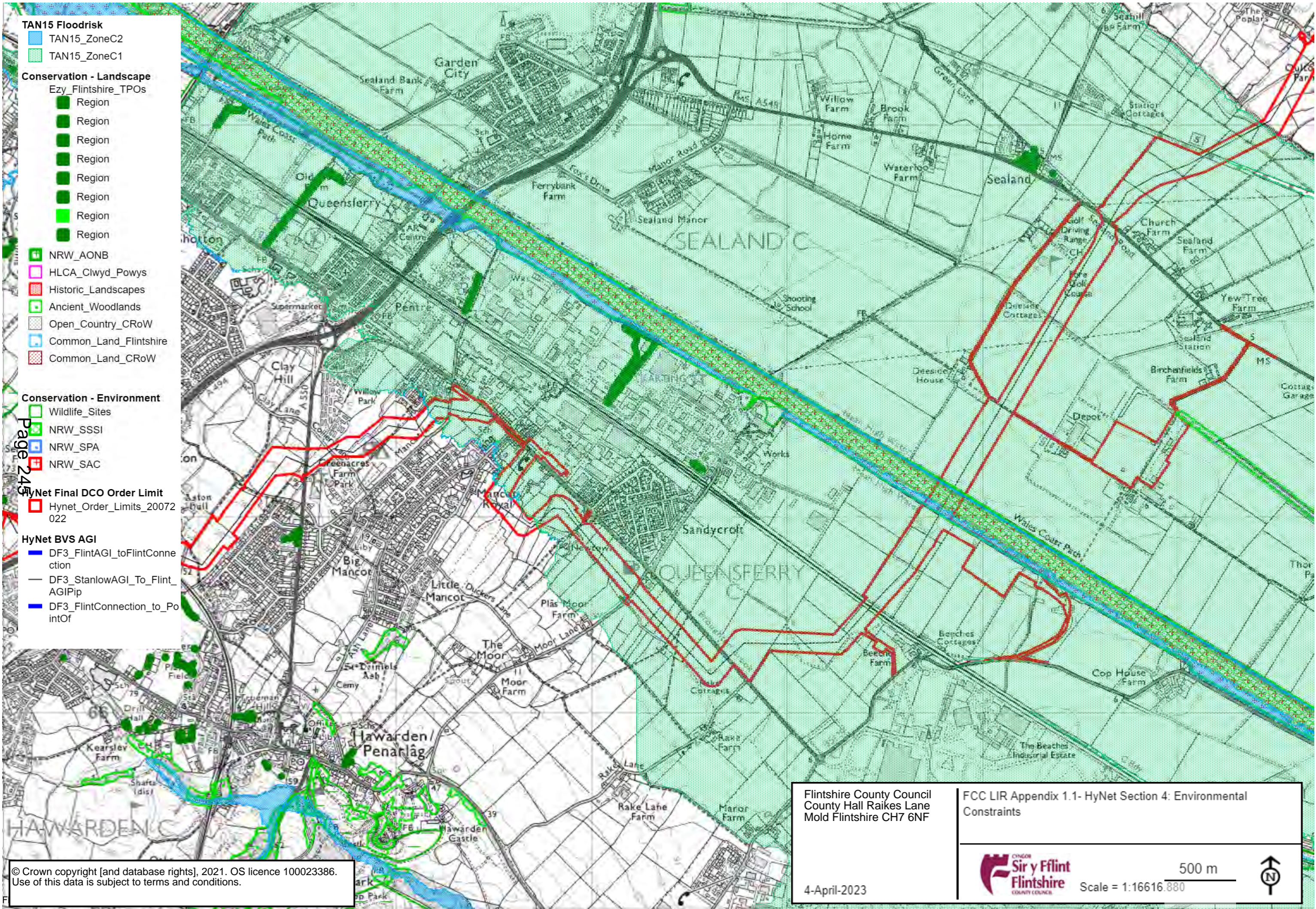
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FCC LIR Appendix 3.2- HyNet Section 5a: Archaeology and Built Heritage
FCC LIR Appendix 3.3- HyNet Section 5b: Archaeology and Built Heritage
FCC LIR Appendix 3.4- HyNet Section 6: Archaeology and Built Heritage
FCC LIR Appendix 3.5- HyNet Section 7a: Archaeology and Built Heritage
FCC LIR Appendix 3.6: HyNet Section 7b - Archaeology and Built Heritage

Public Rights of Way

FCC LIR Appendix 4.1- HyNet Section 4: Public Rights of Way
FCC LIR Appendix 4.2- HyNet Section 5a: Public Rights of Way
FCC LIR Appendix 4.3- HyNet Section 5b: Public Rights of Way
FCC LIR Appendix 4.4- HyNet Section 6: Public Rights of Way
FCC LIR Appendix 4.5- HyNet Section 7a: Public Rights of Way
FCC LIR Appendix 4.6- HyNet Section 7b: Public Rights of Way

Green Wedge

FCC LIR Appendix 5 - HyNet DCO and Green Wedge



- TAN15 Floodrisk**
- TAN15_ZoneC2
 - TAN15_ZoneC1
- Conservation - Landscape**
- Ezy_Flintshire_TPOs
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
- Conservation - Environment**
- Wildlife_Sites
 - NRW_SSSI
 - NRW_SPA
 - NRW_SAC
- HyNet Final DCO Order Limit**
- Hynet_Order_Limits_20072022
- HyNet BVS AGI**
- DF3_FlintAGI_toFlintConnection
 - DF3_StanlowAGI_To_FlintAGIPip
 - DF3_FlintConnection_to_PointOf

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FCC LIR Appendix 1.1- HyNet Section 4: Environmental Constraints

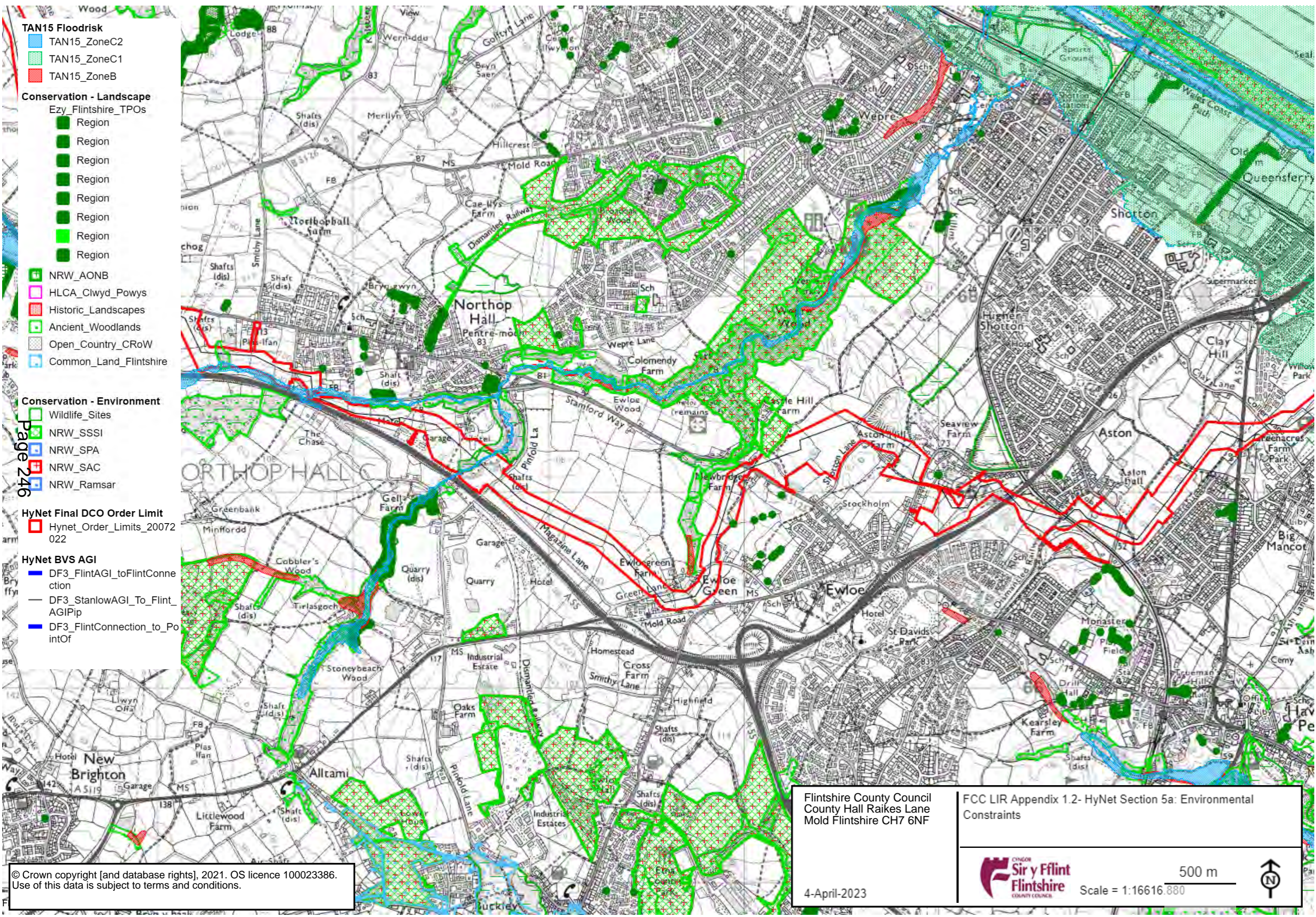
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500 m





- TAN15 Floodrisk**
- TAN15_ZoneC2
 - TAN15_ZoneC1
 - TAN15_ZoneB
- Conservation - Landscape**
- Ezy Flintshire TPOs
- Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
- NRW_AONB
 - HLCA_Clwyd_Powys
 - Historic_Landscapes
 - Ancient_Woodlands
 - Open_Country_CRoW
 - Common_Land_Flintshire

- Conservation - Environment**
- Wildlife_Sites
 - NRW_SSSI
 - NRW_SPA
 - NRW_SAC
 - NRW_Ramsar

- HyNet Final DCO Order Limit**
- Hynet_Order_Limits_20072_022

- HyNet BVS AGI**
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 - DF3_StanlowAGI_To_Flint_AGIPip
 - DF3_FlintConnection_to_PointOf

Page 246

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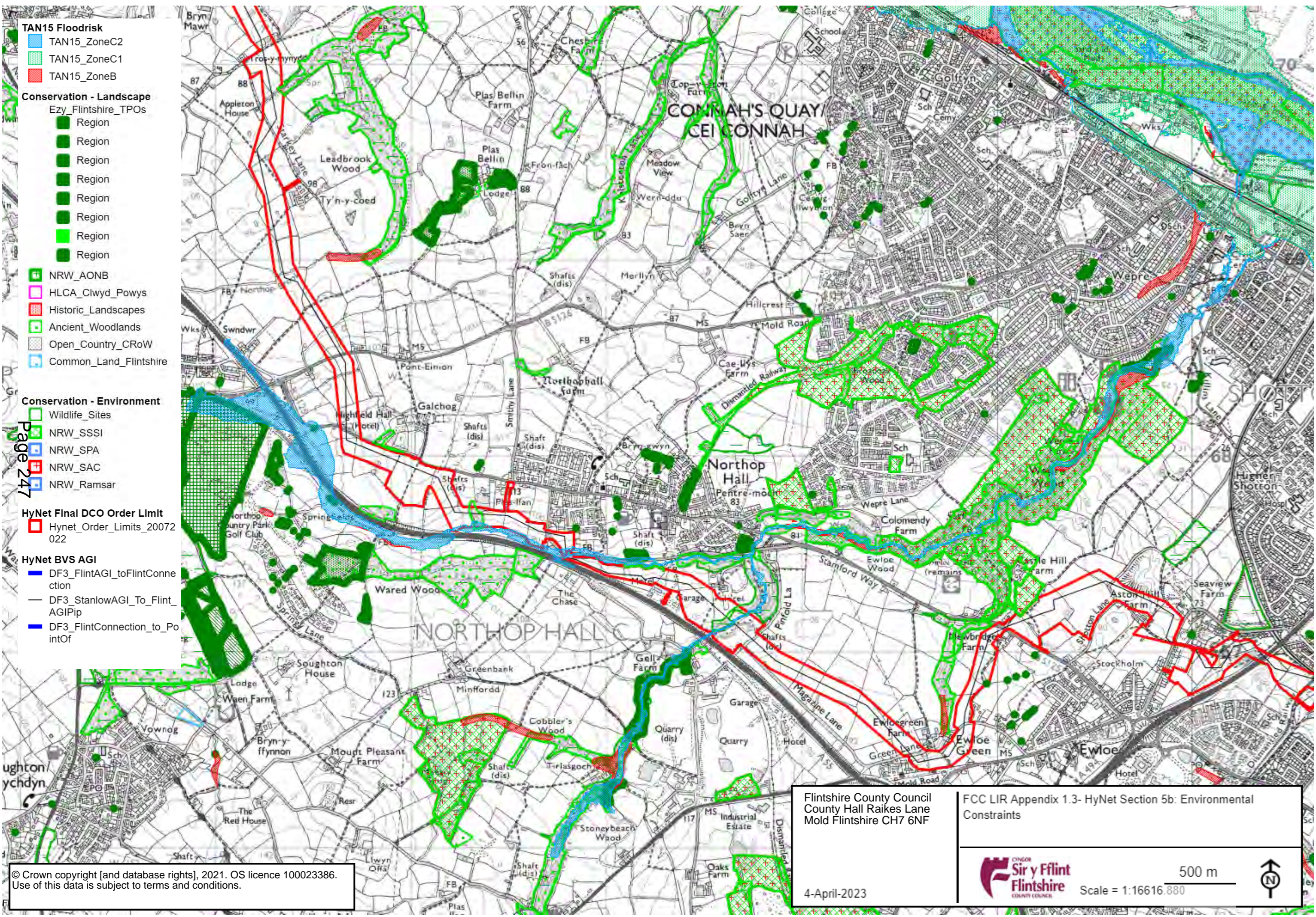
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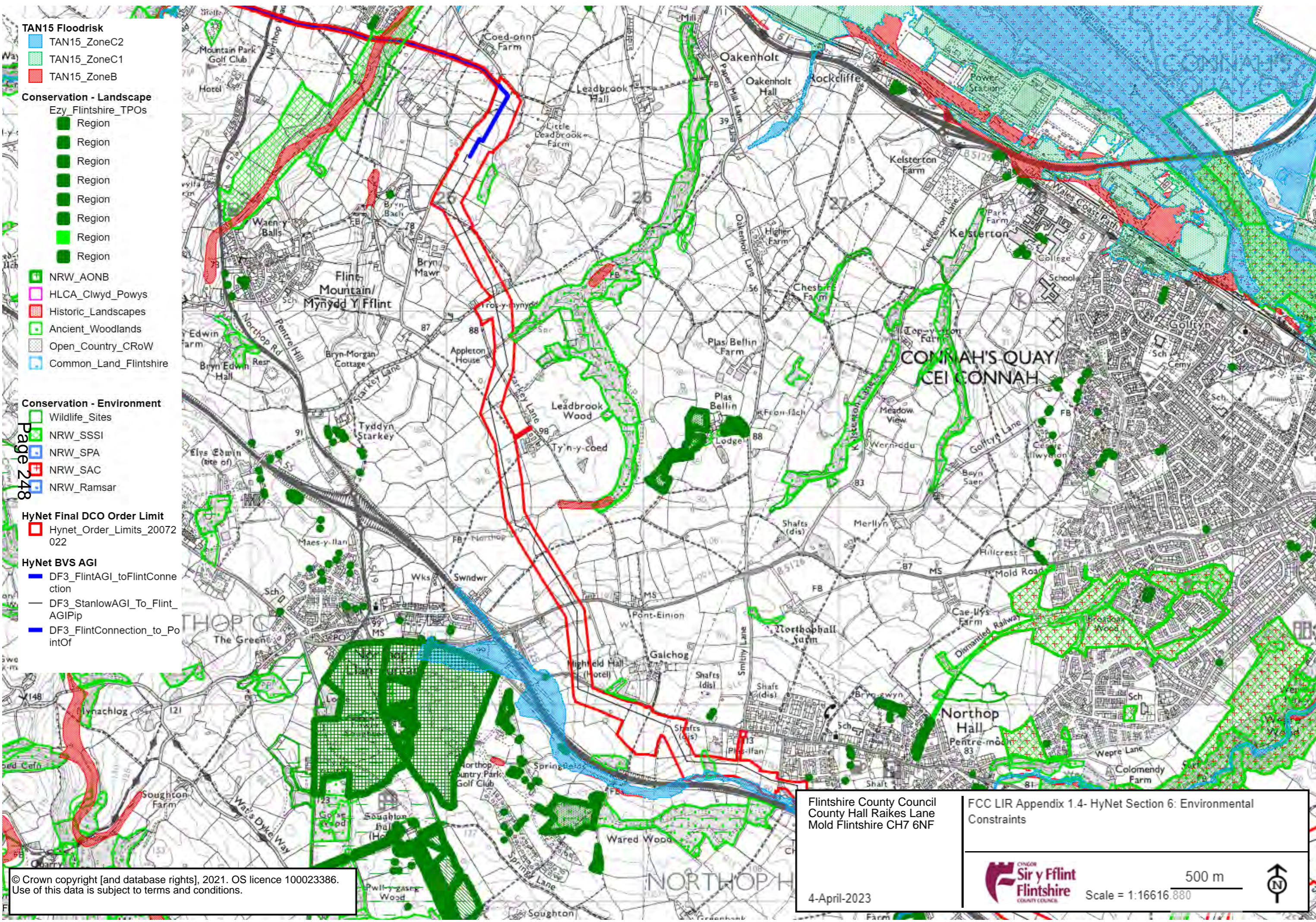
FCC LIR Appendix 1.3- HyNet Section 5b: Environmental Constraints

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- TAN15 Floodrisk**
- TAN15_ZoneC2
 - TAN15_ZoneC1
 - TAN15_ZoneB
- Conservation - Landscape**
- Ezy_Flintshire_TPOs
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - NRW_AONB
 - HLCA_Clwyd_Powys
 - Historic_Landscapes
 - Ancient_Woodlands
 - Open_Country_CRoW
 - Common_Land_Flintshire
- Conservation - Environment**
- Wildlife_Sites
 - NRW_SSSI
 - NRW_SPA
 - NRW_SAC
 - NRW_Ramsar
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- Hynet_Order_Limits_20072022
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 - DF3_FlintConnection_to_PointOf

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FCC LIR Appendix 1.4- HyNet Section 6: Environmental
Constraints

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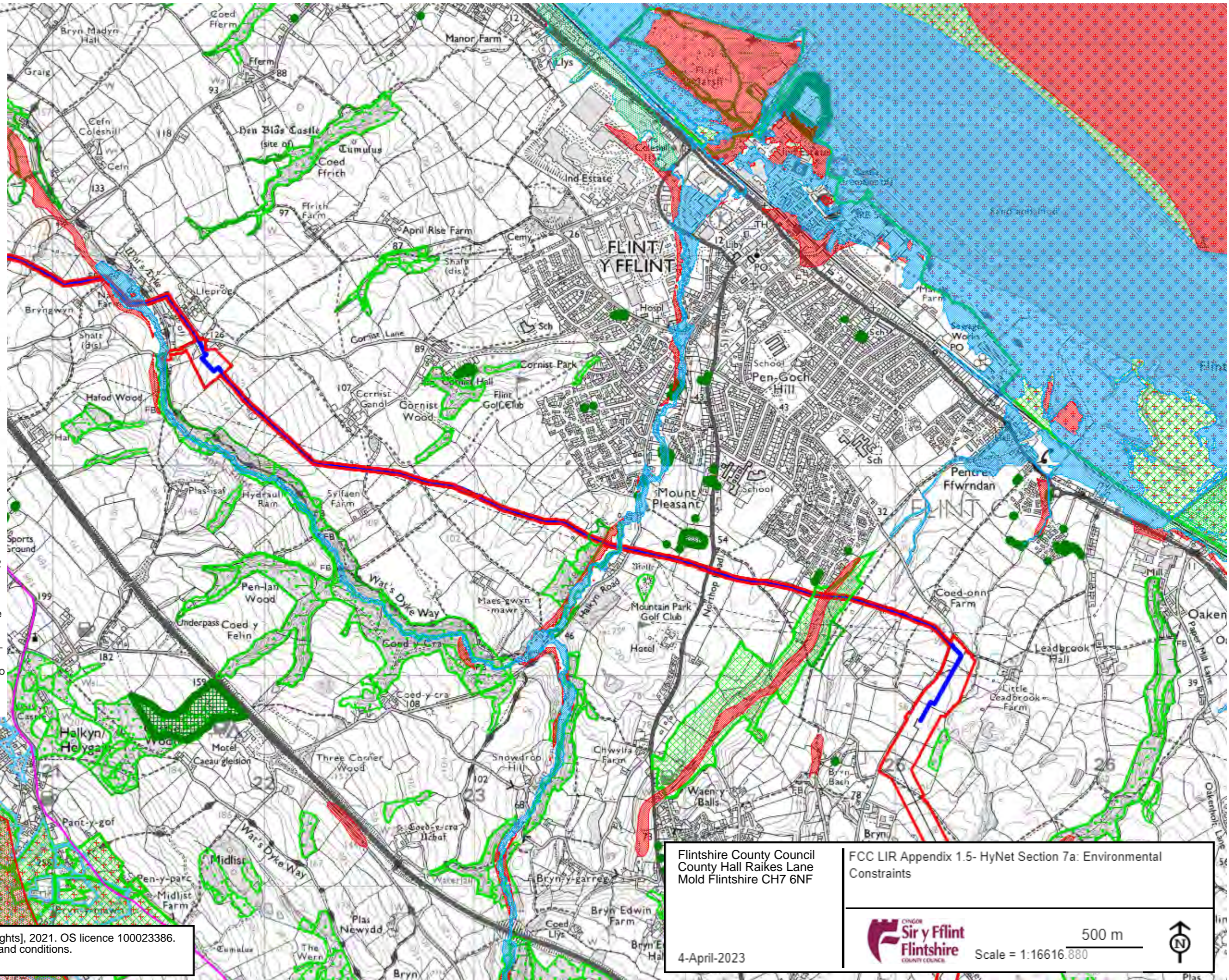


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500 m



- TAN15 Floodrisk**
- TAN15_ZoneC2
 - TAN15_ZoneC1
 - TAN15_ZoneB
- Conservation - Landscape**
- Ezy_Flintshire_TPOs
- Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
- NRW_AONB
 - HLCA_Clwyd_Powys
 - Historic_Landscapes
 - Ancient_Woodlands
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 - NRW_Ramsar
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Page 249

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FCC LIR Appendix 1.5- HyNet Section 7a: Environmental Constraints

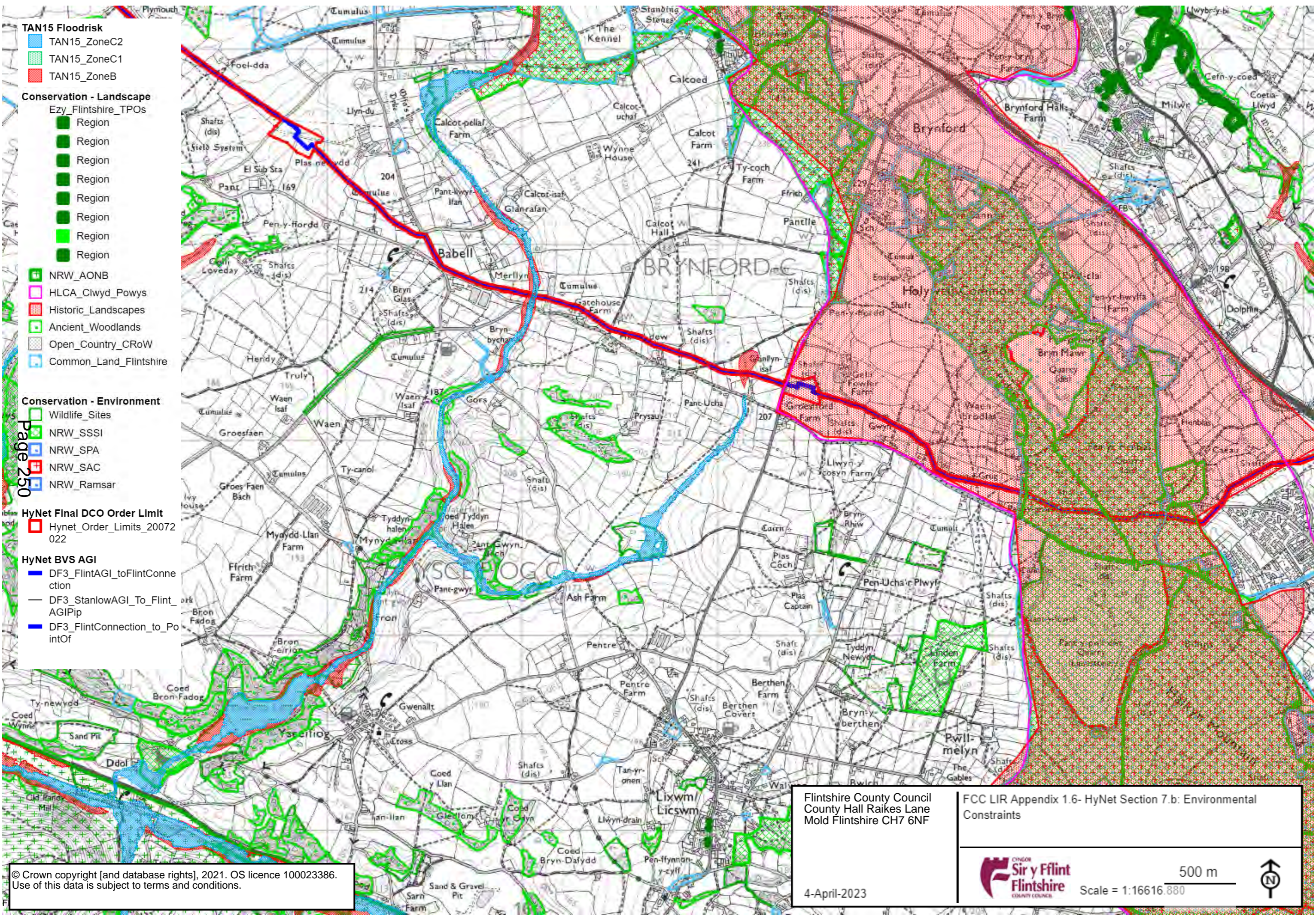


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4-April-2023

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 - TAN15_ZoneB
- Conservation - Landscape**
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 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - Region
 - NRW_AONB
 - HLCA_Clwyd_Powys
 - Historic_Landscapes
 - Ancient_Woodlands
 - Open_Country_CRoW
 - Common_Land_Flintshire

- Conservation - Environment**
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 - NRW_SSSI
 - NRW_SPA
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- Hynet_Order_Limits_20072_022

- HyNet BVS AGI**
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Page 250

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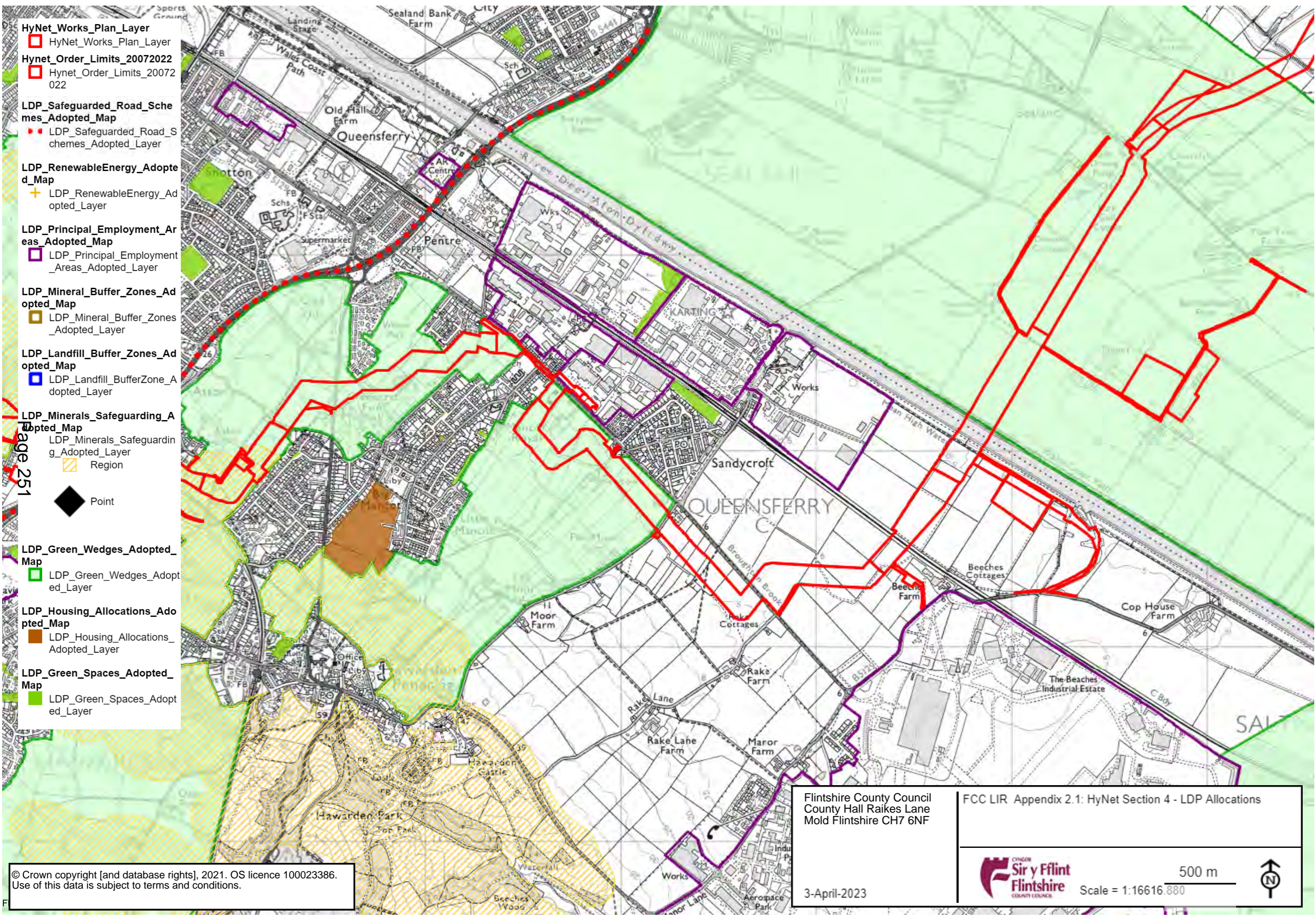
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Page 251

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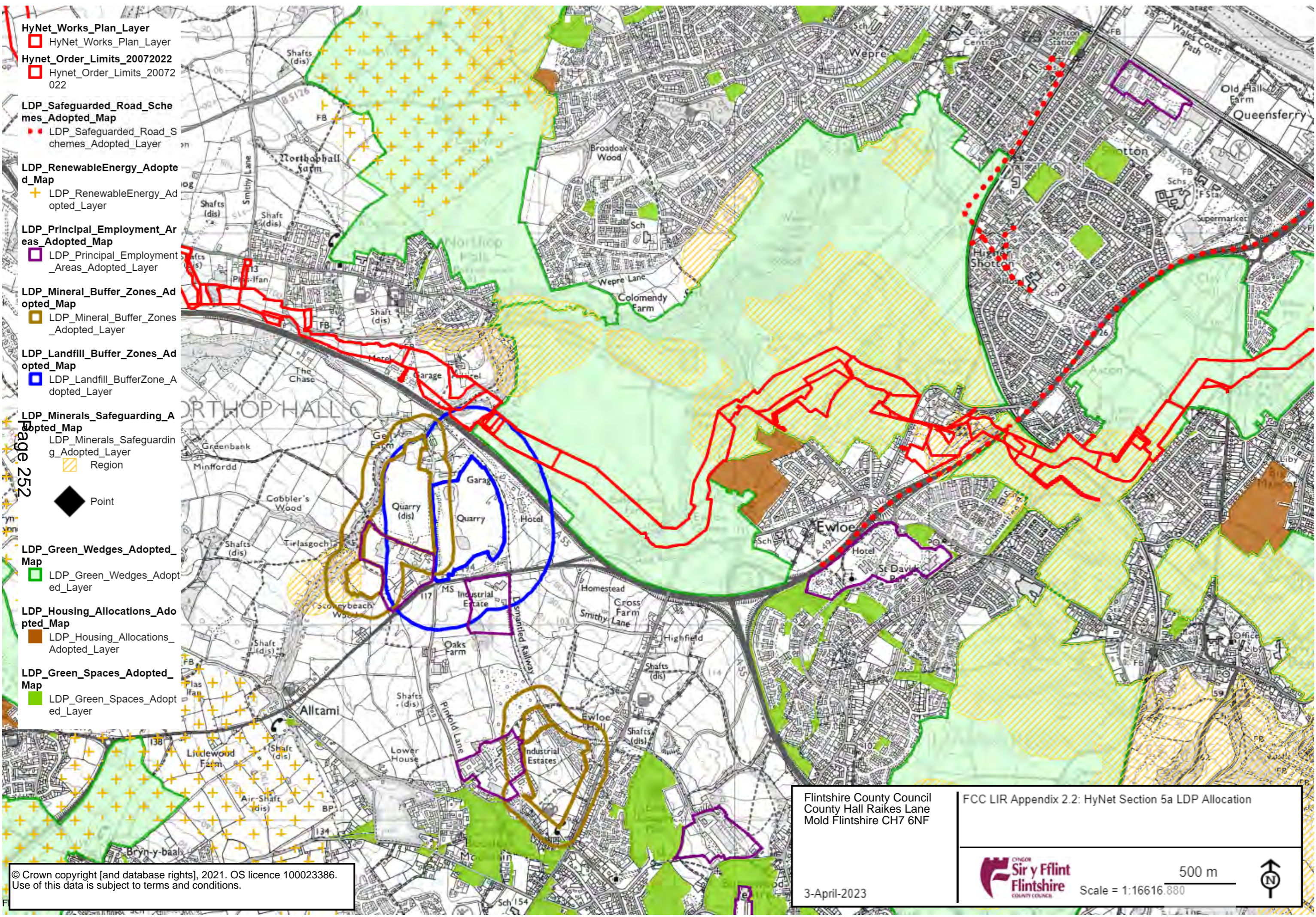
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Page 252

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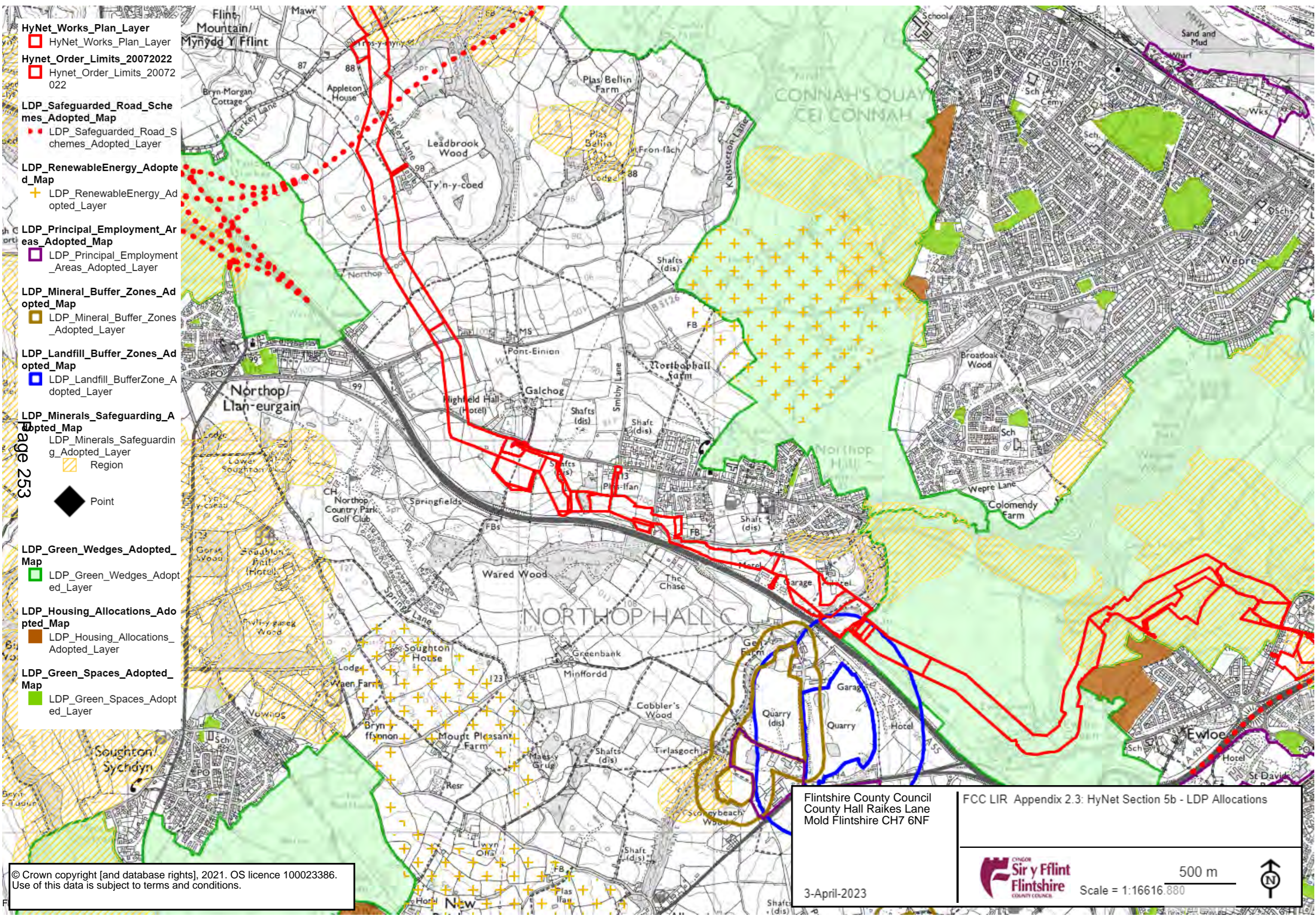
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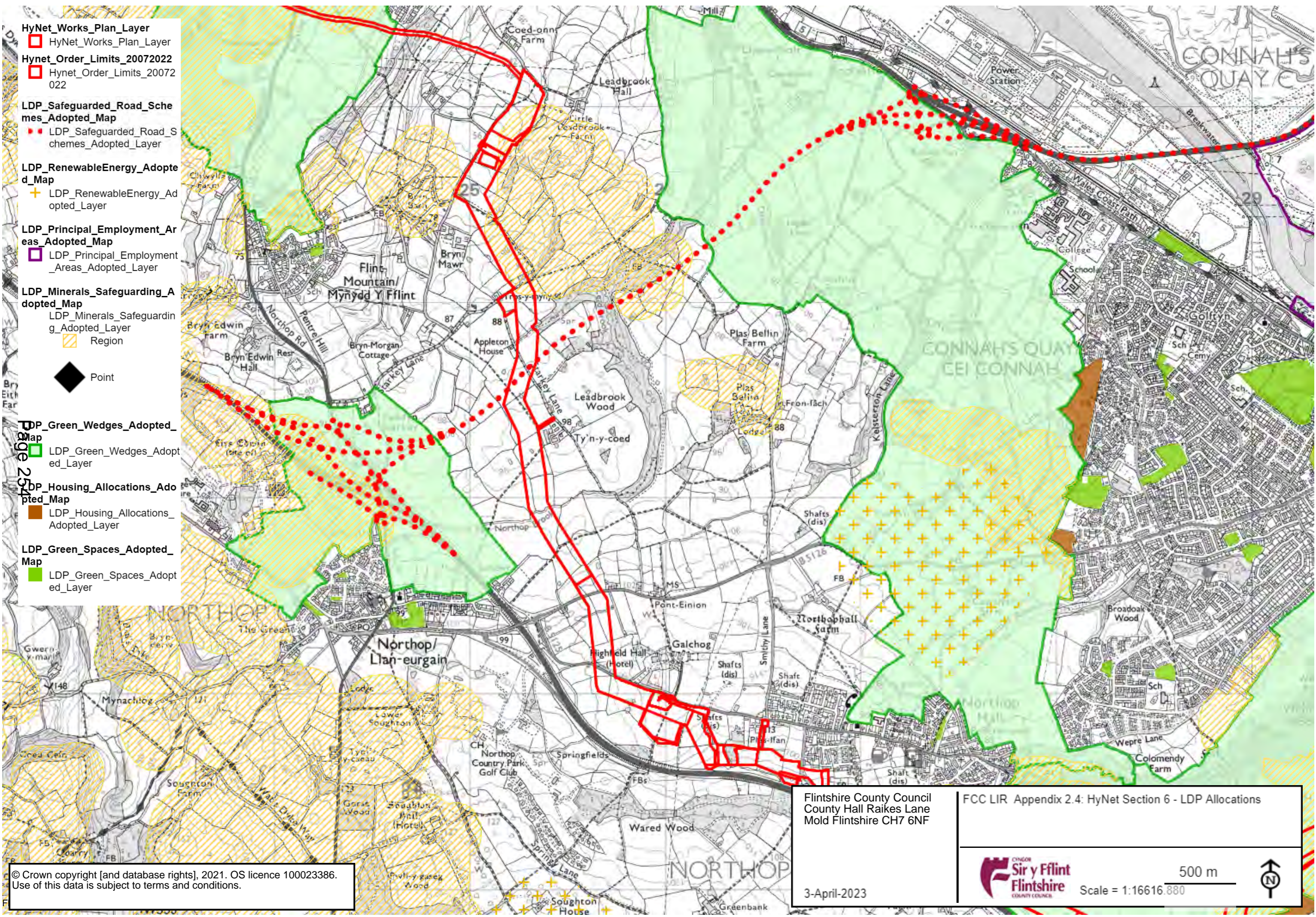
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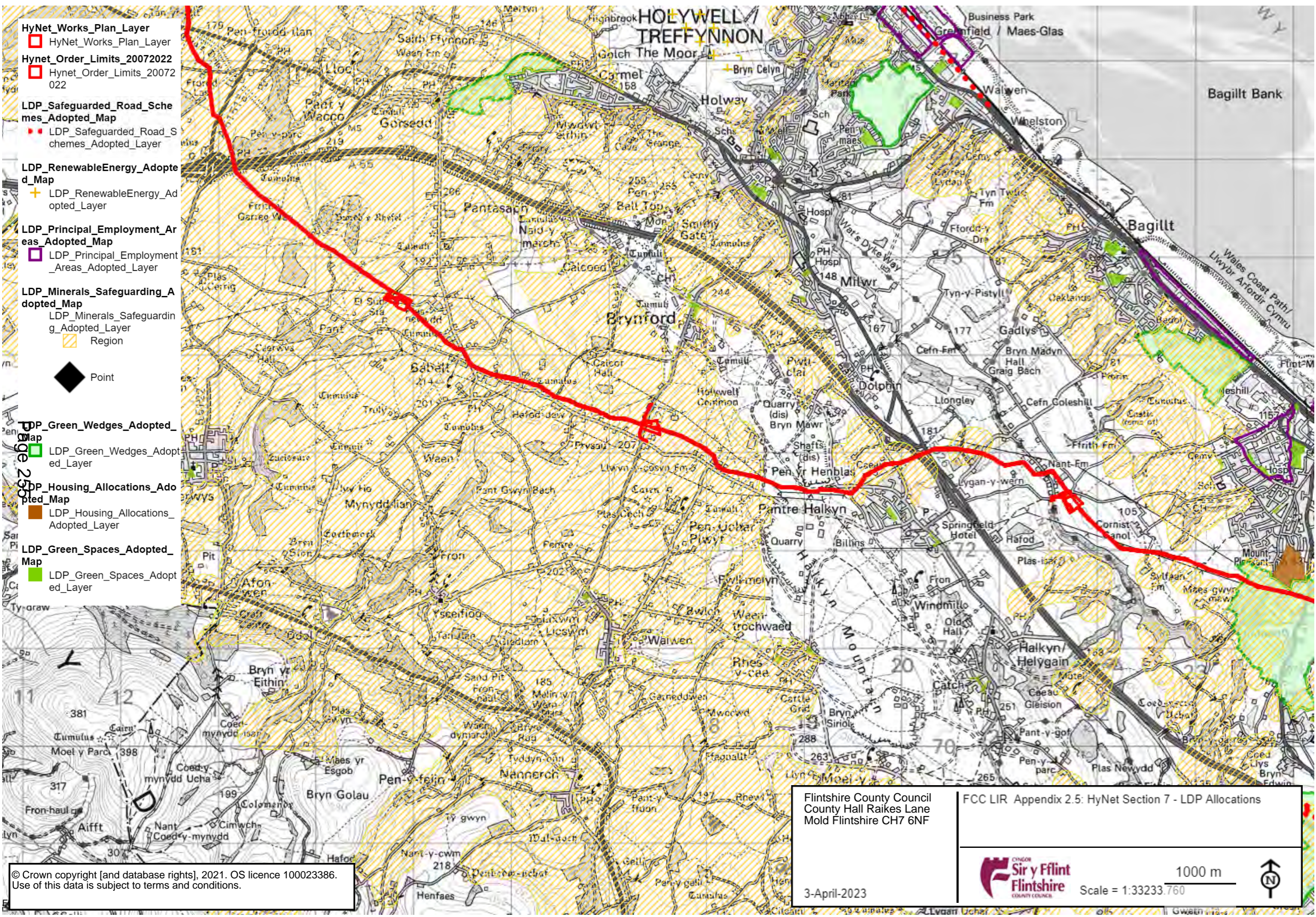
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FCC LIR Appendix 2.4: HyNet Section 6 - LDP Allocations



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Page 255

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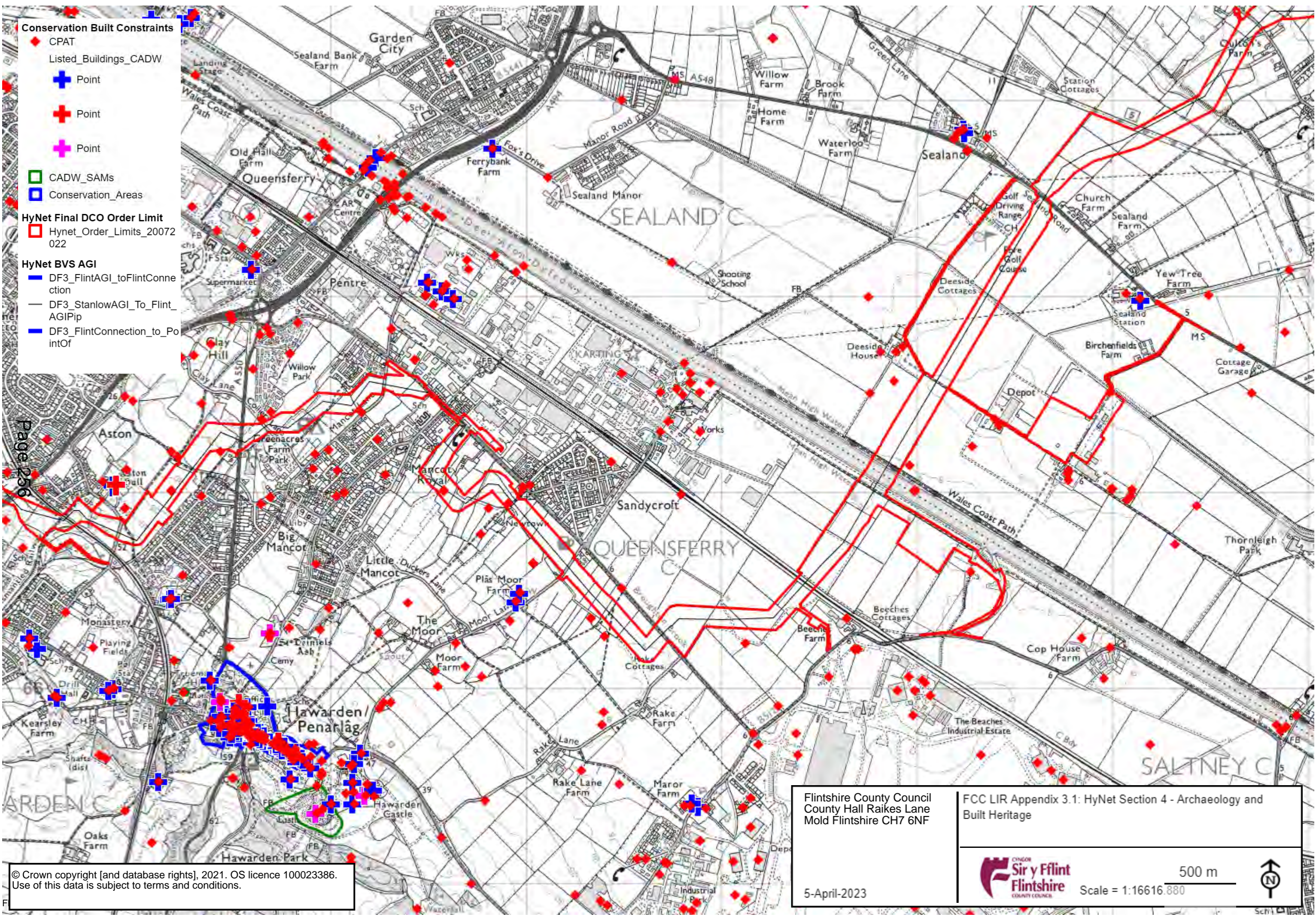
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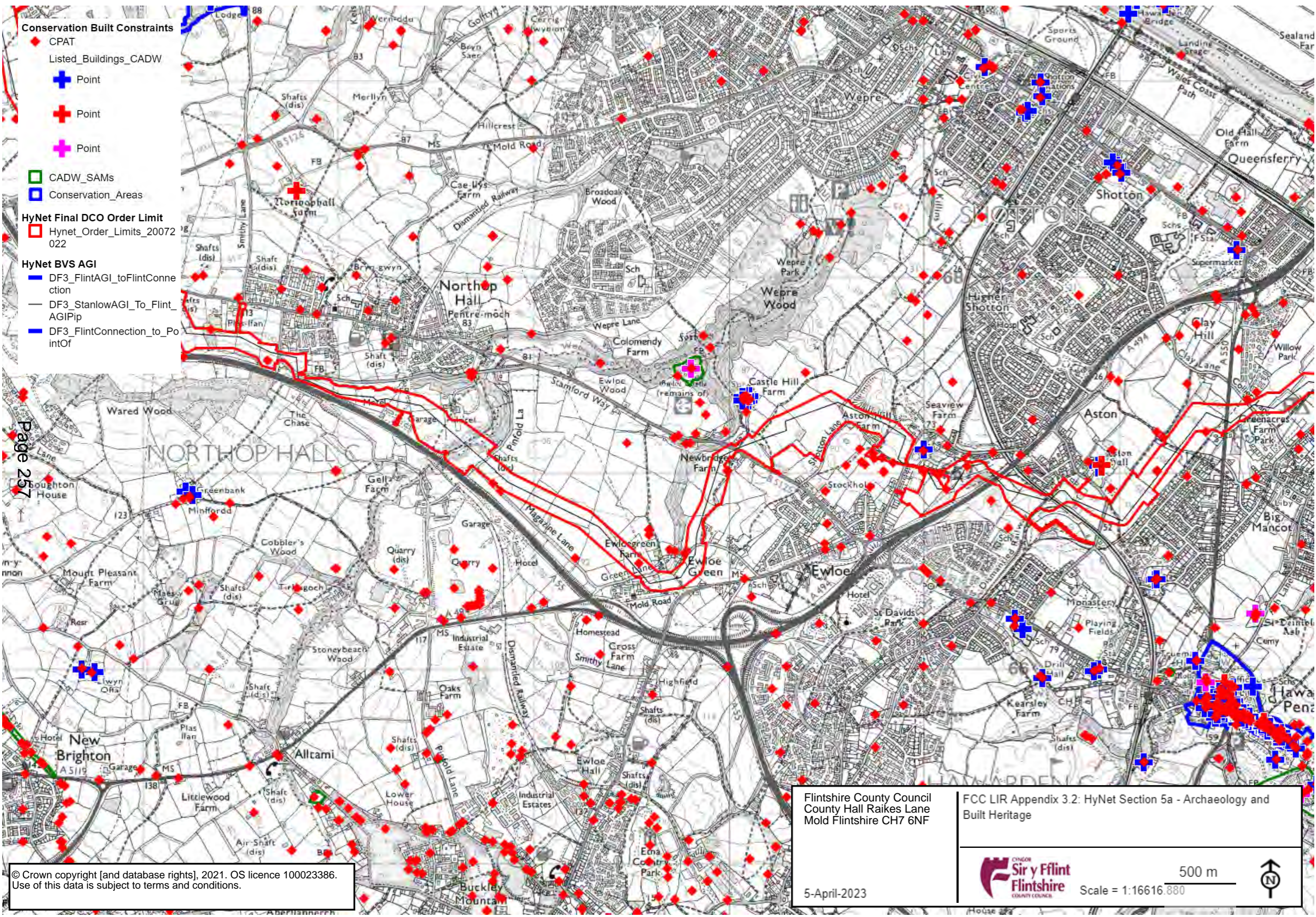


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Page 256

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<p>Flintshire County Council County Hall Raikes Lane Mold Flintshire CH7 6NF</p> <p>5-April-2023</p>	<p>FCC LIR Appendix 3.1: HyNet Section 4 - Archaeology and Built Heritage</p> <p> Sir y Fflint COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>500 m Scale = 1:16616.880</p> <p></p>
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Page 257

Flintshire County Council
County Hall Raikes Lane
Mold Flintshire CH7 6NF

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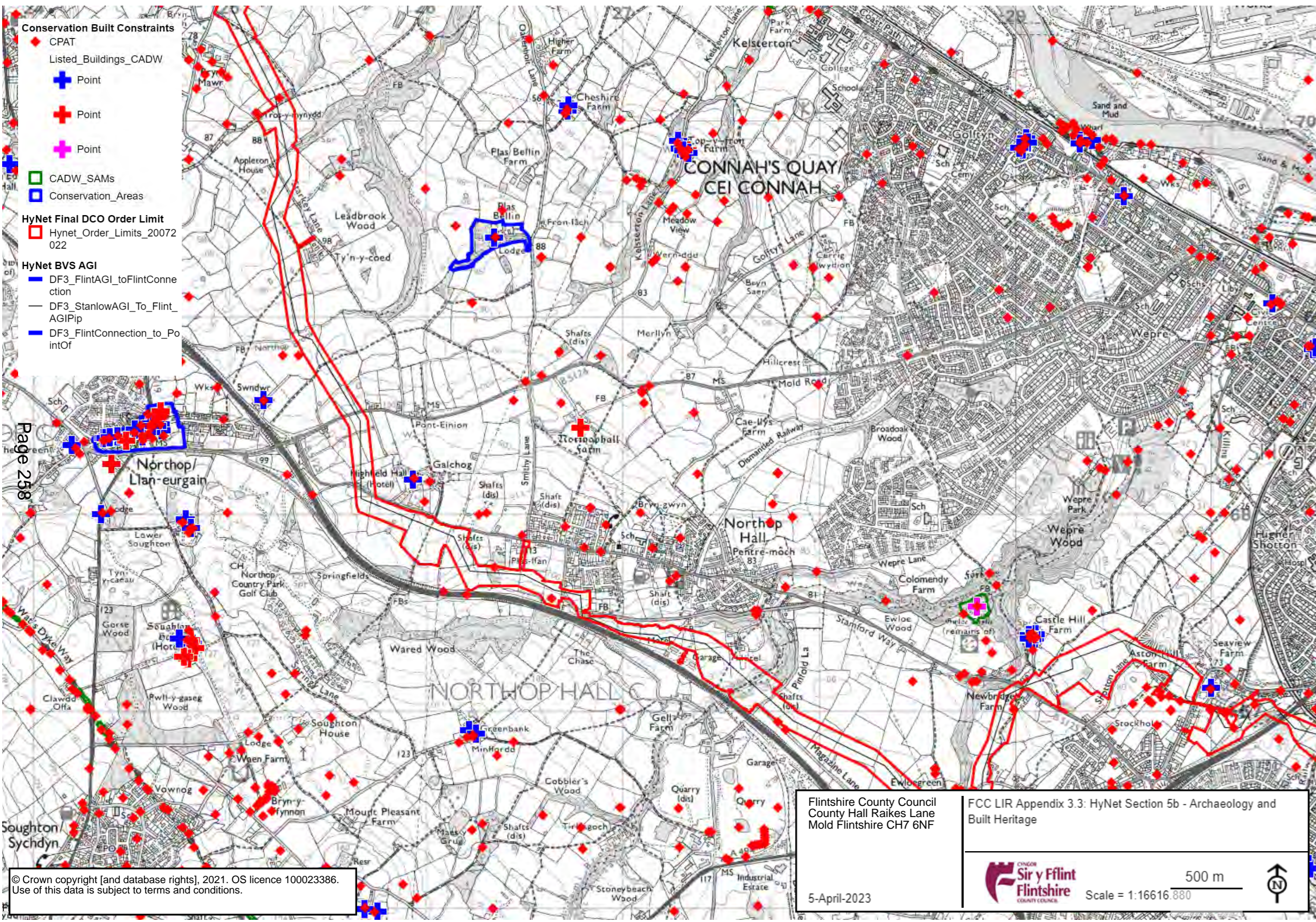
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Page 258

Flintshire County Council
County Hall Raikes Lane
Mold Flintshire CH7 6NF

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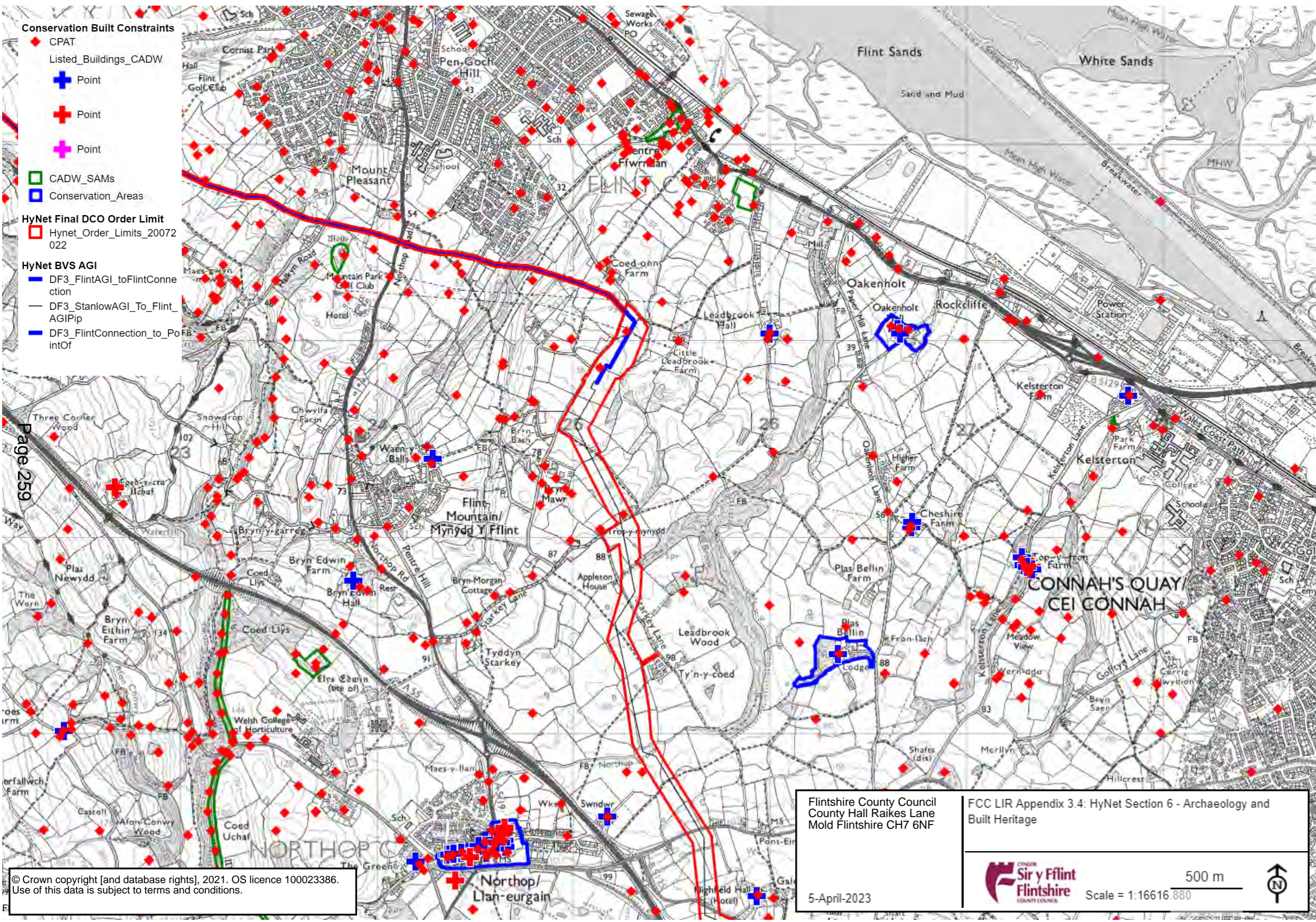
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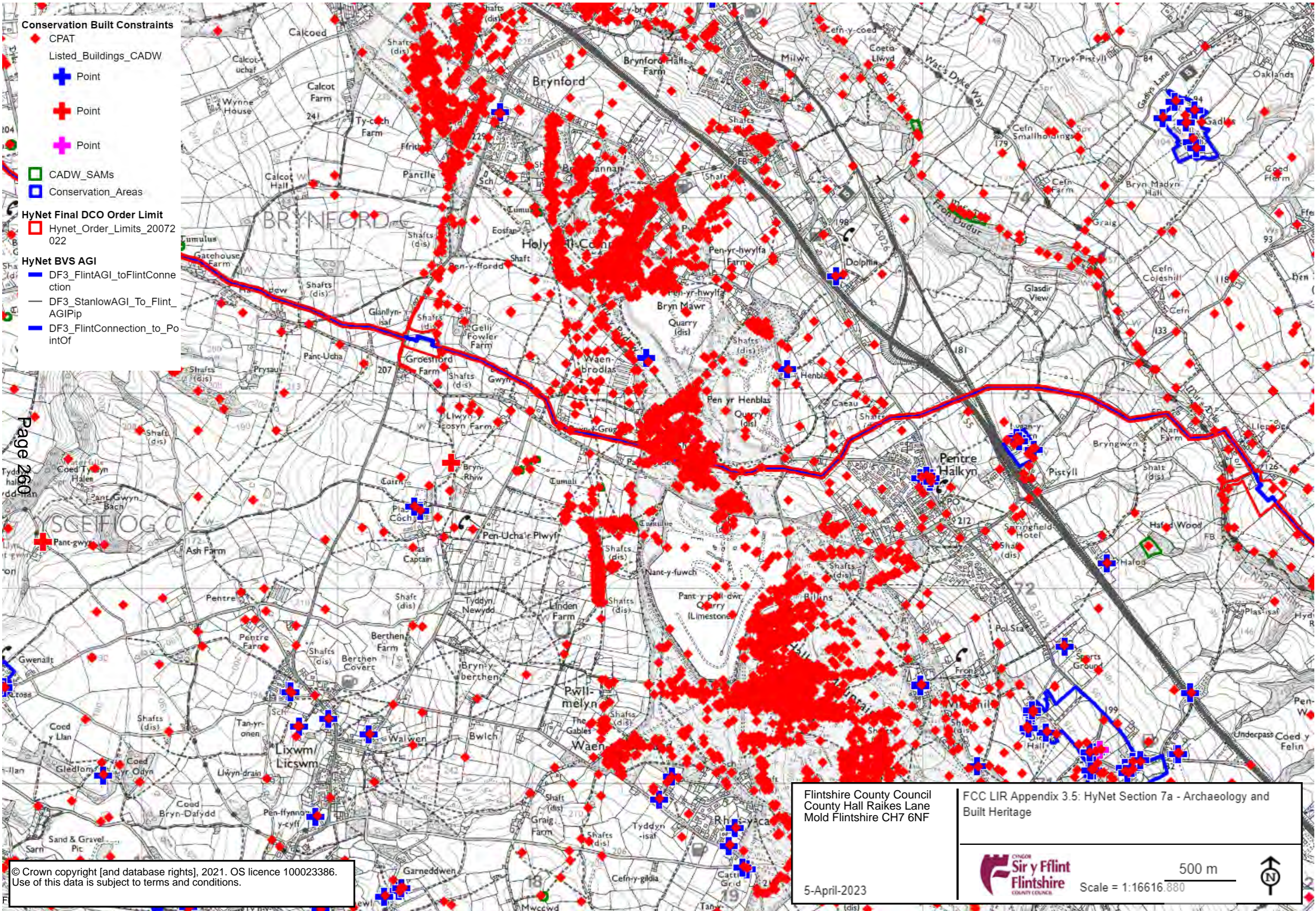
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Page 259

Flintshire County Council County Hall Raikes Lane Mold Flintshire CH7 6NF	FCC LIR Appendix 3.4: HyNet Section 6 - Archaeology and Built Heritage
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Page 260

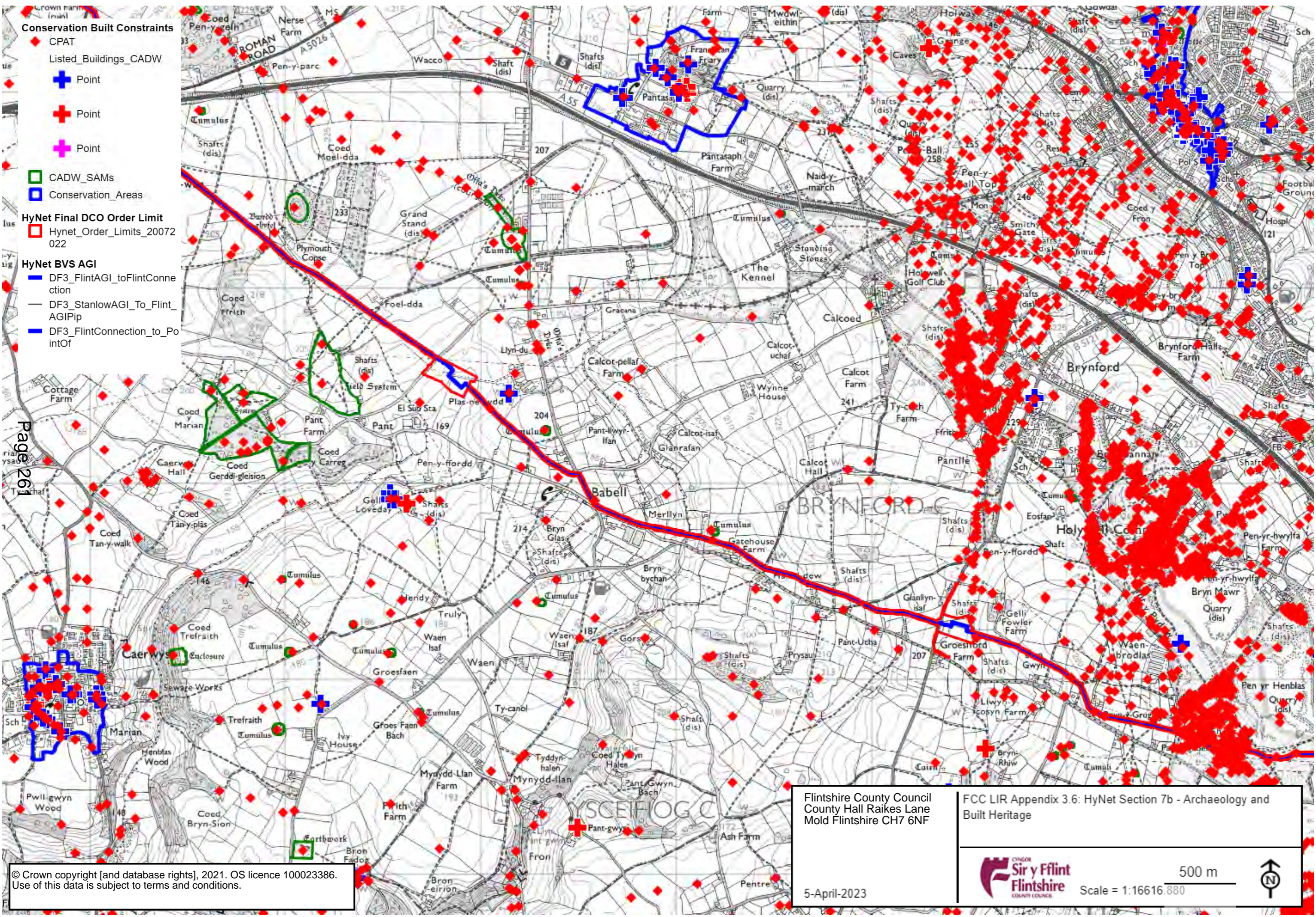
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Page 26

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5-April-2023

FCC LIR Appendix 3.6: HyNet Section 7b - Archaeology and Built Heritage



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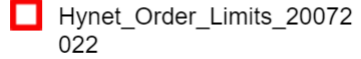
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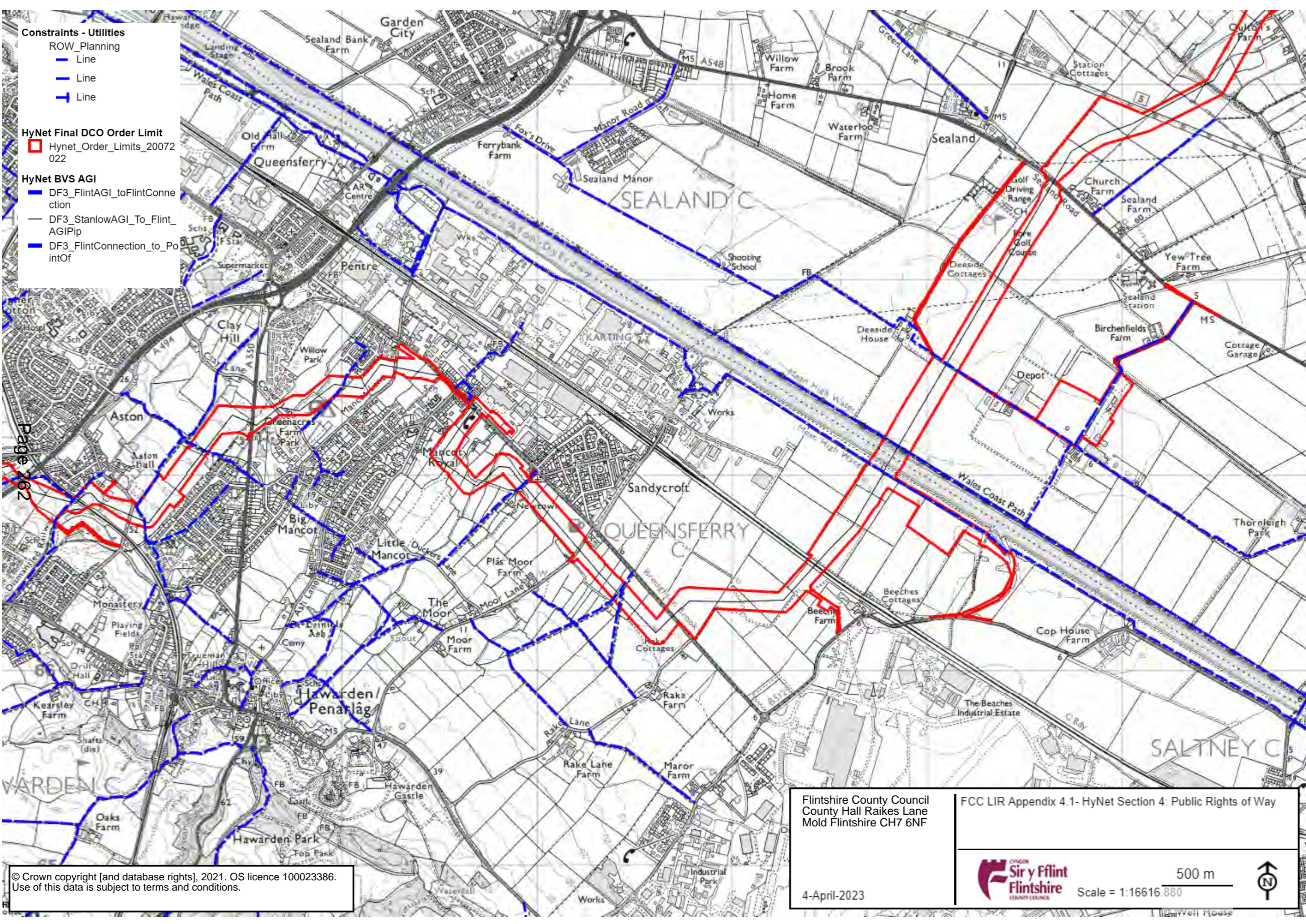
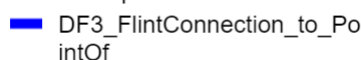
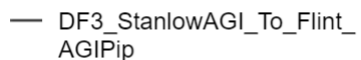
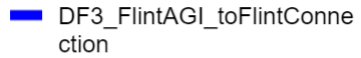
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HyNet Final DCO Order Limit



HyNet BVS AGI



Page 262

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4-April-2023

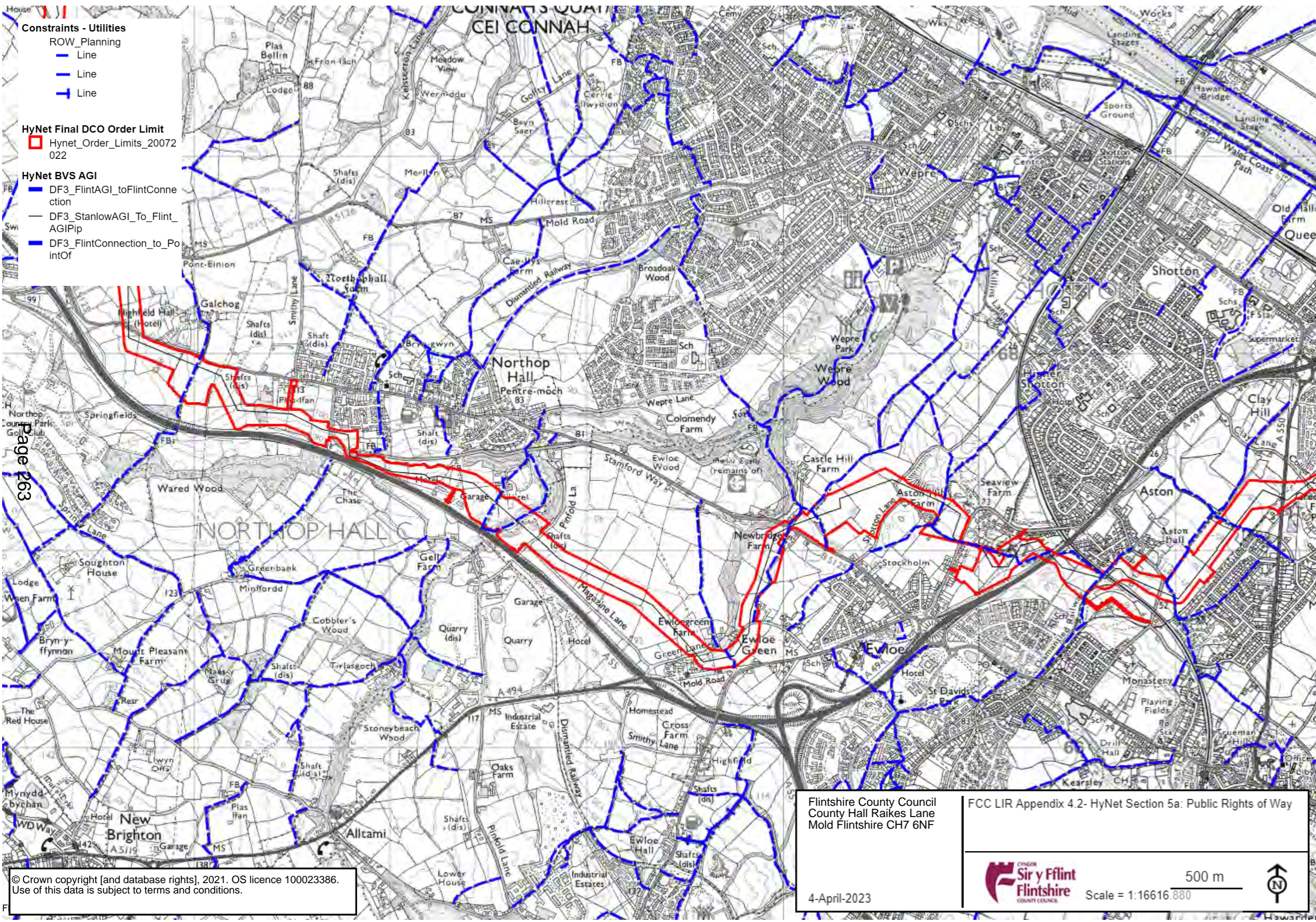
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Page 263

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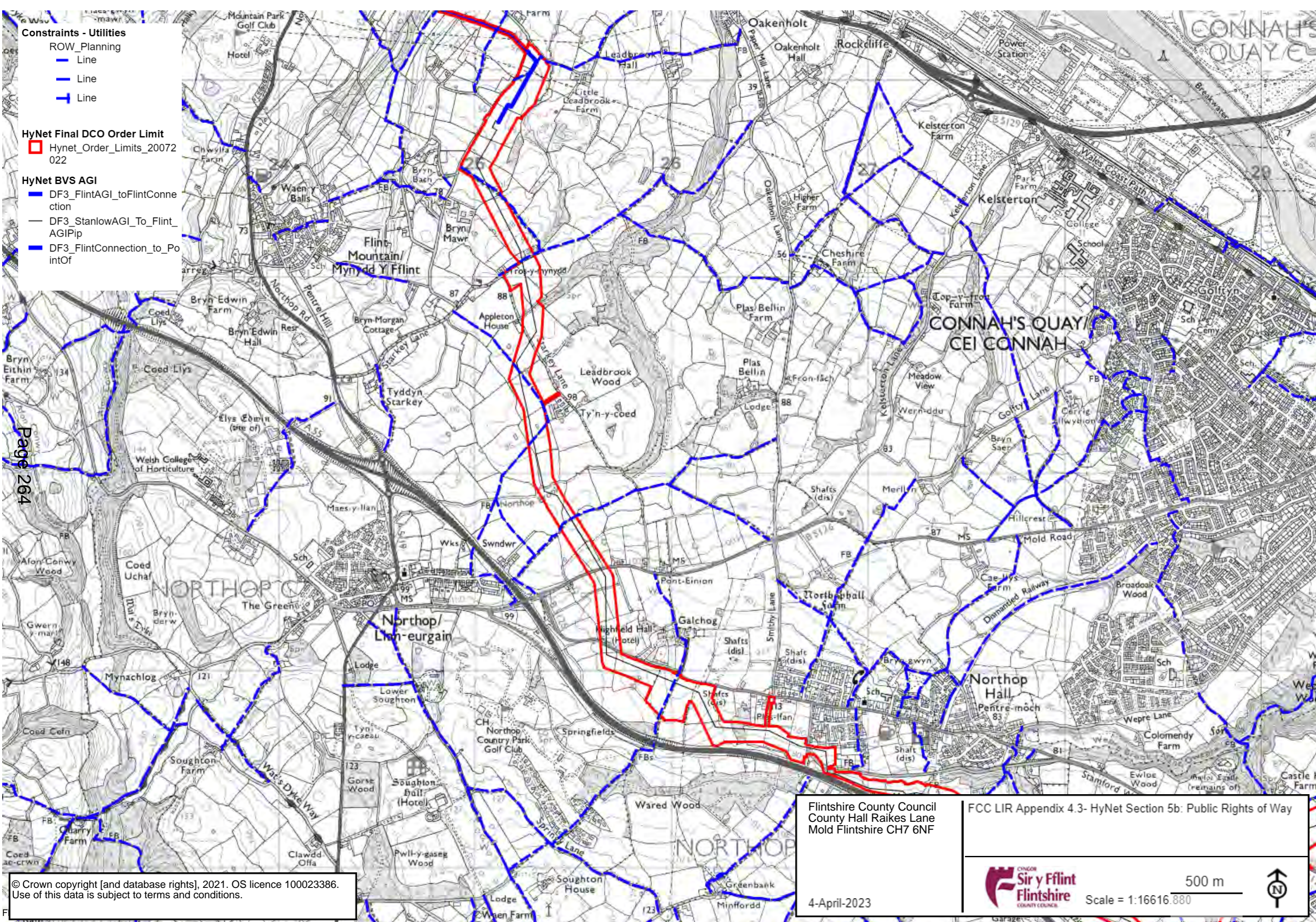
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4-April-2023



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HyNet Final DCO Order Limit

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HyNet BVS AGI

- DF3_FlintAGI_toFlintConnection
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Page 264

Flintshire County Council
County Hall Raikes Lane
Mold Flintshire CH7 6NF

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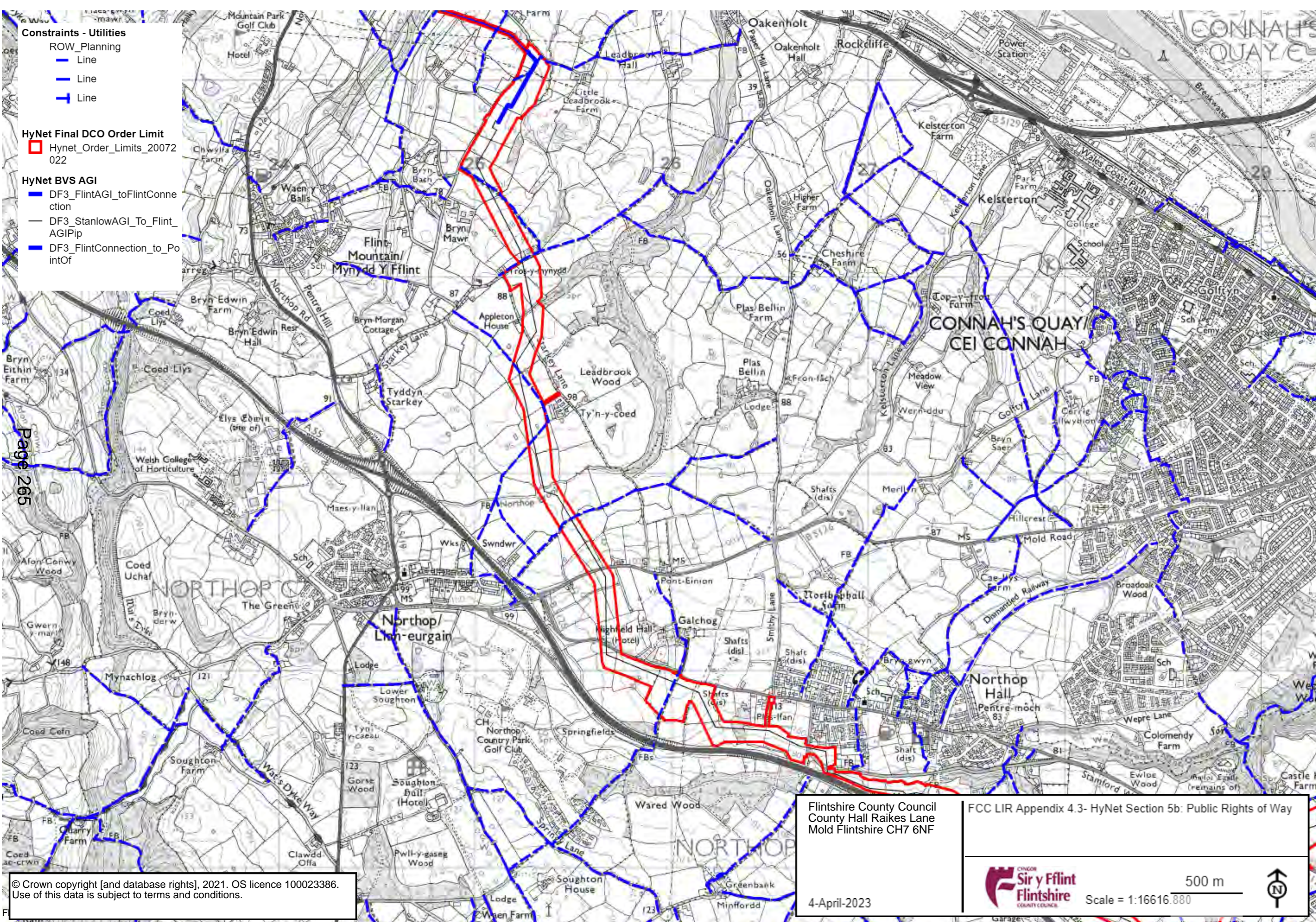
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HyNet BVS AGI

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Page 265

Flintshire County Council
County Hall Raikes Lane
Mold Flintshire CH7 6NF

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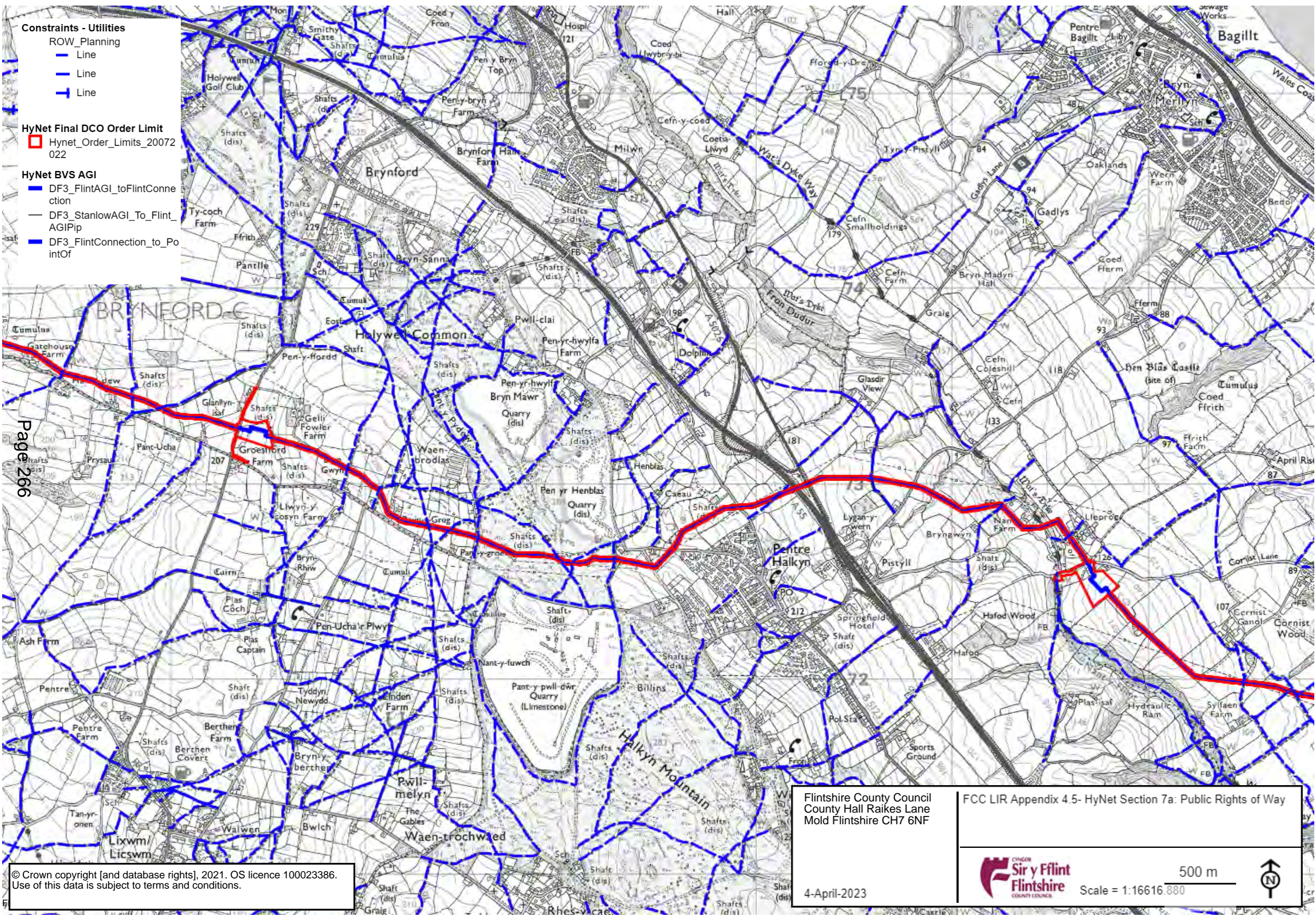
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Page 266

Flintshire County Council
 County Hall Raikes Lane
 Mold Flintshire CH7 6NF

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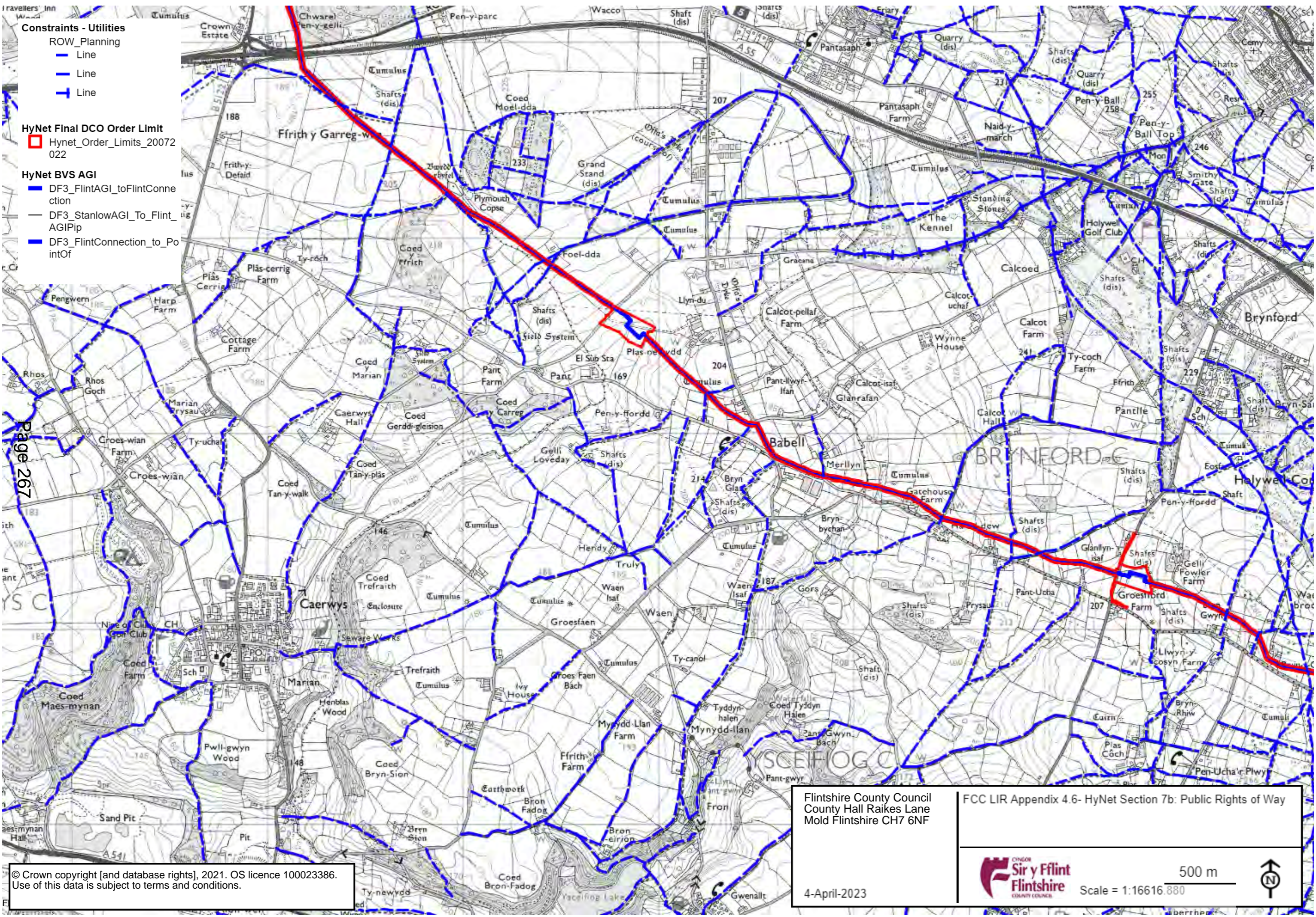
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Page 267

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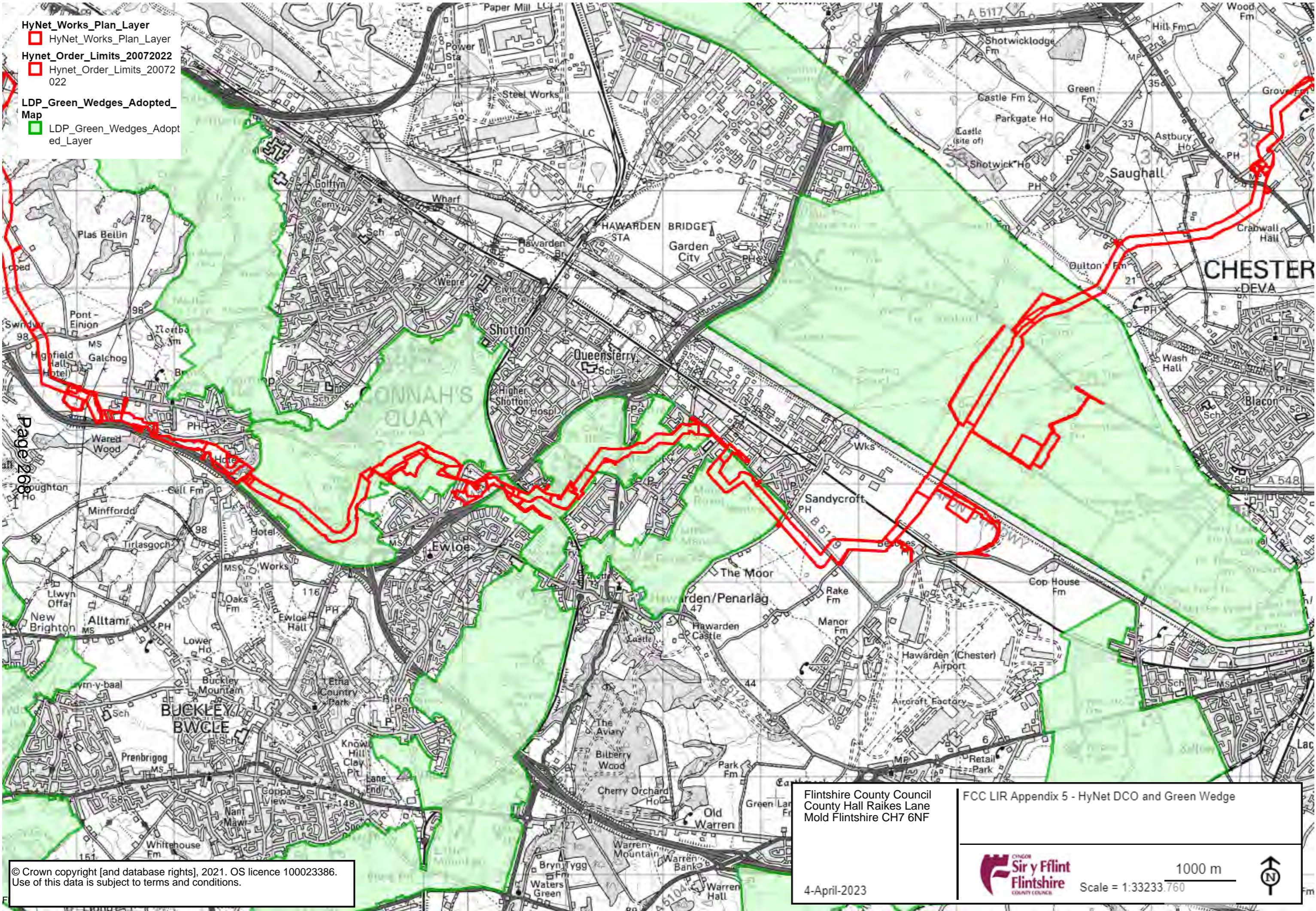
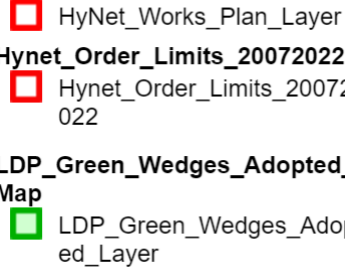
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Page 268

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4-April-2023

FCC LIR Appendix 5 - HyNet DCO and Green Wedge



Scale = 1:33233.760

1000 m





CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan and Local Area Energy Planning in Flintshire
Cabinet Member	Collective Responsibility
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is in relation to the regional energy planning process and incorporating priorities into strategic actions and intervention. It recommends endorsing the North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan and provides information regarding the commencement of Local Area Energy Planning in Flintshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To consider and endorse the attached North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan.
2	To note the commencement of Local Area Energy Planning in the county.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REPORT
1.01	<p>North Wales Energy Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>Each region in Wales has developed its own Energy Strategy and Action Plan. The North Wales Energy Strategy was drafted by Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) with support and input from the Ambition North Wales (ANW), Welsh Government (WG) and regional stakeholders. The supporting Action Plan has been co-developed by ANW and WG with support from regional stakeholders via a Task and Finish group. The Task and Finish group, chaired by WG, comprised of representatives from ANW, WG, the North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council, all six local authorities and the Regional Skills Partnership.</p>
1.02	<p>The North Wales Energy Strategy was endorsed by ANW and WG’s Minister for Climate Change in March 2021. The Action Plan was approved by ANW in September 2022. Democratic support from each constituent local authority is now being sought.</p>
1.03	<p>The North Wales Energy Strategy identifies key priorities and opportunities to deliver on the region’s ambition for decarbonising its energy system. The Strategy sets out the following vision for North Wales:</p> <p><i>‘Delivering maximum local economic, social, ecological and wellbeing benefits from transitioning to a net zero economy and becoming a net exporter of low carbon electricity through cross-border and regional cooperation’.</i></p>
1.04	<p>The priorities for achieving the vision are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix.</i> • <i>To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies.</i> • <i>To improve the energy efficiency of the region’s housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales’ building stock.</i> • <i>To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport.</i> • <i>To maximise the opportunities for the commercial and industrial sectors to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.</i>
1.05	<p>The Action Plan translates the priorities in the Strategy into strategic actions and interventions. ANW and WG note it will be necessary to</p>

	progress more detailed work to establish any funding requirements and sources for any un-costed actions. There are a number of actions in the plan where Local Authorities have been identified as the Lead. These have been extracted from the document and collated in Appendix 2 for ease.
1.06	ANW and WG have agreed that the existing Task and Finish Group transitions to a Steering Group / Project Board with a revised Terms of Reference to provide the governance to oversee the completion of actions within the action plan. Membership will be reviewed as an early priority. The Group will meet regularly and will agree arrangements for reporting to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, Local Authorities and WG.
1.07	The Strategy and Action Plan provide the strategic context for the development of a more detailed Local Area Energy Plan for Flintshire.
1.08	Local Area Energy Planning Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) is a data driven and whole energy system, evidence-based approach that sets out to identify the most effective route for the local area to contribute towards meeting the national net zero target, as well as meeting its local net zero target.
1.09	LAEP is being funded by WG and involves dedicated plans being prepared within each local authority area in Wales. These plans will be co-developed by the local authority and local stakeholders with support from partners including ANW, WG and external support.
1.10	The work on LAEP commenced in January 2023. The timeline is to be confirmed but it is likely that the Flintshire LAEP should be completed in December 2023.
1.11	It is proposed that annual updates on progress are provided to the Climate Change Committee and Cabinet to secure effective democratic oversight of progress and to influence and decide on actions going forward into future years.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	For certain actions within the North Wales Energy Strategy and Strategic Action Plan, further detailed work on establishing funding requirements and sources has commenced by the Task and Finish Group.
2.02	Many of the actions identified with LAs as the lead are “engage” / “input into” type actions with “no funding required”. This will involve staff time across a range of service areas within FCC including the Climate Change Team, Planning, Energy Management, Public Health, Housing, Property Services, Fleet Management, Procurement, Public Protection, Transport, Communications and Business Support at a time when resource is constrained.

2.03	Local Area Energy Planning is being funded by WG. Consultants ARUP have been appointed by ANW to deliver the LAEP for Flintshire. Three roles have been recruited by ANW to support the delivery of these plans working with the Local Authorities in North Wales and ARUP.
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	<p>The likely impact of the LAEP on service areas in the Council are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Climate Change Team</u>- lead contact for this piece of work or ANW and ARUP, coordinating internal effort and delivering set tasks. • <u>Planning Department and Energy Management Team</u>- input to the data collection and development of the LAEP. • <u>Communications Team and Community Development</u> - input to the data collection and development of the LAEP, identifying stakeholders for engagement workshops.
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3.02	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td> <p>Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will require long term planning and a long-term vision to ensure systems and services are fit for purpose as the climate changes as well as reducing the impact of harmful climate change through mitigation.</p> <p>Decarbonisation activities such as planting trees and developing renewable energy will have long lasting impacts over tens to hundreds of years. These activities also contribute to the climate change targets set by Welsh Government particularly Wales generating 70% of its electricity demand from renewable energy by 2030 and becoming a net zero carbon nation by 2050.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td> <p>Positive: In order to avoid the harmful effects of climate change it is necessary for the Council to reduce its carbon emissions and increase the amount of carbon sequestered in its land assets. Carbon emissions caused by human activities are the main cause of climate change.</p> <p>Mitigating climate change will help to reduce impacts such as extreme weather causing flooding / extreme</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	<p>Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will require long term planning and a long-term vision to ensure systems and services are fit for purpose as the climate changes as well as reducing the impact of harmful climate change through mitigation.</p> <p>Decarbonisation activities such as planting trees and developing renewable energy will have long lasting impacts over tens to hundreds of years. These activities also contribute to the climate change targets set by Welsh Government particularly Wales generating 70% of its electricity demand from renewable energy by 2030 and becoming a net zero carbon nation by 2050.</p>	Prevention	<p>Positive: In order to avoid the harmful effects of climate change it is necessary for the Council to reduce its carbon emissions and increase the amount of carbon sequestered in its land assets. Carbon emissions caused by human activities are the main cause of climate change.</p> <p>Mitigating climate change will help to reduce impacts such as extreme weather causing flooding / extreme</p>
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	<p>heat, loss of wildlife and habitats, increased pests and diseases, etc.</p> <p>Adapting to the impacts of climate change now will improve sustainability of our communities as the climate changes.</p>
Integration	<p>Positive: Becoming net zero carbon integrates with the following priorities under the Council Plan; Green Council, Ambitious Council and Supportive Council. It integrates with the public service board objectives in the Environment priority of the Wellbeing Plan as well as the Smart Access to Energy project in the North Wales Growth Deal. It also integrates with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government's decarbonisation of the public sector agenda.</p>
Collaboration	<p>Positive: The climate change programme offers multiple opportunities to work collaboratively both internally and externally – and this collaboration will determine the success of the programme. Collaboration with the following groups is needed to ensure decarbonisation is integrated into everything that the Council and the wider region does and plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government - Other public sector organisations such as local authorities, NRW, health boards, universities. - Private sector - Regional groups such as the North Wales Economic Ambition Board - Local Town and County Councillors - the local communities
Involvement	<p>Positive: If decarbonisation is to succeed and harmful climate change is to be avoided then everyone at a professional and personal level will need to be involved</p>
Well-being Goals Impact	
Prosperous Wales	<p>Positive: Reducing the Council's carbon emissions should enable strategic</p>

		investment in projects and ways of working that could deliver savings or generate new income streams, therefore supporting delivery of local services. It should also facilitate the development of the low carbon economy through infrastructure projects, sustained tree planting, land management etc which can support local businesses and communities.
	Resilient Wales	Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will promote resilience through actions such as: investment in renewable energy infrastructure which helps to reduce reliance on imports from across Europe and the World and the associated price fluctuations, and increasing ecological resilience through enhancing biodiversity particularly on land with low ecological value. By planning for climate change adaptation the Council's services and its communities will also be resilient.
	Healthier Wales	Positive: Decarbonisation requires a shift to active travel, investment in green infrastructure, support for local and sustainable food sources, and development of renewable energy which are likely to promote healthier lifestyles, improved wellbeing and reduced health impacts from poor air quality.
	More equal Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Cohesive Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Vibrant Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Globally responsible Wales	Positive: Reducing the Council's carbon emissions to net zero helps to mitigate climate change and therefore contributes to the achievement of Welsh Government, UK Government and international climate goals.
3.03	Not anticipated to be any negative anti-poverty, equalities, or environmental impacts of the scheme.	
3.04	The Council's Well-being Objectives Decarbonisation of the Council's activities will support the Green Council objective with a key impact of reducing carbon emissions mitigating climate change, for example, through the development of alternative and renewable energy production, promoting active travel, shifting to electric fleet vehicles, engaging with the supply chain and promoting a low carbon economy through the goods and services purchased.	

	It can also contribute towards the success of other Council Wellbeing objectives such as 'An Ambitious Council' and 'A Caring Council' through providing local job creation and apprenticeships and therefore potentially reducing poverty through maximising residents' income and employability.
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	ANW has shared the draft Action Plan with each proposed lead and enabling organisation identified in the Plan, ANW Energy Programme Board, North Wales Planning Officers Group, North Wales Decarbonisation Group, Welsh Local Government Association, and all workshop attendees (circa 100 individuals representing 60 organisations).

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – North Wales Energy Strategy Action Plan (pdf) Appendix 2 – Collation of actions where Local Authorities have been identified as the Lead within the North Wales Energy Strategy Action Plan.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	North Wales Energy Strategy (https://www.gov.wales/regional-energy-strategy-north-wales)

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Alex Ellis – Programme Manager Telephone: 01352 703110 E-mail: alex.ellis@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None.

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North Wales Energy Strategy Strategic Action Plan

Page 277

Funded and supported by:



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Developed by:



Uchelgais
Gogledd Cymru
Ambition
North Wales

Developed in collaboration with:



Gwasanaeth Ynni
Energy Service

Contents

North Wales Energy Strategy	1
Strategic Action Plan	1
Abbreviations	3
Introduction	5
Background	5
Action Plan content	7
Governance	8
Monitoring and Reporting	9
Strategic priorities and actions	10
Cross-cutting actions	10
1. To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix	15
2. To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies	15
3. To improve the energy efficiency of the region’s housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales’ building stock	19
4. Achieve a shift to lower-carbon transport	24
5. Maximise the opportunities for the commercial & industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth .	28

Abbreviations

CCUS	Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EV	Electric Vehicle
IHP	Innovative Housing Programme
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LA	Local Authority
LAEP	Local Area Energy Plan
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NZIW	Net Zero Industry Wales
OEA	Offshore Energy Alliance
ORP	Optimised Retrofit Programme
PLA	Personal Learning Account
PV	Photovoltaic
RSL	Registered Social Landlords

RSP	Regional Skills Partnership
SME	Small to medium-sized enterprises
SMR	Small Modular Reactor
SPEN	Scottish Power Energy Networks
UK	United Kingdom
ULEVTF	Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles Transformation Fund
WGES	Welsh Government Energy Service
WHS	Welsh Housing Quality Standard
WPD	Western Power Distribution

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank all the stakeholders who made valuable contributions to this work through their participation in workshops, and through additional communication by e-mail. We would also like to thank all members of the Task and Finish Group and the Thematic Leads who provided strategic oversight and direction to this work.

Introduction

This document presents a Strategic Action Plan (hereafter ‘the action plan’) for North Wales. It sets out strategic actions that are required to realise the strategic priorities set out in the [North Wales Energy Strategy](#).

Background

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC’s) Sixth Assessment Report reports that we are already experiencing the widespread impacts and costs of climate change.¹ The IPCC’s Special Report on 1.5 states that unless global warming is limited to close to 1.5°C by 2050, the impacts of climate change will become unmanageable and irreversible for natural and human systems. There is now global acknowledgement of the latest climate science and national commitments made under the Paris Agreement recognise the climate change crisis and the need to act urgently to protect the well-being of current and future generations.² With guidance from the Climate Change Committee³ and evidence published by the IPCC, Wales has recognised the urgency of this issue and, in 2021, legislated to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The Welsh Government’s Net Zero Wales Plan⁴, published in October 2021, provides a comprehensive overview of key policies and proposals across key sectors, and emphasises the importance of a just transition as we move to a low carbon economy. The UK Government’s Energy Security Strategy⁵, published in April 2022, includes targets around increasing offshore wind deployment, solar generation, hydrogen production and several nuclear facilities. Delivering net zero for Wales will require coordinated efforts across many sectors and will require a Team Wales

¹ [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report](#)

² [IPCC Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5°C](#)

³ [The Committee on Climate Change, Sixth Carbon Budget](#)

⁴ [Net Zero Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

⁵ [British energy security strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

approach with actions at all levels including Welsh Government, UK Government, the wider public sector, Welsh businesses and industry and the Welsh public (individuals and households).

Achieving Wales' target will require substantial transformation of our energy systems and radical changes in the technologies we use to heat our homes, travel, and generate electricity. Over recent months, the profile of both energy security and energy affordability have risen significantly. Ofgem recently confirmed that the energy market remains highly volatile and as a result they expect further price increases later this year⁶. The impact of rising energy prices on many residents, public bodies, community enterprises and businesses is significant. The cost-of-living crisis has underscored the need to increase supply from the lowest cost forms of energy generation, particularly where they deliver other local benefits (such as skilled jobs) or are owned or led locally. Transitioning to a modern, decarbonised energy system fit for the twenty-first century poses plenty of challenges, but it also has the potential to bring great benefits, both for the environment and for the economic and social wellbeing of our communities.

North Wales has developed a Regional Energy Strategy that outlines its strategic priorities and commitment to decarbonising the energy system to achieve Wales' net zero target. North Wales' Regional Economic Framework further supports this by recognising the intrinsic link between sustainable economic growth and net zero and states the commitment of Welsh Government and Regional Partners to prepare an action plan to deliver the North Wales Energy Strategy.⁷

Significant progress has also been made as part of the North Wales Growth Deal. The North Wales Low Carbon Energy Programme, for example, is one of five programmes included in the Growth Deal and aims to unlock the benefits of developing low carbon energy projects within the region, enhancing the region's status as a leading location for low carbon energy and supply chain investment.

The North Wales Energy Strategy identifies key priorities and opportunities to deliver on the region's ambition for decarbonising its energy system.

Our vision for North Wales is:

Delivering maximum local economic, social, ecological and wellbeing benefits from transitioning to a net zero economy and becoming a net exporter of low carbon electricity through cross-border and regional cooperation.

⁶ [Jonathan Brealey's speech at All Energy event in Glasgow](#)

⁷ [North Wales Regional Economic Framework](#)

Our strategic priorities for achieving this vision are:

1. **To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix.**
2. **To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies.**
3. **To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales' building stock.**
4. **To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport.**

The development of this **action plan** is the next stage of the energy planning process and is directed at turning the above priorities into tangible actions and interventions.

During the development of the action plan, the Task and Finish Group highlighted the significant importance and contribution of the commercial and industrial sector to achieving the energy vision for the region. The Group agreed that an additional priority focused on the commercial and industrial sector would be included in this action plan.

5. **Maximise the opportunities for the commercial and industrial sectors to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.**

Action Plan content

The action plan presents actions generated from four thematic workshops held with a cross section of sectoral stakeholders from across the region. Workshops were held between November 2021 and January 2022 around the following themes:

1. Domestic energy
2. Power generation
3. Transport
4. Commerce and industry

The strategic actions are set out below and are mapped against the strategic priorities (see Appendix 1: for a summary). Where actions contribute across multiple priorities, they have been defined as cross-cutting actions.

Indicative timescales have been specified against actions where there is enough information available to do so. Where this is possible, the following applies:

- Short term: underway by 2023
- Medium term: underway by 2025
- Long term: underway by 2035

Lead stakeholders or “**Leads**” are suggested against each action. These are organisations considered to be best placed to take responsibility for progressing and coordinating delivery of the specified action. Stakeholders who could play a critical role in facilitating the action’s successful delivery are listed as “**Enablers**”. It is important to note that listed stakeholders were identified in thematic workshops and/or have been proposed because of follow-up discussions to date. It is recognised that the list of stakeholders mentioned will not be exhaustive and that there will be other stakeholders who will play a role in delivering each action.

The draft Action Plan includes the **funding status** of each strategic action. There are actions that require no funding or are already underway or planned through existing programmes or initiatives, whilst others will be progressed subject to the appropriate funding or resources being secured. Where necessary, further work will take place during this year to quantify the resources required to progress implementation of the various actions identified

The **progress status** action provides details on existing and/or planned activities that contribute to the delivery of each action. This has been completed based on feedback from the thematic workshops and gathering available information within the public domain.

Governance

Strong and effective governance structure will be critical for facilitating a co-ordinated effort to deliver the strategic actions outlined in the action plan.

In development of both the Strategy and this action plan, strong governance through both the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and a dedicated Task and Finish Group has ensured regional oversight and direction to the work as it has developed.

The Strategy has already been endorsed by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (March 2021) and by the Welsh Government’s Minister for Climate Change. The Action Plan will now need to be further endorsed by our democratic leaders.

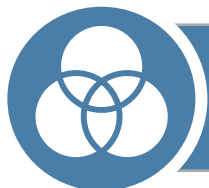
Work is already underway with the Task and Finish Group to agree the most effective arrangements for the future monitoring and oversight of the action plan as we proceed into delivery. It will be important to ensure effective alignment with any existing governance arrangements to make best use of those already operating within the region.

The next step for the region, with support from the Energy Service team, will be to work with stakeholders to develop the governance structure, and identify the role of key stakeholders from across the public, private and third sectors to deliver the strategic actions outlined below. This work will also include identifying areas of collaboration across government and key sectors which are vital to the achievement of each strategic priority.

Monitoring and Reporting

The action plan is intended to be a 'living' document that is regularly reviewed and updated. It will be influenced by emerging local and regional plans, future local area energy planning (LAEP) and other relevant developments and research in the region.

Strategic priorities and actions



Cross-cutting actions

Cross-cutting actions refer to those actions that apply across multiple sectors of the energy system.

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
Page 286	<p>Ensure effective alignment between local, regional, and national energy strategies, plans and initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transition should be led by consistent policies at a national level which filter down to regional and local levels. The development of local development plans and strategic development plans should all consider the relevant aspects of the Energy Strategy. 	Short term	Local Authorities	Welsh Government	No funding required	There is already close collaboration across the regional energy strategies and Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP). A National Advisory Group and Regional Groups will be established to ensure effective alignment between existing and emerging energy planning work.
B	<p>Develop Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) within each local authority area to support the development of a route map for decarbonisation of the energy system, taking a multi-vector, whole-system approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local opportunities to develop energy projects, including solar PV, 	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales	SP Energy Networks (SPEN) Wales and West Utilities (WWU) Welsh Government	Funding in place	A pilot LAEP has already been adopted in Conwy County Borough. Welsh Government have committed funding to the preparation of LAEPs across the remaining five Local Authority areas by March 2024. The development of LAEPs in North Wales will be coordinated by Ambition North Wales with technical support from the Energy Systems Catapult.

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
	onshore and offshore wind, nuclear, hydro, and tidal energy.					<i>The Energy Systems Catapult has recently released technical guidance to support the development of LAEPs, which forms part of their appointments as technical advisors to Welsh Government.</i>
Page 287 ^p	<p>Lead on developing the skills requirements identified in the Regional Skills Partnership's (RSP's) Green Skills Report and Welsh Government's Net Zero Skills Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current skills capabilities and capacity to deliver decarbonisation as proposed in Net Zero Wales plan. • Develop a strategy to raise awareness of regional capabilities (including offshore and onshore wind, marine energy, nuclear and solar PV). • Ensure the local supply chains are visible to developers operating within the region. • Provide appropriate training and education to enable people to access green jobs should be embedded across the learning cycle and opportunities for adapting existing jobs should be integrated into career pathways. 	Short term	Welsh Government Regional Skills Partnership	Local Authorities Bangor University / M-Sparc Glyndwr University Further Education institutions SPEN WWU	<i>Funding in place for Skills & Employment Plan. Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The RSP has commissioned a report into the jobs and skills required across Wales to support the transition to a green economy. The next Regional Skills and Employment Plan will include a detailed Net Zero Skills annexe which will build on findings from ongoing research from Welsh Government, RSP and the Optimised Retrofit Programme's (ORP) Training and Skills Group. The Plan will be developed in early 2023.</i></p> <p><i>The Morlais Skills and Training Working Group has been established to identify and provide solutions for any skills gap presented by the work opportunities from the Morlais Project.</i></p> <p><i>The Offshore Energy Alliance (OEA) is a skills and supply chain cluster established to take advantage of the opportunities offered by offshore energy in North Wales. M-SParc has been supported with financial assistance from Welsh Government to be the accountable body.</i></p> <p><i>There is ongoing Nuclear Skills Decommissioning Skills Pipeline work with Magnox.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>Experience and learning from recent projects such as Net Zero Gwynedd around decarbonisation of housing involves a partnership between public sector and social enterprises and will inform this action.</i>
Page 288	Input to Welsh Government's consultation on the Public Behaviour Change Engagement Strategy that sets out how society can be involved in the changes individuals and communities can make to help Wales meet net zero.	Short term	Local Authorities	Educational institutions Bangor University Glyndwr University SPEN WWU Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 committed to consulting on a Public Behavioural Change Engagement Strategy during Summer 2022.</i>
E	Develop a strategic approach to support the emerging hydrogen economy, taking account of proposed hydrogen projects across the region. This should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a clear vision on the role of hydrogen in the future regional energy system. 	Medium term	Welsh Government Ambition North Wales	Industry Hydrogen Groups Local Authorities Transport for Wales	<i>Funding Required</i>	<i>The UK Hydrogen Strategy has been published and the Welsh Hydrogen Pathway is expected to follow during 2022. These strategies will provide the UK and Welsh context for a regional hydrogen strategy.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider opportunities for industrial decarbonisation, transport uses and domestic energy. • Support the development of the hydrogen hubs by Menter Môn in Holyhead and Ambition North Wales. • Explore the role of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), especially in the context of cross border projects such as Hynet. 			SPEN WWU UK Government Bangor University Glyndwr University		<p><i>Proposals for green hydrogen hubs are being developed by Ambition North Wales and by Menter Môn in Holyhead.</i></p> <p><i>North Wales' Regional Economic Framework sets a commitment for the region to "continue to develop a route map to understand how the opportunity for the deployment of Hydrogen across the North Wales Region can best be delivered, maximising the expertise, assets and benefits that could be derived."</i></p>
Page 289	<p>Continue to explore and support opportunities for smart local energy systems in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities emerging from the Welsh Government's Smart Living programme. The programme is supporting Welsh Local Authorities to issue challenges to businesses with innovative products, processes, and services. 	Short term	Ambition North Wales	Welsh Government	<i>Funding in place</i>	<p><i>The Growth Deal's Smart Local Energy Project is considering options for how a new funding support scheme could support projects that help decarbonise the energy system in North Wales.</i></p> <p><i>Community Renewal Funding has been secured to deliver feasibility studies into Smart Local Energy Systems.</i></p>
G	<p>Identify a pipeline of regional energy project portfolios which maximise scope for attracting investment.</p>	Medium term	Local Authorities Welsh Government	Ambition North Wales Bangor University Glyndwr University	<i>Funding in place</i>	<p><i>The development of LAEPs in each region will help to inform a pipeline of potential energy projects.</i></p> <p><i>The Growth Deal Smart Local Energy Project will gather information about regional projects that require funding support.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
				UK Government		
H	Strengthen the link between research, development and innovation and the Energy Strategy priorities.	Medium term	Welsh Government Bangor University / M-Sparc Glyndwr University		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>Ongoing cooperation between the Universities and local authorities through the Ambition North Wales partnership and Growth Deal Programmes. Involvement of both Universities in emerging governance around the action plan will be considered.</i>
Page 290 I	Continue to engage key stakeholders on the development of a long-term plan for the energy networks across the region and Wales.	Ongoing	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	WWU SPEN	<i>Funding in place</i>	<i>The Future Grid for Wales Study is underway by Welsh Government, Energy Network Operators and Ofgem. It will be used alongside LAEPs to develop a Future Energy Plan for Wales by 2024. This project will also inform the future requirements of the Welsh Energy Grid and contribute to the delivery of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040, providing evidence to enable network operators to plan and build the networks that will be required for the Net Zero by 2050 target. SPEN have recently published a Network Development Plan which will help understand the extent of investment and type of infrastructure required across North Wales.</i>



1. To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix



2. To become a world-leader in offshore wind and marine technologies

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
2A	Engage with Welsh Government to identify and build on opportunities that Ynni Cymru could provide to North Wales.	Medium term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Community Energy Wales	No funding required	There is the potential for the region to feed into the thinking around Ynni Cymru through Welsh Government and Community Energy Wales .
2B	Explore how to improve communication of available funding sources for the development and delivery of a range of low-carbon power generation projects (e.g., onshore, and offshore wind, solar PV, nuclear, and tidal and marine energy).	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Energy Service	Further work required to determine funding requirements	Not started.
2C	Engage with UK Government to support the development of the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd sites for new nuclear projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the asks e.g., site selection process for new sites and updated National Policy Statements. Support regional submissions into the Nuclear Enabling Fund. 	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	UK Government Bangor University	No funding required	Nuclear power has been identified as a priority in the UK Government's Energy Security Strategy. Bangor University hosts the Nuclear Futures Institute , which aims to establish North Wales as a global centre in nuclear technology.

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<p><i>There are advanced plans to establish a National Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics Facility in North Wales.</i></p> <p><i>The Trawsfynydd Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Project is supported through the Growth Deal's Low Carbon Energy Programme.</i></p>
2D	Engage with Welsh Government to determine how increased local ownership of energy projects can be delivered in line with published guidance on local and shared ownership in Wales.	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Guidance on local and shared ownership was published by Welsh Government in June 2022.</i>
2E	Explore the potential of establishing an advice hub to support regional decarbonisation / low carbon energy initiatives.	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities Ambition North Wales		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The most recent renewable energy deep dive recommends an easy to access advice service. Welsh Government's response is that it needs to progress consultation on the Warm Homes programme, public engagement campaign as part of net zero Wales and a national heat strategy due to be released for consultation in spring 2023 so that it can provide a clearer proposal for an advice service.</i></p> <p><i>Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>UK Government has recently launched their advice offering with a home energy MOT available through a new online advice service</i>
2F	<p>Maximise opportunities for public procurement to support the acceleration of renewable energy generation and secure local economic and social value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensure that public procurement strengthens local supply chains / local jobs (social value). •Ask the supply chain to deliver against public sector carbon ambitions through procurement frameworks. 	Medium term	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Local Authorities</p> <p>Public sector bodies</p>	<p>Welsh Local Government Association</p> <p>Welsh Government Commercial Delivery</p>	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>In June 2022, the Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill was laid before the Senedd by Welsh Government. The socially responsible procurement duty within the bill will seek to ensure that public spending on goods, works and services is done in a way that benefits everyone and does not only focus on cost. The bill will inform the delivery of this action.</i>
2G	<p>Maximise opportunities for community benefits funds from large energy infrastructure projects to support local and regional decarbonisation initiatives, recognising the need to target those communities and areas most impacted by such developments.</p>	Medium term	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Local Authorities</p>		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>There are a range of large energy infrastructure projects planned across North Wales, including offshore wind, nuclear, solar, and tidal.</i>
2H	<p>Support the region's proposed port infrastructure improvements to secure greater regional benefit from planned offshore wind and tidal energy projects.</p>	Short term	<p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Ambition North Wales</p>	Local Authorities	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>There is ongoing work by the Marine Energy Programme and the Growth Deal are exploring options for supporting proposed infrastructure improvements at Holyhead and Mostyn Port.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
2I	Ensure the marine planning and consenting regimes are fit for purpose and support opportunities for the sustainable growth of marine renewable energy in the region.	Short term	Welsh Government	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>A Welsh Government review of consenting and supporting evidence and advice has been completed, recommendations are due to report in summer 2022.</i>
2J	Engage with Welsh Government on the development of revenue support mechanisms for marine energy projects.	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Working Group that was formed to follow up the Renewable Energy Deep Dive Recommendations is responsible for reviewing the barriers to financing renewable energy projects, and will establish connections between key stakeholders to inform this work. This is also currently being addressed through Welsh Government's Marine Energy Programme.</i>
2K	Continue to explore the potential for tidal lagoon projects in North Wales.	Medium to long term	Welsh Government Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Marine Energy Wales	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Welsh Government's Tidal Lagoon Challenge has been launched to obtain the appetite for developing proposals. This market engagement exercise is to ascertain if there is interest in any potential competition/procurement in the future to deliver a tidal lagoon capable of generating electricity with the winner(s) possibly receiving financial support from the Welsh Government.</i>



3. To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales' building stock

NB. Actions related to commercial building stock are included under Strategic Priority 5: Maximise the opportunities for the commercial & industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
Page 295 3A	Provide support and incentives for households to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heating systems, ensuring such support is targeted at those in fuel poverty and/or in most need.	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government Local Authorities Registered Social Landlords	Ofgem	Further work required to determine funding requirements	<p>NB. There are a broad range of Welsh Government programmes and plans that relate to this action, including Tackling fuel poverty strategy 2021 to 2035, the Innovative Housing Programme (IHP) and Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). There is also a commitment to publish a heat strategy for Wales in 2023. The UK Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy will also be relevant here.</p> <p>With regard to Social Housing, drawing on evidence from ORP, the new Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) 2022 will focus on Fabric First principles and seek to bring all social housing as close as feasible to EPC A or equivalent within a decade.</p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
Page 296						<p><i>Initiatives such as the Welsh Government's Nest scheme has provided high-quality advice and information to householders to explore and realise their energy efficiency opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>Registered social landlords will engage and work with Community Housing Cymru (CHC) to progress this action.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association have established of a Zero Carbon Housing Performance Hub to provide a central resource for net zero advice.</i></p> <p><i>An Energy Warden Scheme has already trialled collaboration of North Wales social landlords and learning from such schemes should inform this action.</i></p> <p><i>The Boiler Upgrade Grant provided through the UK Government may help property owners with upfront costs for shifting to low-carbon forms of heating.</i></p> <p><i>The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) will run between 2022 and 2026 and requires energy suppliers to deliver a target of energy efficiency and heating measures to homes. ECO is</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>focussed on low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households but with a focus on supporting the least energy efficient homes.</i>
Page 297	Review existing and explore new potential financial mechanisms to support owner-occupiers and building owners seeking to undertake energy efficiency retrofit works.	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>For the owner-occupier sector, the Warm Homes Programme is the key delivery mechanism in this area. Since 2011, over £394m has been invested, benefitting more than 67,000 homes. Welsh Government will continue to fund the current programme until at least May 2023⁹.</i></p> <p><i>Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme⁸ ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government will be working with UK Finance, The Development Bank of Wales and sector stakeholders to consider how we can develop and trial alternative finance products to support owner-occupiers undertaking retrofit works⁹.</i></p>

⁸ [Improving home energy efficiency to support a \(gov.wales\)](#)

⁹ [Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 \(2021 to 2025\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
3C	Ensure PAS 2035 surveys and a clear plan for retrofit measures are prepared for individual social homes, in accordance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).	Medium term	Local Authorities (Stock holding) Registered Social Landlords	Welsh Government	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>As part of the WHQS, by 2023 a PAS 2035 survey (the Publicly Available Specification that lays out a consistent assessment for energy retrofit measures) and a clear plan for individual homes will be required.¹⁰</i>
Page 298	Review current support provision to tenants and landlords in the private-rented sector to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are met. Review enforcement provisions to ensure minimum statutory standards within the sector are achieved.	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The UK Government has completed a consultation on proposals to increase the minimum standard required for any property to be rented in the private-rented sector (PRS) to EPC C or above.¹¹ Current indications are that a formal response, followed by revised regulations will be published toward the end of 2022. Pending outcome of review, Welsh Government will review the support package available to landlords joining PRS Leasing Scheme to ensure it also supports fabric first improvements.</i>

¹⁰ [Welsh Housing Quality Standard: draft \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

¹¹ [Improving the energy performance of privately rented homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
3E	Keep Permitted Development Rights under review in Wales, to further support domestic renewable energy installations for householders and housing developers.	Short term	Welsh Government		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>This is ongoing as permitted development rights are under regular review.</i>



4. Achieve a shift to lower-carbon transport

NB. Several actions around reducing demand through active travel and increased use of sustainable public transport are included within **Llwybr Newydd – Wales Transport Strategy 2021**¹² which presents the vision for how the transport system can help deliver on the priorities for Wales and put Wales on a pathway to creating a more prosperous, green, and equal society. The strategy makes a commitment to deliver a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transport by reducing demand, supporting low-carbon services and infrastructure and through modal shift and includes three headline priorities for the next five years. Priority 1: Bring services to people to reduce the need to travel; Priority 2: Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable, and efficient transport services and infrastructure; Priority 3: Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport. On this basis, such actions are not replicated below.

Strategic actions

Page Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
300 4A	Ensure alignment between Regional Transport Plans, the Energy Strategy, and emerging Local Area Energy Plans.	Medium to long term	Welsh Government North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	Transport for Wales	No funding required	<i>Regional transport plans will identify local interventions to provide an accessible, sustainable, and efficient transport system, as set out in the Wales Transport Strategy.</i> <i>Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) will develop regional transport plans. These will be aligned with Future Wales - the National Plan 2040 and the emerging strategic development plans.</i>

¹² [Llwybr Newydd: the Wales transport strategy 2021 | GOV.WALES](#)

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to ensuring a joined-up approach to infrastructure investment decisions across Welsh Government and in regional energy planning.</i>
4B	<p>Explore financial incentives across all vehicle types, including public services vehicles, commercial and industrial fleets, and private vehicles, to achieve an increase in uptake of zero emissions vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with UK Government on progress made on a UK-wide development of a national scrappage scheme for older vehicles, supporting circular economy models • Explore options to make zero-emission vehicles more affordable for citizens • Explore options for alternative ownership models for public services vehicles. 	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government	Transport for Wales Local Authorities	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to reducing the cost of sustainable travel through initiatives such as scrappage schemes for older vehicles, grants towards the cost of electric bikes, and by extending concessionary travel schemes to those who most need it.</i>
4C	Collaborate on opportunities to decarbonise the public sector fleet, public service vehicles, and commercial and industrial fleets and the co-ordination of associated infrastructure design and development across local authority boundaries.	Medium term	Local Authorities	Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Many North Wales public bodies have participated in recent fleet reviews and are preparing fleet transition plans. Several local authorities have already installed public electric vehicle charging alongside provision for fleet vehicles.</i>
4D	Work together to deliver the most appropriate electric vehicle public charging infrastructure	Short to medium term	Local Authorities	Transport for Wales SPEN	<i>Further work required to determine</i>	<i>There has been a roll-out of electric vehicle charging points via Welsh</i>

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
	across the region, aligning with national work being undertaken through Transport for Wales.		Welsh Government		<i>funding requirements</i>	<i>Government funding and SPEN Green Recovery Investment. The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy outlines Welsh Government's vision for electric vehicle charging in Wales, and the Wales Transport Strategy commits to delivering this by 2040.</i>
4E	Review the funding period and the length of contracts associated with the Local Transport Fund.	Short term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Not started.</i>
4F	Support greater awareness raising of UK Government funding for development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure such as the on-street residential charging scheme.	Short term	Welsh Government	Local Authorities Welsh Local Government Association	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have been engaging with local authorities around the availability and accessing of such funding.</i>
4G	Continue to support organisations such as local community car clubs to deliver community-oriented, low-carbon transport infrastructure and services.	Short to medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to moving away from individual vehicle ownership to shared solutions, including car-sharing and car clubs. The growth of such models and services is identified as a priority to be delivered within the next five years. Funding such as the Welsh Government Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund</i>

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>(ULEVTF) will be used to kick-start such initiatives.</i>
4H	Explore options for investment in a rail freight facility at Holyhead Port as part of the development of the multi-modal logistics and freight plan.	Medium term	Welsh Government	Host Local Authority	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The Welsh Government is working with the UK Government, the sector and other partners on a Logistics and Freight Plan for Wales.</i></p> <p><i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to integrating freight and logistics into wider transport and land-use planning policy, including co-location of manufacturing, energy, leisure and tourism with ports and freight hubs. Recognising ports and maritime transport as a key facet of wider policy on freight and logistics is identified as a priority.</i></p>
4I	Review existing activities and approaches to decarbonising heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) across the UK, Ireland, and Europe and how this could impact Regional Transport Plans.	Short term	Welsh Government	Ambition North Wales	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The Welsh Government has committed to supporting the sector to trial new technologies, using financial incentives available from the UK Government. These technologies will seek to align with emerging opportunities to produce clean energy, such as the proposed Hydrogen Hub at Holyhead.</i></p>



5. Maximise the opportunities for the commercial & industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth

Strategic actions

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
5A	<p>Establish a North Wales Industrial & Commercial Sector Group focused on supporting the decarbonisation of the commercial and industrial sector. Part of the Group's role will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with Net Zero Industry Wales and other relevant organisations to better understand emissions hotspots and the level of commercial and industrial decarbonisation required in North Wales, to meet Wales' national net zero target. - Monitor and analyse the progress of ongoing decarbonisation projects within the commercial and industrial sectors to ensure that projected savings achieve the level of decarbonisation required to meet net zero. 	Short term	North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council	Welsh Government Deeside Decarbonisation Forum SPEN	Further work required to determine funding requirements	<p><i>The Business Council runs the regional Net Zero North Wales network for businesses.</i></p> <p><i>The Deeside Decarbonisation Forum has been established to bring together businesses in the Deeside area to help accelerate decarbonisation activity.</i></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government has established Net Zero Industry Wales (NZIW) to work with the South Wales Industrial Cluster initially with a view to extending to the whole of Wales where and when support is required. NZIW will also work in close collaboration with the UK's other leading industrial clusters to ensure Wales has access to best practice.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government has established Net Zero Industry Wales (NZIW), which will work with an existing group of 40 business and academic partners operating within a wide</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding status	Progress status
						<i>range of energy-intensive industries to help them achieve Net Zero. NZIW will also support close collaboration with the UK's other industrial clusters to ensure Wales has access to best practice.</i>
5B	Understand the role that micro-grids and other innovative solutions can play in existing industrial clusters such as those in Deeside and Wrexham.	Medium term	Welsh Government	Host Local Authorities SPEN	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Future Grid for Wales study is underway and involves Welsh Government, Energy Network Operators and Ofgem.</i>
Page 305 5C	Explore development of support mechanisms for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to encourage uptake of energy efficiency improvements to commercial buildings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Set up a 'one-stop-shop' for advice to support smaller businesses in the net zero transition. This should align with any existing initiatives from Business Wales. 	Medium term	Business Wales		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>Business Wales have launched the net zero carbon start-up grant in February 2022.</i> <i>Business Wales also run the Green Growth Pledge, that helps Welsh businesses take pro-active steps towards improving their sustainability.</i> <i>As part of the UN-supported Race to Zero campaign, the UK Government set-up the UK Business Climate Hub, a one-stop-shop for advice on actions that SMEs can take to measure and manage emissions.</i>

Appendix 1: Strategic Priority Mapping

The table below maps each strategic action to relevant strategic priorities that are outlined in the Energy Strategy. For ease of reference, strategic priorities are abbreviated using the numeric reference:

1. To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix.
2. To become a world leader in offshore wind and marine technologies.
3. To improve the energy efficiency of the region’s housing and accelerate the decarbonisation of North Wales’ building stock
4. To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport.
5. Maximise the opportunities for the commercial and industrial sector to support the energy transition and drive economic growth.

Strategic action	Action ref	Strategic Priority Reference				
		1	2	3	4	5
<p>Ensure effective alignment between local, regional, and national energy strategies, plans and initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transition should be led by consistent policies at a national level which filter down to regional and local levels. The development of local development plans and strategic development plans should all consider the relevant aspects of the Energy Strategy. 	A	+	+	+	+	+
<p>Develop Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) within each local authority area to support the development of a route map for decarbonisation of the energy system, taking a multi-vector, whole-system approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local opportunities to develop energy projects, including solar PV, onshore and offshore wind, nuclear, hydro, and tidal energy. 	B	+	+	+	+	+
<p>Lead on developing the skills requirements identified in the Regional Skills Partnership’s (RSP’s) Green Skills Report and Welsh Government’s Net Zero Skills Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the current skills capabilities and capacity to deliver decarbonisation as proposed in Net Zero Wales plan. 	C	+	+	+	+	+

		Strategic Priority Reference				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop a strategy to raise awareness of regional capabilities (including offshore and onshore wind, marine energy, nuclear and solar PV). •Ensuring the local supply chains are visible to developers operating within the region. •Provide appropriate training and education to enable people to access green jobs should be embedded across the learning cycle and opportunities for adapting existing jobs should be integrated into career pathways. 						
Input to Welsh Government’s consultation on the Public Behaviour Change Engagement Strategy that sets out how society can be involved in the changes individuals and communities can make to help Wales meet net zero.	D	+		+	+	
<p>Develop a regional hydrogen route map to support the emerging hydrogen economy, taking account of proposed hydrogen projects across the region.</p> <p>The route map should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide a clear vision on the role of hydrogen in the future regional energy system. •Consider opportunities for industrial decarbonisation, transport uses and domestic energy. •Support the development of the hydrogen hubs by Menter Môn in Holyhead and Ambition North Wales. •Explore the role of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), especially in the context of cross border projects such as Hynet. 	E	+	+	+	+	+
<p>Continue to explore and support opportunities for smart local energy systems in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Explore opportunities associated emerging from the Welsh Government’s Smart Living programme. The programme is supporting Welsh Local Authorities to issue challenges to businesses with innovative products, processes, and services. 	F	+	+	+	+	+
Identify a pipeline of regional energy project portfolios which maximise scope for attracting investment.	G	+	+	+	+	+
Strengthen the link between research, development and innovation and the Energy Strategy priorities.	H	+	+	+	+	+

		Strategic Priority Reference				
Continue to engage key stakeholders on the development of a long-term plan for the energy networks across the region and Wales.	I	+	+	+	+	+
Engage with Welsh Government to identify and build on opportunities that Ynni Cymru could provide to North Wales.	2A	+	+			
Explore how to improve communication of available funding sources for the development and delivery of a range of low-carbon power generation projects (e.g., onshore, and offshore wind, solar PV, nuclear, and tidal and marine energy).	2B	+	+			
Engage with UK Government to support the development of the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd sites for new nuclear projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the asks e.g., site selection process for new sites and updated National Policy Statements. • Support regional submissions into the Nuclear Enabling Fund. 	2C	+				
Engage with Welsh Government to determine how increased local ownership of energy projects can be delivered in line with proposed guidance on local and shared ownership in Wales.	2D	+	+			
Explore the potential of establishing an advice hub to support regional decarbonisation / low carbon energy initiatives.	2E	+	+	+	+	+
Maximise opportunities for public procurement to support the acceleration of renewable energy generation and secure local economic and social value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that public procurement strengthens local supply chains / local jobs (social value). • Ask the supply chain to deliver against public sector carbon ambitions through procurement frameworks. 	2F	+	+			+
Maximise opportunities for community benefits funds from large energy infrastructure projects to support local and regional decarbonisation initiatives, recognising the need to target those communities and areas most impacted by such developments.	2G	+	+			

		Strategic Priority Reference				
Support the region's proposed port infrastructure improvements to secure greater regional benefit from planned offshore wind and tidal energy projects.	2H	+	+			
Engage with the marine consenting review by Welsh Government and identify the implications for regional projects.	2I	+	+			
Engage with Welsh Government on the development of revenue support mechanisms for marine energy projects.	2J	+	+			
Continue to explore the potential for tidal lagoon projects in North Wales.	2K	+	+			
Provide support and incentives for households to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heating systems, ensuring such support is targeted at those in fuel poverty and/or in most need.	3A			+		
Review existing and explore new potential financial mechanisms to support owner-occupiers and building owners seeking to undertake energy efficiency retrofit works.	3B			+		
Ensure PAS 2035 surveys and a clear plan for retrofit measures are prepared for individual social homes, in accordance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).	3C			+		
Review current support provision to tenants and landlords in the private-rented sector to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are met. Review enforcement provisions to ensure minimum statutory standards within the sector are achieved.	3D			+		
Keep Permitted Development Rights under review in Wales, to further support domestic renewable energy installations for householders and housing developers.	3E			+		
Ensure alignment between Regional Transport Plans, the Energy Strategy, and emerging Local Area Energy Plans.	4A				+	

		Strategic Priority Reference				
<p>Explore financial incentives across all vehicle types, including public services vehicles, commercial and industrial fleets, and private vehicles, to achieve an increase in uptake of zero emissions vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with UK Government on progress made on a UK-wide development of a national scrappage scheme for older vehicles, supporting circular economy models. • Explore options to make zero-emission vehicles more affordable for citizens. • Explore options for alternative ownership models for public services vehicles. 	4B				+	
<p>Collaborate on opportunities to decarbonise the public sector fleet, public service vehicles, and commercial and industrial fleets and the co-ordination of associated infrastructure design and development across local authority boundaries.</p>	4C				+	
<p>Work together to deliver the most appropriate electric vehicle public charging infrastructure across the region, aligning with national work being undertaken through Transport for Wales.</p>	4D				+	
<p>Review the funding period and the length of contracts associated with the Local Transport Fund.</p>	4E				+	
<p>Support greater awareness raising of UK Government funding for development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure such as the on-street residential charging scheme.</p>	4F				+	
<p>Continue to support organisations such as local community car clubs to deliver community-oriented, low-carbon transport infrastructure and services.</p>	4G				+	
<p>Explore options for investment in a rail freight facility at Holyhead Port as part of the development of the multi-modal logistics and freight plan.</p>	4H				+	
<p>Review existing activities and approaches to decarbonising heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) across the UK, Ireland, and Europe and how this could impact Regional Transport Plans.</p>	4I				+	

Page 10 of 10

		Strategic Priority Reference				
Establish a North Wales Industrial Sector Group focused on decarbonising the commercial and industrial sectors.	5A					+
Understand the role that micro-grids and other innovative solutions can play in existing industrial clusters such as those in Deeside and Wrexham.	5B	+				+
Explore development of support mechanisms for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to encourage uptake of energy efficiency improvements to commercial buildings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Set up a 'one-stop-shop' for advice to support smaller businesses in the net zero transition. This should align with any existing initiatives from Business Wales. 	5C			+		+

Appendix 2: Actions categorised by lead stakeholder

Lead	Strategic priority	Actions
Local Authorities	Cross-cutting	A, B, D, G, I
	1&2	2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2I, 2J, 2K
	3	3A, 3B, 3C, 3D
	4	4C, 4D, 4E, 4G
Welsh Government	Cross-cutting	C, E, G, H, I
	1&2	2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2K
	3	3A, 3B, 3D, 3E
	4	4A, 4B, 4D, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4I
	5	5B
Ambition North Wales	Cross-cutting	B, E, F, I
	1&2	2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2H, 2J, 2K
Regional Skills Partnership	Cross-cutting	C
UK Government	3	3A, 3D

	4	4B
Bangor University / M-Sparc	Cross-cutting	H
Glyndwr University	Cross-cutting	H
Registered Social Landlords	3	3C
Business Wales	5	5C
North Wales Corporate Joint Committees	4	4A
North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council	5	5A
Public sector bodies	1&2	2F
Energy Service	1&2	2B

Appendix 3: Challenges identified by stakeholders

During the workshop, participants were asked what the immediate challenges were associated with delivering against each of the strategic priorities outlined in the Regional Energy Strategy. These have been summarised below. It is important to note that this feedback is subject to contributions in the workshop and as such might not reflect all challenges that exist.

(1) To harness the abundance of local low carbon resource to become a green powerhouse and diversify the energy mix + (2) To become a world leader in offshore wind and marine technologies

- The required supporting infrastructure must be developed quickly.
- More investment is required to scale up the necessary technologies.
- Public opposition to large scale infrastructure projects.
- It can be difficult for small projects to be financially viable without subsidies.
- Significant constraints to grid infrastructure.

(3) To improve the energy efficiency of the region's housing and accelerate the decarbonization of North Wales' building stock

- There needs to be more incentives for households to make changes.
- Many homes are not on the gas grid so require alternative solutions.
- There is a regional skills gap, e.g., heat pump providers.
- Low-carbon measures often require high upfront costs for households.
- Most of the housing sector is privately-owned.
- There is a lack of clear communication around the benefits of behaviour change for households.

(4) To achieve a shift to lower carbon transport

- There needs to be an increase in supporting infrastructure, e.g., EV charging, bike, and pedestrian paths.
- Availability of new low-carbon vehicles is limited; it can take up to six months for delivery.
- The cost of low-carbon vehicles can be prohibitive.
- There is uncertainty around the policy direction.
- There is a lack of reliable and affordable public transport services.

Appendix 2

Collation of actions where Local Authorities have been identified as the Lead within the North Wales Energy Strategy Action Plan

Lead	Strategic priority	Actions
Local Authorities	Cross-cutting	A, B, D, G, I
	1&2	2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2I, 2J, 2K
	3	3A, 3B, 3C, 3D
	4	4C, 4D, 4E, 4G

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
A	<p>Ensure effective alignment between local, regional, and national energy strategies, plans and initiatives.</p> <p>The transition should be led by consistent policies at a national level which filter down to regional and local levels. The development of local development plans and strategic development plans should all consider the relevant aspects of the Energy Strategy.</p>	Short Term	Local Authorities	Welsh Government	No funding required	<i>There is already close collaboration across the regional energy strategies and Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP). A National Advisory Group and Regional Groups will be established to ensure effective alignment between existing and emerging energy planning work.</i>
B	<p>Develop Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) within each local authority area to support the development of a route map for decarbonisation of the energy</p>	Short Term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales	SP Energy Networks (SPEN)	Funding in place	<i>A pilot LAEP has already been adopted in Conwy County Borough. Welsh Government have committed funding to the preparation of LAEPs across the remaining five Local Authority areas by March 2024. The</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
	<p>system, taking a multi-vector, whole-system approach.</p> <p>Identify local opportunities to develop energy projects, including solar PV, onshore and offshore wind, nuclear, hydro, and tidal energy.</p>			Wales and West Utilities (WWU) Welsh Government		<p><i>development of LAEPs in North Wales will be coordinated by Ambition North Wales with technical support from the Energy Systems Catapult.</i></p> <p><i>The Energy Systems Catapult has recently released technical guidance to support the development of LAEPs, which forms part of their appointments as technical advisors to Welsh Government.</i></p>
D	<p>Input to Welsh Government's consultation on the Public Behaviour Change Engagement Strategy that sets out how society can be involved in the changes individuals and communities can make to help Wales meet net zero.</p>	Short term	Local Authorities	Educational institutions Bangor University Glyndwr University SPEN WWU Welsh Government	No funding required	<p><i>Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 committed to consulting on a Public Behavioural Change Engagement Strategy during Summer 2022.</i></p>
G	<p>Identify a pipeline of regional energy project portfolios which maximise scope for attracting investment.</p>	Medium term	Local Authorities Welsh Government	Ambition North Wales Bangor University	Funding in place	<p><i>The development of LAEPs in each region will help to inform a pipeline of potential energy projects.</i></p> <p><i>The Growth Deal Smart Local Energy Project will gather information about regional projects that require funding support.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
				Glyndwr University UK Government		
I	Continue to engage key stakeholders on the development of a long-term plan for the energy networks across the region and Wales.	Ongoing	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	WWU SPEN	Funding in place	<i>The Future Grid for Wales Study is underway by Welsh Government, Energy Network Operators and Ofgem. It will be used alongside LAEPs to develop a Future Energy Plan for Wales by 2024. This project will also inform the future requirements of the Welsh Energy Grid and contribute to the delivery of Future Wales: the National Plan 2040, providing evidence to enable network operators to plan and build the networks that will be required for the Net Zero by 2050 target. SPEN have recently published a Network Development Plan which will help understand the extent of investment and type of infrastructure required across North Wales.</i>
2A	Engage with Welsh Government to identify and build on opportunities that Ynni Cymru could provide to North Wales.	Medium term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Community Energy Wales	<i>No funding required</i>	There is the potential for the region to feed into the thinking around Ynni Cymru through Welsh Government and Community Energy Wales.
2B	Explore how to improve communication of available funding sources for the development and delivery of a range of low-carbon power generation projects (e.g., onshore, and offshore wind, solar PV,	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government Energy Service	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>Not started.</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
	nuclear, and tidal and marine energy).					
2C	<p>Engage with UK Government to support the development of the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd sites for new nuclear projects:</p> <p>Identify the asks e.g., site selection process for new sites and updated National Policy Statements. Support regional submissions into the Nuclear Enabling Fund.</p>	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	UK Government Bangor University	<i>No funding required</i>	<p><i>Nuclear power has been identified as a priority in the UK Government's Energy Security Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Bangor University hosts the Nuclear Futures Institute, which aims to establish North Wales as a global centre in nuclear technology.</i></p> <p><i>There are advanced plans to establish a National Nuclear Thermal Hydraulics Facility in North Wales.</i></p> <p><i>The Trawsfynydd Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Project is supported through the Growth Deal's Low Carbon Energy Programme.</i></p>
2D	<p>Engage with Welsh Government to determine how increased local ownership of energy projects can be delivered in line with published guidance on local and shared ownership in Wales.</p>	Short term	Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<p><i>Guidance on local and shared ownership was published by Welsh Government in June 2022.</i></p>
2E	<p>Explore the potential of establishing an advice hub to support regional decarbonisation / low carbon energy initiatives.</p>	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities Ambition North Wales		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p><i>The most recent renewable energy deep dive recommends an easy to access advice service. Welsh Government's response is that it needs to progress consultation on the Warm Homes programme, public engagement campaign as part of net zero Wales and a national heat strategy due to be released for consultation in spring 2023 so that it can provide a clearer proposal for an advice service.</i></p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
						<p>Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>UK Government has recently launched their advice offering with a home energy MOT available through a new online advice service</p>
2F	<p>Maximise opportunities for public procurement to support the acceleration of renewable energy generation and secure local economic and social value.</p> <p>Ensure that public procurement strengthens local supply chains / local jobs (social value).</p> <p>Ask the supply chain to deliver against public sector carbon ambitions through procurement frameworks.</p>	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities Public sector bodies	Welsh Local Government Association Welsh Government Commercial Delivery	<i>No funding required</i>	<p>In June 2022, the <i>Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill</i> was laid before the Senedd by Welsh Government. The socially responsible procurement duty within the bill will seek to ensure that public spending on goods, works and services is done in a way that benefits everyone and does not only focus on cost. The bill will inform the delivery of this action.</p>
2G	<p>Maximise opportunities for community benefits funds from large energy infrastructure projects to support local and regional decarbonisation initiatives, recognising the need to target those communities and areas most impacted by such developments.</p>	Medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<p>There are a range of large energy infrastructure projects planned across North Wales, including offshore wind, nuclear, solar, and tidal.</p>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
2J	Engage with Welsh Government on the development of revenue support mechanisms for marine energy projects.	Short term	Local Authorities Ambition North Wales		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Working Group that was formed to follow up the Renewable Energy Deep Dive Recommendations is responsible for reviewing the barriers to financing renewable energy projects, and will establish connections between key stakeholders to inform this work. This is also currently being addressed through Welsh Government's Marine Energy Programme</i>
2K	Continue to explore the potential for tidal lagoon projects in North Wales.	Medium to long term	Welsh Government Ambition North Wales Local Authorities	Marine Energy Wales	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>The Welsh Government's Tidal Lagoon Challenge has been launched to obtain the appetite for developing proposals. This market engagement exercise is to ascertain if there is interest in any potential competition/procurement in the future to deliver a tidal lagoon capable of generating electricity with the winner(s) possibly receiving financial support from the Welsh Government.</i>
3A	Provide support and incentives for households to install energy efficiency measures and low-carbon heating systems, ensuring such support is targeted at those in fuel poverty and/or in most need.	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government Local Authorities Registered Social Landlords	Ofgem	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>NB. There are a broad range of Welsh Government programmes and plans that relate to this action, including Tackling fuel poverty strategy 2021 to 2035, the Innovative Housing Programme (IHP) and Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). There is also a commitment to publish a heat strategy for Wales in 2023. The UK Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy will also be relevant here.</i> <i>With regard to Social Housing, drawing on evidence from ORP, the new Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) 2022 will focus on</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
						<p><i>Fabric First principles and seek to bring all social housing as close as feasible to EPC A or equivalent within a decade.</i></p> <p><i>Initiatives such as the Welsh Government's Nest scheme has provided high-quality advice and information to householders to explore and realise their energy efficiency opportunities. Registered social landlords will engage and work with Community Housing Cymru (CHC) to progress this action.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association have established of a Zero Carbon Housing Performance Hub to provide a central resource for net zero advice.</i></p> <p><i>An Energy Warden Scheme has already trialled collaboration of North Wales social landlords and learning from such schemes should inform this action.</i></p> <p><i>The Boiler Upgrade Grant provided through the UK Government may help property owners with upfront costs for shifting to low-carbon forms of heating.</i></p> <p><i>The Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) will run between 2022 and 2026 and requires energy suppliers to deliver a target of energy efficiency and heating measures to homes. ECO is focussed on low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households but with a focus on supporting the least energy efficient homes.</i></p>
3B	Review existing and explore new potential financial mechanisms to	Medium term	Welsh Government		<i>Further work required to</i>	<i>For the owner-occupier sector, the Warm Homes Programme is the key delivery</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
	support owner-occupiers and building owners seeking to undertake energy efficiency retrofit works.		Local Authorities		<i>determine funding requirements</i>	<i>mechanism in this area. Since 2011, over £394m has been invested, benefitting more than 67,000 homes. Welsh Government will continue to fund the current programme until at least May 20239. Consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme8 ended in April 2022 and is currently being reviewed. Welsh Government will be working with UK Finance, The Development Bank of Wales and sector stakeholders to consider how we can develop and trial alternative finance products to support owner-occupiers undertaking retrofit works9.</i>
3C	Ensure PAS 2035 surveys and a clear plan for retrofit measures are prepared for individual social homes, in accordance with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).	Medium term	Local Authorities (Stock holding) Registered Social Landlords	Welsh Government	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>As part of the WHQS, by 2023 a PAS 2035 survey (the Publicly Available Specification that lays out a consistent assessment for energy retrofit measures) and a clear plan for individual homes will be required.10</i>
3D	Review current support provision to tenants and landlords in the private-rented sector to ensure minimum energy efficiency standards are met. Review enforcement provisions to ensure minimum statutory standards within the sector are achieved.	Medium term	UK Government Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The UK Government has completed a consultation on proposals to increase the minimum standard required for any property to be rented in the private-rented sector (PRS) to EPC C or above.11 Current indications are that a formal response, followed by revised regulations will be published toward the end of 2022. Pending outcome of review, Welsh Government will review the support package available to landlords joining PRS Leasing</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
						<i>Scheme to ensure it also supports fabric first improvements.</i>
4C	Collaborate on opportunities to decarbonise the public sector fleet, public service vehicles, and commercial and industrial fleets and the co-ordination of associated infrastructure design and development across local authority boundaries.	Medium term	Local Authorities	Ambition North Wales Welsh Government	<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Many North Wales public bodies have participated in recent fleet reviews and are preparing fleet transition plans. Several local authorities have already installed public electric vehicle charging alongside provision for fleet vehicles.</i>
4D	Work together to deliver the most appropriate electric vehicle public charging infrastructure across the region, aligning with national work being undertaken through Transport for Wales.	Short to medium term	Local Authorities Welsh Government	Transport for Wales SPEN	<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>There has been a roll-out of electric vehicle charging points via Welsh Government funding and SPEN Green Recovery Investment. The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy outlines Welsh Government's vision for electric vehicle charging in Wales, and the Wales Transport Strategy commits to delivering this by 2040.</i>
4E	Review the funding period and the length of contracts associated with the Local Transport Fund.	Short term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>No funding required</i>	<i>Not started.</i>
4G	Continue to support organisations such as local community car clubs to deliver community-oriented, low-carbon transport infrastructure and services.	Short to medium term	Welsh Government Local Authorities		<i>Further work required to determine funding requirements</i>	<i>The Wales Transport Strategy commits to moving away from individual vehicle ownership to shared solutions, including car-sharing and car clubs. The growth of such models and services is identified as a priority to be delivered within the next five years. Funding such as the Welsh Government Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund</i>

Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead(s)	Potential enabler(s)	Funding Status	Progress status (November 2022)
						<i>(ULEVTF) will be used to kick-start such initiatives.</i>



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Planning for Dark Night Skies SPG
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Council along with Wrexham and Denbighshire Councils has previously jointly produced and adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to design and development within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Following this, further joint guidance has been produced dealing with the specific issue of lighting and light pollution within the AONB, whose aim is to reduce the level of this in order to assist in securing dark skies status for the AONB.

The guidance has been through public consultation in all three Council areas and has been considered by the Planning Strategy Group who recommends its adoption by Cabinet. Denbighshire and Wrexham have already formally adopted the guidance and so to give it maximum weight as a material planning consideration, adoption is now sought by Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet endorse the recommendation of the Planning Strategy Group to formally adopt the Supplementary Planning Guidance Note Planning for Dark Night Skies.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CONTEXT FOR ADOPTING THE DARK SKIES SPGN
1.01	<p>The existing jointly adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPGN) relating to design and development in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) gives general advice and guidance on design and development within the AONB and was adopted in May 2018 by Cabinet. As part of seeking general agreement from each authority that make up the AONB, agreement is now sought on the adoption of further detailed guidance on ways in which new development can help avoid light pollution in the AONB. This additional SPGN, Planning for Dark Night Skies, gives the public, landowners, Members, council officers and developers, detailed advice on why light pollution should be avoided and practical ways on how to do that. It is a technical document but is written in an easy-to-understand way, to accommodate the range of potential users and readers.</p>
1.02	<p>The night sky is amazing to see, and one way of delivering this is through the formal recognition of the area as a 'Dark Sky Community'. To achieve this status it is necessary for the AONB to reduce light pollution. Planning for dark night skies is a SPGN for lighting in the AONB which will support that aim. The final document is attached in appendix 1 and is structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose, scope, and status of the guidance. • The policy context. • An introduction to the AONB and Dark Sky Community designations. • A definition of light pollution and its effects. • The means of controlling light pollution. • Lighting design principles. • A method of assessing the need for lighting; and • Lighting design advice.
1.03	<p>Drawing on the main ethos behind the guidance, the document considers that whilst artificial light has done much to enhance peoples' use of the night-time environment, it can also cause light pollution. Light pollution is the unnecessary brightening of the night sky and this leads to problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It affects our health and well-being, our safety, and our heritage. • It endangers wildlife that needs the dark; and • It affects the environment through the over-use of energy and the generation of carbon.
1.04	<p>Light pollution arises from a lack of thought or attention in the design of development schemes and installation of lighting equipment. Reducing light pollution delivers many benefits as all living things, including people, adjust their behaviour according to natural light. The cycle of night and day controls Nature's rhythms but in different ways for different things.</p>
1.05	<p>The guidance sets out some general principles for lighting design within the AONB. The note recognising that only certain lighting schemes will</p>

	require permission whereas for other types of development, the guidance encourages greater consideration to the lighting aspects of that development in order to respect and maintain the dark skies principle within the AONB. The note provides more specific and detailed design advice including the need to complete a lighting assessment for schemes that require planning permission within the AONB.
1.06	An overriding theme within the guidance encourages specific and sensitive consideration to the lighting aspects of development and to only provide that lighting which is necessary for the task. The impact of lighting plans on biodiversity is particularly referenced, and the guidance provides useful visual prompts in the form of illustrations that highlight good and bad examples of lighting in relation to several development contexts from residential, retail, to outdoor sports facilities, and commercial premises.
1.07	The guidance concludes by highlighting a summary assessment and design checklist which presents a series of questions to be considered by those considering the change of lighting on and in the AONB.
1.08	Following adoption of the SPGN Planning for Dark Night Skies will become a material planning consideration when making planning decisions within the AONB and its setting. It will in effect act as a supporting detailed document beneath the existing adopted AONB SPGN and the AONB Joint Committee intend to prepare other more detailed SPGN's on particular issues over time.
1.09	The SPGN Planning for Dark Night Skies was previously considered by the Planning Strategy Group (PSG) on 17/12/2020 when it was endorsed to go out to public consultation. A consultative draft document was published for comments on 14 th June 2021. The public consultation period was eight weeks, closing on 9 th August 2021. This exceeded the statutory requirement for a minimum 6-week consultation period for such matters.
1.10	As this is a joint initiative involving the three local planning authorities of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham together with the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Joint Committee, the document was publicised in all three Council areas and made available to view on the websites of all these organisations. Denbighshire acted as the lead authority for the coordination of the consultation and made the document available for comment on its consultation portal.
1.11	The total number of representations received during the consultation period was 31. Most of these representations were supportive. Many of the objections were mainly matters of detail, some of which led to a change to the document. Various minor amendments to the document have been accepted where they improve the clarity of the document or the understanding or the implementation of the guidance note. These relate to, ensuring accurate organisations titles are used, updating information to reflect the most up to date figures and improvements to the wording to clarify certain matters.
1.12	Once adopted by the local planning authorities the SPGN will be a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications and development proposals within the AONB and its setting. The other two

	authorities have adopted the SPGN, but the consideration of it by Cabinet has had to await prioritisation of work to complete adoption of the LDP.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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2.01	None.
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	This note will help to reduce light pollution in the AONB, promotes a reduction in energy use that will help fight climate change, recognises that some wildlife needs the dark to live and thrive, and it will also strengthen the local economy by attracting more visitors as stargazing is a growth tourism activity.
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
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4.01	As set out in the report above.
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	Appendix 1 Final SPGN Planning and Dark Skies
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Development and Design Guidance
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7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
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7.01	Contact Officer: Andy Roberts, Service Manager Strategy Telephone: 01352703211/07920701241 E-mail: andy.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk
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8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
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8.01	Supplementary Planning Guidance – Guidance that sits alongside an adopted development plan that elaborates on a particular policy matter within the plan, in this case development in the AONB.
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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Parking Outside Schools and Enforcement
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee (E&EOOSC) on 11th October 2022, members suggested that an item on parking outside schools and enforcement should be considered by the Committee due to concerns being raised about inappropriate and inconsiderate parking and traffic congestion outside schools at the start and end of the school day. It was agreed that a report should be taken to the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and that members of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee should be invited to attend to discuss the matter.

The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet members with an overview of the problems currently experienced within the vicinity of the county's schools, whilst also outlining the roles and responsibilities of all parties concerned with a view to seeking a collaborative approach and effective solution.

At the Scrutiny meeting on 23rd March 2023, it was resolved that a joint task and finish group should be set up, which will involve elected members from the two Scrutiny Committees, officers from both the Education & Youth and Streetscene & Transportation portfolios, the Police and Head Teachers to explore the issues in further detail and develop a collaborative and preventative approach with key stakeholders. The task and finish group will report to each Scrutiny Committee in turn. Cabinet approval is therefore being sought to support the creation of this group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

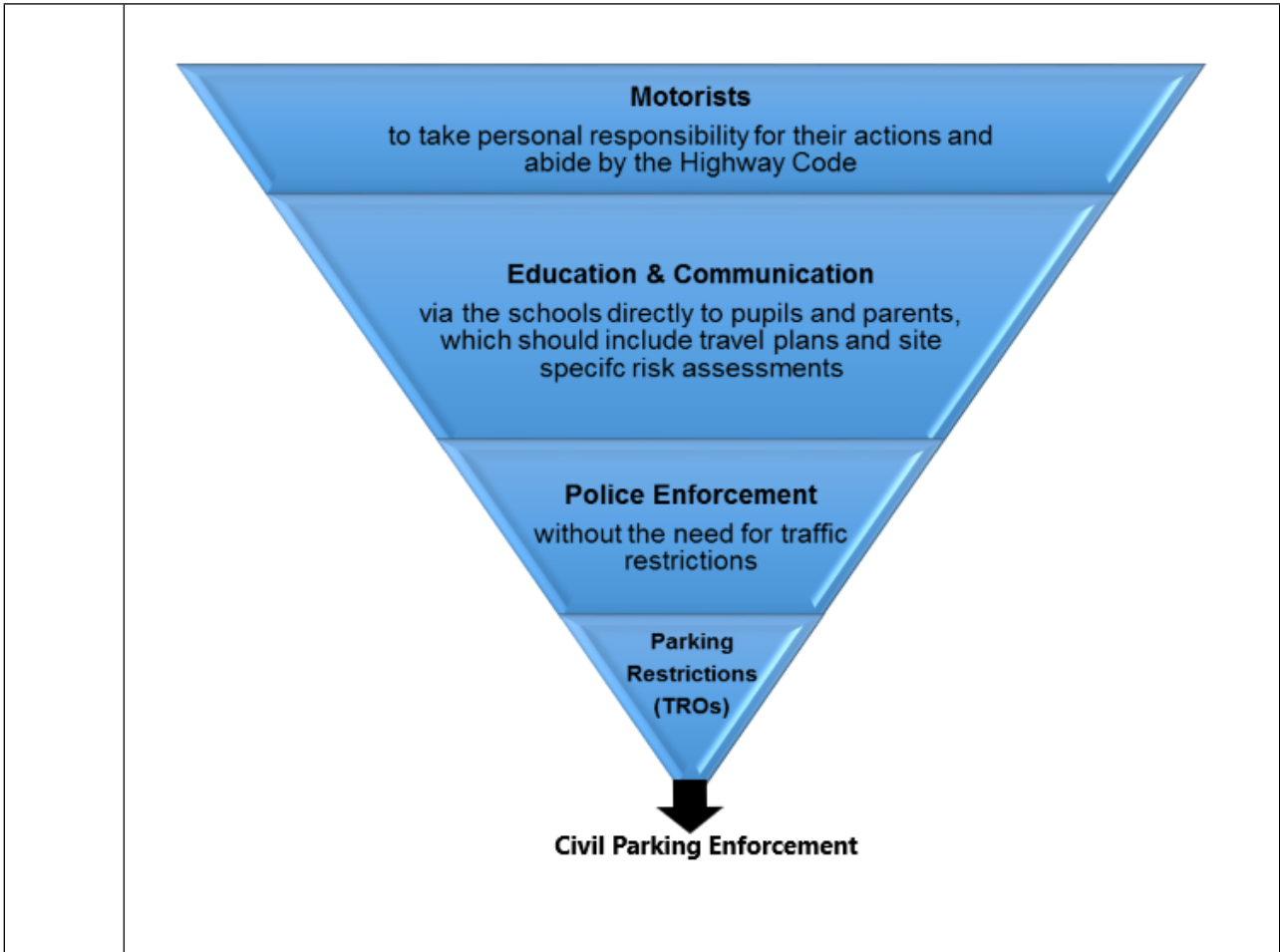
1	That Cabinet notes the historical issues associated with parking within the vicinity of schools and recognises the responsibilities of highway users in accordance with the requirements of the Highway Code.
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2	That Cabinet notes the hierarchy of responsibility in relation to the management of traffic within the vicinity of schools and acknowledges the role of enforcement as a reactive measure rather than a means to prevent initial occurrence.
3	That Cabinet supports the creation of a joint task and finish group, which will involve elected members from the two Scrutiny Committees, officers from both the Education & Youth and Streetscene & Transportation portfolios, the Police and Head Teachers to explore the issues in further detail and develop a collaborative and preventative approach with key stakeholders.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS AND ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES
1.01	Parking within the vicinity of schools is a longstanding problem and many schools are located within densely populated and built-up residential areas on narrow roads, where much of the infrastructure and buildings were constructed at a time when vehicle usage was significantly lower than the present day. Inappropriate, inconsiderate, and sometimes, dangerous parking is an increasing issue around schools and puts the safety of children and other road users at risk. There is no one single solution to resolve the issue and it will require a range of measures applied regularly throughout the school year and commitment from the school, school community and wider local community.
1.02	Nowadays, many parents / guardians take their children to school by car on their way to work, rather than using more sustainable means of travel such as public transport or walking or cycling (active travel). Whilst much work and investment has been targeted at the implementation of active travel infrastructure across the county and most children live close enough to walk or cycle to school, many parents continue to have perceived concerns about the safety of walking routes to and from school. This is, in part, due to the high volumes of vehicular traffic combined with an inability (in some cases) to provide the required infrastructure due to historical site constraints.
1.03	As a result, the travel choices adopted by many people directly contribute to the unsuitable environment we have all become accustomed to in and around the county's schools, which in turn has exacerbated the problem. The number of vehicles on the school run is often cited as one of the main contributors to congestion on the roads at peak times, as well as increased environmental pollution and carbon emissions.
1.04	Notwithstanding the above, all road users, particularly motorists, have a duty of care to act in accordance with the requirements of the Highway Code which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>To drive</u> in accordance with the conditions of the carriageway. ➤ <u>To obey</u> the legally prescribed speed limit. ➤ <u>Not to park</u> in such a way that causes a dangerous obstruction (both physical and visual) to the highway or its users (including double-parking, parking on footways) ➤ <u>Not to prevent</u> access to formalised dropped crossings (driveways / crossing points)

	<p>➤ <u>Not to</u> contravene the requirements of formal Traffic Regulation Orders, including single and double yellow lines and clearways (school entrance markings).</p>
1.05	<p>Despite the mandatory requirements placed upon drivers, it is apparent that a high proportion of motorists show limited regard to the duties outlined within the Highway Code, which in effect, places the most vulnerable road users at risk. In addition, many residents who reside within the vicinity of schools complain that they are plagued with poor driver behaviour, which can have an impact on their property (both in terms of value and access) and even impact on personal mental health and wellbeing.</p>
1.06	<p>As is the case in many local authorities, Flintshire County Council receives a high volume of complaints and concerns about parking and traffic congestion outside schools, along with requests to resolve the issues or carry out road safety reviews or introduce parking restrictions.</p> <p>However, local authorities do not have the powers or the resources to deal with all perceived parking and traffic problems outside schools. Although any dangerous or inconsiderate parking that is causing an obstruction is a matter for the police to enforce, the police also have limited resources available to carry out enforcement for such localised traffic matters.</p>
1.07	<p>Unfortunately, the Council is also constrained by resources. Currently, we rely upon a very small team of transport strategy officers to design, bid for grant funding, and implement safer routes and active travel infrastructure schemes (including the implementation of legal Traffic Regulation Orders), along with a small team of Civil Parking & Environmental Enforcement Officers who can enforce formal traffic restrictions.</p>
1.08	<p>The diagram below is intended to illustrate the hierarchy of responsibility regarding the management of traffic and parking within the vicinity of schools: -</p>



1.09	The Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement (CPEE) service is a multifunctional team of ten officers covering enforcement for on street and off-street parking contraventions, environmental crimes (littering; dog fouling; fly tipping; side waste; household duty of care), as well as delivering educational campaigns on such matters. The team is required to cover these duties seven days a week due to the nature of the work they undertake, including out of hours as and when required.
1.10	Out of the 78 schools across the county, 25 currently have traffic restrictions which the CPEE team can actively monitor and patrol. Each school can have a different type and extent of traffic restriction ranging from solely “School Keep Clear” markings outside of the main gates to an extensive network of restrictions, which can extend beyond the school boundary into the surrounding residential areas.
1.11	The enforcement officers are scheduled to attend the schools that are the most problematic on a frequent basis. Officers attending the schools are on duty at their assigned school from 8:30am to 9:15am and 2:30pm to 3:15pm. Generally, the concerns received about the schools tend to centre around the afternoon pick-up when people arrive early looking for spaces to park to collect a pupil.
1.12	When officers are in attendance, most parents abide by the restrictions and park appropriately meaning that the officers do not have the opportunity to issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). Quite often members of the public know the regulations and limitations of enforcement in that they know that they are allowed time to let passengers alight from the vehicle even when parked on a traffic restriction, again meaning the officer cannot issue a PCN.

1.13	Each school requires a different level of enforcement and presence depending on the restrictions in place. Some schools may only require one officer to attend any one time while others require up to three or four officers to ensure that the restrictions are monitored comprehensively. Unfortunately, the Council does not have sufficient resources to be able to effectively monitor the full extent of the traffic restrictions currently in place at every school every day.
1.14	Parking restrictions through Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) can prevent parking or waiting between certain hours of the day or at all times; however, the needs of the local community as a whole will need to be considered before any such Order is made. The statutory legal process required for the implementation of TROs can be complex and unpredictable, and can take up to six months to complete, as well as requiring funding for implementation.
1.15	<p>Remote enforcement opportunities, such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras/CCTV are currently being explored; however, the availability and suitability of such technology is not yet sufficient to enable widespread use and funding would be required to purchase such a system.</p> <p>In any case, given TRO legislation permits the act of setting down and picking up passengers within a recognised discretionary time period, such technology can only be effectively utilised for enforcing clearways such as 'School Keep Clear' zig-zag markings and it does not account for people who might be able to park legitimately with a blue badge in the windscreen.</p>
1.16	As detailed within the body of this report, there is no single solution to fix the problems of parking and congestion within the vicinity of schools and commitment from all parties including individual schools and the wider school community will be required. If the issues are to be addressed effectively, a range of different options will need to be considered, including education and communication (to deliver the behavioural change required), improved infrastructure (to facilitate active travel and reduce vehicle usage), and lastly, parking restrictions and subsequent enforcement. It does, however, need to be acknowledged that enforcement (of any nature) is a purely reactive measure and should only be considered as the last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted.
1.17	At the Scrutiny meeting on 23 rd March 2023, it was resolved that a joint task and finish group should be set up, which will involve elected members from the two Scrutiny Committees, officers from both the Education & Youth and Streetscene & Transportation portfolios, the Police and Head Teachers to explore the issues in further detail and develop a collaborative and preventative approach with key stakeholders. The task and finish group will report to each Scrutiny Committee in turn. Cabinet approval is therefore being sought to support the creation of this group.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement (CPEE) service is a multifunctional team of only ten officers who are required to provide enforcement across a broad spectrum over 7 days.

2.02	The Council's Transport Strategy and Road Safety team consist of a small number of officers who are required to implement safer routes and active travel infrastructure schemes (including the implementation of legal Traffic Regulation Orders).
2.03	Limited funding opportunities and a worsening financial climate dictate that the implementation of improved infrastructure can only be provided via a targeted, incremental approach.
2.04	Advancements in technology are required before remote enforcement opportunities are a viable option.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Not required.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy.
4.02	The creation of a joint task and finish group, which will involve elected members from the two Scrutiny Committees, officers from both the Education & Youth and Streetscene & Transportation portfolios, the Police and Head Teachers, in order to explore the issues in further detail and develop a collaborative and preventative approach with key stakeholders. Members will be appointed on a task and finish basis to assist in the key aspect of policy development, working with the relevant Cabinet Members for Education & Youth and Streetscene & Transportation.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Anthony Stanford, Transportation Manager Telephone: 01352 704817 E-mail: anthony.stanford@flintshire.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Ruth Tulley, Regulatory Services Manager
Telephone: 01352 704796
E-mail: ruth.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

8.01 **Active travel:** – for the purposes of this document ‘active travel’ refers to walking and cycling for everyday journeys – such as to go to work, or education or access services.

Traffic Regulation Order (TRO): - TROs are legal documents that restrict or prohibit the use of the highway network, in line with The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. They are used to manage the highway network for all road users and aim to improve road safety and access to facilities.

Penalty Charge Notice (PCN): - A PCN is a notice issued by or served by a Civil Enforcement Officer for contravention of parking regulations in accordance with the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act. It can be paid, contested by appeal, or contested by defending a claim for payment under the small claims track of the county court.

Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement (CPEE) Service: -Is a multifunctional team environmental crimes (littering; dog fouling; fly tipping; side waste; household duty of care) as well as delivering educational campaigns on such matters.

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru have made a commitment to ensure all primary school aged children can access a free school meal by 2024.

Implementation of universal primary free school meals (UPFSM) will be phased, the first rollout in Flintshire commenced in September 2022 to Reception aged children, the second phase of roll out commencing in April 2023 to Year 1 and 2 aged children.

A significant amount of work has been completed and will continue into 2023 to ensure the infrastructure, equipment, resource and processes are in place to enable full implementation of UPFSM.

This report provides a progress update on local implementation of UPFSM.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet notes the progress made to date on implementation of UPFSM.
2	Cabinet consider the resource implications and risks identified in relation to UPFSM.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL PRIMARY FREE SCHOOL MEALS (UPFSM)
1.01	As part of a Co-operation Agreement, Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru have announced plans and funding for all primary school children to be able to have a free school meal by 2024.
1.02	Welsh Government's commitment to Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) is in response to the escalating costs of living and aimed to help tackle child poverty, whilst ensuring no child goes hungry in school.
1.03	Some families who meet certain criteria, such as those on lower incomes or in receipt of certain benefits, are entitled to receive a free school meal – eligibility tested free school meals (eFSM). The UPFSM Policy does not affect eFSM and families who are eligible for eFSM are being encouraged to continue to use the eFSM application process. This will ensure these families can continue to access other grants and benefits, such as the PDG uniform grant.
1.04	Implementation of UPFSM will be phased. Locally, in Flintshire, rollout will mirror the national timetable, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 2022 – Reception aged children offered UPFSM – rollout has been completed• April 2023 – Years 1 and Year 2 aged children offered UPFSM – preparations have been completed and rollout for Year 1 and Year 2 on target for April 2023 implementation date• September 2023 – Year 3 and Year 4 aged children offered UPFSM• April 2024 – all primary aged children offered UPFSM
1.05	A significant amount of work has already been completed and continues to be required to ensure that in Flintshire we have the infrastructure, equipment, resource and processes in place to support full implementation of this national policy. It is not just about ensuring a meal can be provided but that eligible children have access to cutlery to eat it with, a place to sit whilst eating, that schools have sufficient lunchtime supervisors for an extended period to enable all children to have a lunch sitting and that data is captured on eligibility and meal uptake.
1.06	To oversee implementation of UPFSM in Flintshire, a small cross-portfolio Project Team continues to work on the rollout with representatives from Education and Youth; Finance; Housing and Assets (Benefits); and Capital Programme and Assets. NEWydd Catering and Cleaning Ltd are also part of this Project Team as the Council's main school catering supplier.
1.07	The UPFSM Project Team is supported by a number of task and finish groups, focusing on specific matters such as: implementation in schools; communications and engagement; kitchen and dining room audits; application process and data capture; and finance.

1.07	<p>The priorities for the Project Team, and supporting task and finish groups, have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting kitchen and dining room audits to identify the additional kitchen and dining equipment and works required to deliver full implementation. This has now been completed. • Managing and disseminating information to stakeholders - this has been undertaken regularly and will be ongoing throughout the roll-out. • Procurement of light and heavy equipment to enable delivery of the first phase of implementation in September 2022 and for April 2023. This first stage of procurement has been completed; and • Procurement of any remaining equipment and furniture to enable delivery for the next phase of rollout.
1.08	<p>In addition to the local Project Team, the Council has officer representatives on a number of national groups and forums involved in the development, implementation, delivery and rollout of UPFSM. This ensures Flintshire's views are well represented and important information disseminated quickly to the local project team.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Welsh Government have committed to fully funding UPFSM Policy with a number of grant funding streams being made available.</p>
2.02	<p>Revenue Grant 2022 The first grant funding stream was a revenue grant to support councils' preparatory work for the eligibility changes to free school meals, up to 31st August 2022.</p> <p>More specifically, the revenue grant of £69k was to provided support to the Council in three areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early engagement with stakeholders to understand behaviours that might impact on the delivery of UPFSM and level of uptake; 2. Kitchen and dining room facility audits and workforce and contractual arrangements review to understand existing capacity and where investment is needed; and 3. Consideration of the practical implications of changing free school meal eligibility.
2.03	<p>In Flintshire, some of the revenue grant was utilised to fund a fixed-term Free School Meal Project Officer, to assist the Council with its preparatory work, in accordance with the grant criteria as outlined in point 2.02 above.</p>
2.04	<p>Capital Grant The Council has been allocated capital grant funding, totalling £3,029,201 to support the procurement of equipment and works to enable UPFSM rollout. The Council has realised a total spend of £1,567,976.00 in the rollout of this project to date.</p>

2.05	<p>Local Authority Education Grant – UPFSM Delivery</p> <p>The Local Authority Education Grant for 2022-23 has confirmed that Flintshire County Council’s allocation for UPFSM for 2022-23 is £648,626. This allocation uses pupil census data (PLASC) from 2021 data and is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion numbers (all pupils minus eligible eFSM and transitional pupils); • 190 school days per year; • £2.90 meal unit rate; and • 86% uptake.
2.06	<p>Whilst the Council received confirmation of the grant allocation, Welsh Government have been accepting claims on actual numbers of UPFSM delivered in this period. From September 2022 to February 2023 circa 95,000 meals have been delivered to reception aged pupils and grant totalling £279,000 has been claimed. This is less than the initial allocation which included funding for Years 1 and 2 rolling out in January. The Council will continue to need to record this information and be able to return data to Welsh Government on actual uptake on specific weeks throughout the year.</p>
2.07	<p>The 2022-23 Local Authority Education Grant funding allocation includes an administration fee of 6% (£36,715). This payment is to cover staffing time to process additional meal request forms, record data, negotiate contracts, marketing and communications, etc. This funding will be replicated in future years but with a declining scale percentage. However, the Council envisages that this will still attract higher grant funding in future years given that more children will be eligible for and take up UPFSM and this is used to calculate the grant.</p>
2.08	<p>The administrative fee for 2022-23 has in part been used to fund the extension of the Free School Meal Project Officer post to December 2022. This role ended in December 2022 when the post holder secured permanent employment elsewhere in Council. Officers in the School Modernisation Team and Finance Teams have now picked up various elements of this project work which is starting to scale down as the project rolls out.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>Procurement</p> <p>The equipment and works required in kitchens and dining rooms to enable UPFSM delivery in 2022-23 has been identified and totals circa £1.6m.</p> <p>The impact of macro environmental factors on the market, combined with the increased demand of 22 Local Authorities in Wales seeking to place orders for the same additional kitchen and dining room equipment at the same time, means suppliers are struggling to meet demand. Lead times for some equipment is up to 26 weeks from point of order and further time needs to be allowed for installation in some cases.</p>

	This did have a significant impact on procurement, which was further compounded by the fact that the Council does not have established supplier relationships with many suppliers given that school catering is not delivered by the Council in-house.
3.02	Initial procurement for light equipment to enable delivery to Reception aged children from September 2022 and also for Year 1 and Year 2 from April 2023 has been made through means of an exception report.
3.03	Applying for eFSM Whilst UPFSM will be available to all primary aged children from 2024, those who remain eligible for eFSM (eligibility tested) still need to apply. Application does enable parents to access other grant funding, but this is limited.
3.04	eFSM application is also used for funding allocations to the Council and schools. For 2022/23 eFSM application data has been roughly calculated as providing a total of circa £10m grant funding, broken down as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £6.1m in the Education element of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG); • £3.1m in the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Schools grant; and • £619.5k for the PDG Access grant.
3.05	There are concerns that the universal eligibility of UPFSM will see a marked reduction in the number of parents applying for eFSM, which could potentially have a significant financial impact on both schools and the Council.
3.06	Local communications have continued to reiterate the need for parents to apply for eFSM and this will need to be an ongoing to ensure those who are eligible for eFSM continue to apply in future years.
3.07	Meal Unit Rate Despite Welsh Government committing to fully fund the UPFSM Policy they have set a meal unit price of £2.90, which some Councils have already reported will not cover the cost of delivery. Early indications show that this figure does not cover all local service delivery costs, i.e. catering supplier costs, utilities, etc. and work to ensure a fair and accountable split of this funding element is being developed. The meal unit rate is now under review by Welsh Government following feedback from all Councils – Flintshire County Council is represented on this working group.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Parent and Child Survey To help with preparations for UPFSM, to ascertain likely meal uptake, a parent and child survey was undertaken between June and July 2022. This was advertised on the Council's website and primary schools were asked to circulate the link to parents of children attending their school. The

	information from the surveys was useful to the project team to gauge potential take-up of the UPFSM offer.
4.02	Further surveying work with parents/carers and pupils will be undertaken to assess the impact of the rollout in the summer term.
4.03	School Survey To enable effective planning and to inform procurement requirements, especially to enable delivery to Reception aged children from September 2022, a further survey was developed and launched in July 2022 for completion by schools. The information from the surveys was useful to the project team to gauge the schools' own challenges in relation to delivery of the UPFSM project.
4.04	Further surveying work with schools will be undertaken to assess the impact of the rollout in the summer term.
4.05	Uptake Rates The current uptake rates for Reception aged children across Flintshire schools has been 75.9%, a positive result. There is no comparative uptake data available from other Council's at present.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Not applicable.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Welsh Government (2022) <i>Universal Primary Free School Meals</i>, available online:https://gov.wales/universal-primary-free-school-meals-upfsm#:~:text=Registering-Overview,child%20goes%20hungry%20in%20school</p> <p>Flintshire County Council (2022) <i>Universal Primary Free School Meals FAQs</i>, available online: https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Free-School-Meals.aspx</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Jennie Williams Telephone: 01352 704015 E-mail: jennie.williams@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Free School Meals (eFSM): eligibility tested free school meals that are available to families who meet certain criteria, such as being on lower incomes or in receipt of certain benefits, making them entitled to receive a free school meal regardless of the UPFSM Policy.</p> <p>Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM): Welsh Government Policy to ensure every primary school aged child will be universally eligible for a free school meal by 2024, regardless of household income.</p> <p>Uptake: the percentage of children who are eligible for a meal who take a meal when offered.</p>

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Housing Regeneration team role has shifted over the years since its creation as funding has become more focussed on carbon reduction in housing and less on wider measures to improve housing conditions in the private sector.

This report provides an update on the work of the team, sets out a series of recommended priorities for the team to focus on in the future, and proposes that the now outdated Private Sector Grants and Loans Policy is replaced with a simple schedule of grants and loans available to householders in Flintshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the update on the work of the Housing Regeneration team is noted and that the future priorities for the service are approved.
2	That the grants and loans schedule is approved, and that delegated authority is given to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Countryside and the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) to vary the schedule as funding availability or requirements change.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE HOUSING REGENERATION GRANTS AND LOANS POLICY
	Background
1.01	The Housing Regeneration service has been in existence for many years, originally located within the Housing Directorate but eventually moving to the Planning, Environment and Economy Portfolio.
1.02	The service was created to improve the condition of housing in the private sector, to improve the energy efficiency of housing in all tenures, and to administer grants for housing improvement.
1.03	Considerable programmes of improvement to private sector housing took place in the years since the publication of the last policy, largely funded by Welsh Government, and Flintshire was successful in securing resources to improve energy efficiency of homes and to modernise old properties through the Group Repair Programme. This included fitting external insulation, replacing windows, doors and roofs, and other “enveloping” works. However, the majority of these programmes have ceased operating and resources for housing regeneration are now limited to Welsh Government funded loans for improvement works, delivered by local government across Wales, for example the Owner Occupier Loan product which funds property renovation.
1.04	The majority of the work of the service is now focussed on improving the energy efficiency of housing in Flintshire to reduce carbon emissions and to contribute to reducing fuel poverty. The service does not receive any Council core funding to support staff costs or deliver services other than a small capital allocation to deliver housing regeneration improvements. The service supports itself through service level agreements with clients (for example the Housing Revenue Account) and through external funding.
1.05	<p>The team currently delivers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the Welsh Government funded housing loans programme which includes a number of interest free loan products to improve private sector housing conditions. • Delivering energy efficiency improvements to the Council’s housing stock including modern gas boilers, air source heat pumps, solar panels, insulation and other energy efficiency measures. • Providing a responsive management service to maintain and replace heating equipment in the Council’s housing stock. • Securing external funding to support vulnerable households to improve the energy efficiency of their homes – in all tenures. • Providing energy efficiency advice and referring households to a broad range of other agencies for support. • Providing a crisis fund to provide emergency support to vulnerable households that are not eligible for any other funding. • Managing the ECO4 checks on behalf of OFGEM which allows contractors to access funding to install energy efficiency measures in private homes. The service is delivered in both Flintshire and Denbighshire.

	<p>The team takes a very person-centred approach to delivering services. Officers spend time with customers to fully understand their household situation in order to recommend the best energy efficiency solutions and to be able to effectively refer them to wider agencies for support. Many customers, due to age and/or vulnerability, are very reluctant to receive support and this approach builds trust and enables them to receive the (sometimes lifesaving) support they need.</p>
1.06	<p>During 2022/2023 the service has provided support to 1,293 households.</p> <p>To better illustrate the work of the service, case studies are provided below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customer A identified as vulnerable following breakdown of personal relationship and health issues. There was no working heating at the property which also required some further renovation. Following an initial enquiry, a home visit was arranged to help them to get a connection to the gas network. Due to the urgency of the situation a temporary liquid petroleum gas boiler was installed while we waited for the gas connection. Following the gas connection, the team arranged for a gas meter to be installed at the property and the fuel switch was then completed just in time for Christmas. The customer was extremely grateful to have a warm home in time for the holidays. 2. Customer B approached the team due to having no working heating. The customer was identified as extremely vulnerable due to age and serious health conditions which were exacerbated by the cold. The customer had no excess income or savings to fund the boiler replacement. After a telephone triage it was established that customer was spending 19% of his income on energy, putting an extreme strain on his finances and mental health as well as his physical wellbeing. The team was able to secure a survey and quote to the customer within days of the initial enquiry being received. As a result of the new boiler installed at the property his energy costs reduced to 7.88% of his income. 3. Mrs X had replacement windows and doors in 2022 through a housing loan. She had been unable to open her windows for fresh air or to get out of in case of emergency, which made Mrs X feel like she had been “released from prison!” when the new windows and doors were installed. Mrs X was “absolutely delighted” and said that they “look brilliant!” She can “already feel the house is warmer” which is an additional benefit to her given increasing energy prices. 4. Mrs Y has said “We applied for the loan as our existing bedroom was mouldy, cold and damp was causing my husband’s severe health conditions to worsen. The whole application was relatively easy to apply for and our point of contact, Flintshire Council staff (Jill) were really helpful and friendly throughout the whole process... We had the cold/damp/mouldy room demolished and a new extension was built, this has since been turned into our lounge and it is so warm, comfortable, safe and secure. It has been a great way of being able to improve our home and my husband’s health.”

	Grants and loans policy
1.07	The Council policy on private sector housing improvement was last published in 2010. The purpose of the policy was to steer Council private sector home improvement programmes and determine the priorities for action. In addition to setting out a policy framework for housing renewal and regeneration, it also set out a detailed schedule of grants and loans to be offered by the Council to householders to improve their properties, many of which were externally funded.
1.08	The policy is now significantly out of date. This creates two issues for the Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Council officers do not have a clear policy framework to operate within when they are issuing grants and loans; and 2) Interested parties are not able to easily view the grants and loans that the Council is able to offer.
1.09	The last private sector stock condition survey was undertaken in 2016 and found that 12.2% of properties in the County had Category 1 hazards present (those with the greatest potential to cause harm to the occupants) which was a similar level of failure as the national picture. Hazards were twice as likely to be present in the private rented sector as in owner-occupied homes. Excess cold was the main source of failure.
1.10	Fuel poverty is expected to be at an extremely high level due to a combination of rising energy prices, static wages and the country's large stock of relatively energy-inefficient homes. An estimate by the Child Poverty Action Group in August 2022 showed that 60.8% of Welsh households would be in fuel poverty by January 2023 with larger households, retired people and lone parents at particular risk.
1.11	There is little likelihood that significant resources will be available in the future for private sector housing improvement and that the service will remain predominantly focused on domestic energy efficiency. This simpler and smaller range of services does not, it is suggested, require its own policy in the future.
1.12	Any programmes of funding that are available tend to have their criteria set by the funder and the Council delivers the resources to householders in accordance with these criteria. Any external funding available also tends to change regularly. It is therefore suggested that a simple and flexible schedule of grants and loans is used in the future, published on the Council website for clarity, and with changes approved as needed under delegated authority by the Chief Officer and Cabinet Member.
	Priorities for the Housing Regeneration service
1.13	It is proposed that the future priorities for the service are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with the Housing and Carbon Reduction teams to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's housing stock and reduce the risk of fuel poverty for tenants.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide energy efficiency advice to any household that requests it and refer households on to other support agencies as needed. • To access external funding to provide energy efficiency measures and wider housing improvements to any households that are a) vulnerable; b) on low incomes and/or c) at risk of fuel poverty. • To provide energy efficiency installation and management services to other organisations on a full cost recovery basis. • To provide a small-scale crisis fund grant to the most vulnerable households who have no other funding options available to them (when available funding allows).
1.15	The current schedule of grants and loans issued by the service is attached as Appendix 1. The majority of the criteria and requirements are set by Welsh Government and passported by the Council on to applicants. The schedule is subject to change whenever resource available changes, whenever funders change their rules or as new funds become available.
1.16	It is therefore proposed that the schedule is a fluid document that can be amended as needed. It is suggested that delegated authority to approve amendments is given to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Countryside and the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) and that the current version of the schedule is made available on the Council web site.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None arising directly from this report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT												
3.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td rowspan="5">This report recommends a formalisation of existing arrangements rather than new provision.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>Although the work of the service helps to reduce poverty, the report recommends a formalisation of existing provision rather than new provision.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>No impact.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> <td>Although there is a clear link between housing condition and good health, which the work of the service promotes, the report recommends</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	This report recommends a formalisation of existing arrangements rather than new provision.	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement	Prosperous Wales	Although the work of the service helps to reduce poverty, the report recommends a formalisation of existing provision rather than new provision.	Resilient Wales	No impact.	Healthier Wales	Although there is a clear link between housing condition and good health, which the work of the service promotes, the report recommends
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		a formalisation of existing provision rather than new provision.
	More equal Wales	Although the work of the service targets support to the most vulnerable households, the report recommends a formalisation of existing provision rather than new provision.
	Cohesive Wales	No impact.
	Vibrant Wales	No impact.
	Globally responsible Wales	Although the work of the service reduces carbon emissions from housing in the County, the report recommends a formalisation of existing provision rather than new provision.
	<p>Risk management</p> <p>There are no new identified risks emerging from this report. Rather, the report ensures that the Council offers grants and loans in a more transparent manner, reducing the risk that householders will miss out on support.</p>	

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Schedule of grants and loans.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

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

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>ECO4 – the latest scheme from OFGEM which places an obligation on energy suppliers to help low income, fuel poor and vulnerable households to heat their homes.</p> <p>Fuel poverty – defined by Welsh Government as spending more than 10% of their income (after housing costs) on energy. More than 20% is classed as severe fuel poverty.</p> <p>OFGEM – Office of Gas and Electricity Markets which is the energy regulator for Great Britain.</p>

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Housing Regeneration service

Schedule of loans and grants

April 2023

Product	Funder	Description	Eligibility criteria	Conditions	Amount	Availability
Owner Occupier Loan	Welsh Government	An interest free home enhancement loan designed to improve substandard properties to be safe, warm and secure.	Applicant must have an owners interest Applicant must pass an affordability check Applicant must have sufficient equity within their property to cover a minimum Loan-to-value ratio of 80% Terms and conditions must specify the purpose for which the loan is required.	Property must be occupied by the applicant as their main residence. On completion of the works, no category 1 hazards should be present. Loans only provided to fully funded schemes, with evidence of alternative funding required if the loan is part funding the work Administration costs, payable to the Council, will be applied to a maximum of £500	Initial loan limit set at £25,000 but can be increased to a maximum of £35,000 subject to eligibility testing and loan assessment Minimum loan of £1,000 The Council holds a share of the property value, to the final cost of the works or the loan value drawn down. Loan is repaid on monthly staged payments up to a maximum loan term of 10 years. Sale or transfer of the property prior to repayments being completed will trigger full repayment of the loan balance. Voluntary early repayment of the entire loan balance may be made at any time with no financial penalties.	Available until 2030.
Owner Occupier Energy Loan	Welsh Government	The loan maximises the use of a loan aiming to encourage uptake of renewable heat technologies amongst householders. The loan will work in conjunction with other funding streams in order to reduce the loan amount. An example would be the governments Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS), The BUS scheme offers people switching from boilers to renewable technologies, such as air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers, an upfront payment to help towards the capital cost.	Applicant has an owners interest Applicant must pass an affordability check Applicant must have sufficient equity within their property to cover a minimum Loan-to-value ratio of 80% Terms and conditions must specify the purpose for which the loan is required,	Property must be occupied by the applicant as their main residence Administration costs, payable to the Council, will be applied to a maximum of £250	Maximum loan of £7,000 subject to eligibility testing and loan assessment Minimum loan of £1,000 The Council holds a share of the property value, to the final cost of the works or the loan value drawn down Loan is repaid on monthly staged payments up to a maximum loan term of 7 years. Sale or transfer of the property prior to repayments being completed will trigger full repayment of the loan balance. Voluntary early repayment of the entire loan balance may be made at any time with no financial penalties.	Available until 2030.
Owner Occupier Financial Assistance	Welsh Government	An interest free home enhancement loan designed to tackle Housing Health and Safety Risk Assessment (HHSRS) hazards. An example would be, works to remedy serious disrepair, provide modern kitchen and bathroom facilities, improve heating systems and insulation, and to remove any serious hazards which could affect the well-being of the occupier, such as dampness, dangerous stairs or electrical wiring. This loan is not available to applicants eligible for an Owner Occupier or a Landlord Loan.	Applicant must have been assessed for an Owner Occupier loan and failed an affordability check Applicant must have sufficient equity within their property to cover a Loan. Terms and conditions must specify the purpose for which the assistance is required.	Property must be occupied by the applicant as their main residence. On completion of the works, no category 1 hazards should be present. Assistance is provided only to remove HHSRS hazards, no other work is considered. Administration costs, payable to the Council, will be applied to a maximum of £250.	Targeted maximum assistance amount of £25,000, although assistance above the target threshold is available subject to exception circumstances such as extensive disrepair caused through multiple category 1 hazards Minimum loan of £500 The Council holds a share of the property value, to the final cost of the works or the loan value drawn down as a percentage of the value of the property. Quantified on completion of the work as the percentage ratio between the value of the property and the value of the loan for a maximum term of 25 years	Available until 2030 or until fund depleted.

Product	Funder	Description	Eligibility criteria	Conditions	Amount	Availability
			The assistance is offered at the discretion of Flintshire Council on a case by case basis.		Sale or transfer of the property prior to the completion of the 25 year period will trigger full payment of the loan balance. Voluntary early repayment of the entire loan balance may be made at any time with no financial penalties.	
Landlord Loan (operated by Community and Business Protection Service)	Welsh Government	The Landlord Loan will help owners bring empty properties back in to use. This is in the form of an interest free loan to cover works which bring the property up to the Decent Homes Standard. An example would be, works to remedy serious disrepair, provide modern kitchen and bathroom facilities, improve heating systems and insulation, and to remove any serious hazards which could affect the well-being of the occupier, such as dampness, dangerous stairs or electrical wiring.	Applicant has an owner's interest. Applicant must have sufficient equity within their property to cover the loan amount or offer an alternative property with sufficient equity for security. Property to be improved must be long term vacant (over 6 months).	On completion of the works, the property must be habitable and of a lettable standard (no category 1 hazards). Property must be covered by buildings insurance until the loan is repaid and evidence provided. Administration costs, payable to the Council, will be applied to a maximum of £500.	Maximum loan of £25,000 subject to eligibility testing and loan assessment (£150,000 per applicant maximum). The Council holds a share of the property value, to the final cost of the works or the loan value drawn down. Maximum loan term is 2 years for sale and 5 years for rent. Sale or transfer of the property prior to repayments being completed will trigger full repayment of the loan balance. Voluntary early repayment of the entire loan balance may be made at any time with no financial penalties.	Until 2030
Affordable Warmth Crisis Fund Grant	Flintshire County Council	A grant will be made available to households that are living in fuel poverty or are suffering from ill health and are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home, towards the cost of any measures that will increase their ability to live in a warm home. This could include new heating systems, insulation, heating controls, and repairs. An appraisal process will be undertaken that assesses household income, the characteristics and energy rating of the property and the medical conditions and age composition of the household.	Applicant has an owner's interest. Applicant is in receipt of a relevant means tested benefit. Vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold house. (As defined by The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence 2015 guidance on excess winter deaths and illness caused by cold homes.) In fuel poverty if more than 10% of total household income is spent on fuel costs. Or Low income households living in energy inefficient housing. SAP below 54 or EPC below an E		Maximum grant of £3,000. Award of funding will be on a sliding scale dependant on fuel poverty score – between 30% fuel poverty at £3,000 to 10% fuel poverty at £500. Eligibility due to exceptional circumstances, such as a life limiting health condition or prolonged exposure to a HHSRS Cat 1 hazard, will be considered at Regeneration Managers discretion, taking into account a residents ability to afford a contribution, or possible qualification for an alternative loan product.	Subject to availability of funding
Whole House Affordable Warmth Fund Grant	Flintshire County Council	Flintshire County Council utilises funding from a number of sources for the purposes of reducing fuel poverty in the county. The grant is available to cover works which will increase the thermal efficiency of a property as well as help to remedy any serious disrepair such as, roofing, double glazing, improve	Applicant has an owner's interest. Applicant is in receipt of a relevant means tested benefit. Property non-decent or has category 2 hazards significantly above the average age of the property.	On completion of the works, no category 1 hazards should be present. A proportion of the grant must be repaid if the property is sold or transferred within 5 years. Repayment will be reduced by 20% for each full year	Targeted maximum assistance amount of £25,000, although assistance above the target threshold is available subject to exception circumstances such as extensive disrepair caused through category 1 hazards. The Council holds a share of the property value, to the final cost of the works or the loan value drawn down for a maximum term of 5 years.	Subject to availability of funding

Product	Funder	Description	Eligibility criteria	Conditions	Amount	Availability
		heating systems and insulation, and to remove any serious hazards which could affect the well-being of the occupier, such as dampness, dangerous stairs or electrical wiring. This grant is not available to applicants eligible for an Owner Occupier Loan.	Applicant with owner's interest having no income. Calculation made based on Housing benefit limit of £16,000 with a calculation on savings between £6k and £16k to determine income and fuel poverty eligibility	elapsed since the completion date Property must be occupied for 5 years.	Sale or transfer of the property prior to completion of the 5 year period will trigger full payment of the loan balance. Voluntary early repayment of the entire grant balance may be made at any time before the 5 year term with no financial penalties. The Council will not hold a share of the property for grant funding below £5,000	

Eligibility testing and loan assessment

The Council will provide property loans to owner occupiers, to improve properties and bring empty properties back into use to house residents.

Applicants are assessed for affordability by comparing household expenditure against income to determine if there is sufficient surplus income to repay the loan.

Risk mitigation measures are to calculate a loan to value ratio to ensure sufficient free equity is available and a land charge is placed against either the property being developed or, as with the case of a Landlord loan, an alternative property can be used to secure the loan.

Appeals and applications falling outside the Policy

Although this Policy will be the primary consideration in determining applications, all such applications shall be dealt with on an individual basis, based on the merits of each particular case.

It is recognised that there will always be exceptional circumstances. Exceptional cases will be considered by the Senior Manager and/or Head of Service.

Any person wishing to make an appeal against a decision made under this Policy, or make an application for assistance outside this Policy, should initially write to the Housing Regeneration Manager, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NF.

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	25 th April 2023
Report Subject	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Update Report
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing & Regeneration
Report Author	Chief Officer, Housing and Communities
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Homelessness is a statutory service that continues to be under significant pressure post pandemic and the further challenges related to the cost-of-living crisis and housing crisis. External factors associated with cost-of-living crisis and housing market conditions are increasing the levels of homelessness place more burden operationally and financially on the Council.

The need to offer accommodation and support to everyone who was homeless and at risk of rough sleeping during the pandemic was challenging. It has, however, provided a unique window of opportunity to engage with a high number of people who historically would not have received the same level of support and may have not achieved positive wellbeing or housing outcomes.

The local private sector housing market is seeing significant challenges with fewer properties available each year and many landlords leaving the market. This creates homelessness as properties are sold, residents asked to leave and the availability of fewer properties resulting in them being increasingly unaffordable.

Changes to the Housing Wales Act 2014 (HWA 2014) and specifically the introduction of an eleventh category of Priority Need for rough sleeping and those at risk of sleeping rough, sees a sustainment of the “no one left out” approach adopted during the Covid pandemic and now firmly establishes the principle on a legal footing and as standard practice in Wales.

As a result, more people and particularly single people, will be owed accommodation duties significantly increasing demands and cost on already stretched homeless accommodation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Community, Housing & Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the update report and continue to support the work being undertaken by the Housing and Prevention Service.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE HOMELESSNESS UPDATE REPORT													
1.01	<p>Statutory Homeless Services Local Authorities have duties as outlined in the HWA 2014 Part 2, with regards to the prevention of homelessness and the management of homelessness when it occurs. Within the accessible documents detailed in section 6 of this report there is more information about the duties within this legislation (Helping You Understand Housing Wales Act 2014).</p> <p>The core team activities for the Statutory Homeless Team includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless Case Management under HWA 2014 • Homeless Accommodation Management • Homeless Accommodation Costs 													
1.02	<p>Funding Homeless Services Whilst funding is provided for activity through the Housing Support Grant (HSG) to offer early intervention and homeless prevention activities, statutory services cannot be funded through HSG. Therefore, the Council Fund is the main source of funding for the delivery of these services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless Officers and other staff dealing with Homeless Duties and Assessments • Homeless accommodation costs through lease charges and hotel accommodation expenditure • Staff costs associated with the management of homeless accommodation • Other costs associated with duties around homelessness such as storage costs and removals when people become homeless <p>Budgets in relation to Homelessness service delivery for 2022/2023 are summarised below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Budget Purpose</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Budget 22/23</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Expenditure 22/23</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Homeless team staffing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,393,218.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,202,421.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rental and lease for homeless accommodation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£111,175.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£233,126.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hotel emergency accommodation costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£145,000.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,223,147.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>To assist with the additional pressures around homelessness, and as the Covid Emergency Funding has now ceased, additional grant funding has</p>		Budget Purpose	Budget 22/23	Expenditure 22/23	Homeless team staffing	£1,393,218.00	£1,202,421.80	Rental and lease for homeless accommodation	£111,175.00	£233,126.45	Hotel emergency accommodation costs	£145,000.00	£1,223,147.40
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Hotel emergency accommodation costs	£145,000.00	£1,223,147.40												

been provided during 2022/2023 by Welsh Government to enable advance booking of hotel accommodation for the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 period.

Grant income for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to support statutory homeless service delivery is detailed below:

	2022/2023	2023/2024
Advance Booking Fees (Welsh Government provided funding to lock in hotel accommodation for Q1 & Q2 22-23)	£447,850	-----
No One Left Out (Emergency accommodation and security provisions as necessary)	£520,115.72	£381,899.00
Discretionary Homeless Payment (Prevention funding for rent in advance, rent rescue packages, homeless prevention activity, DHP enhancements)	£195,103.20	£195,103.20

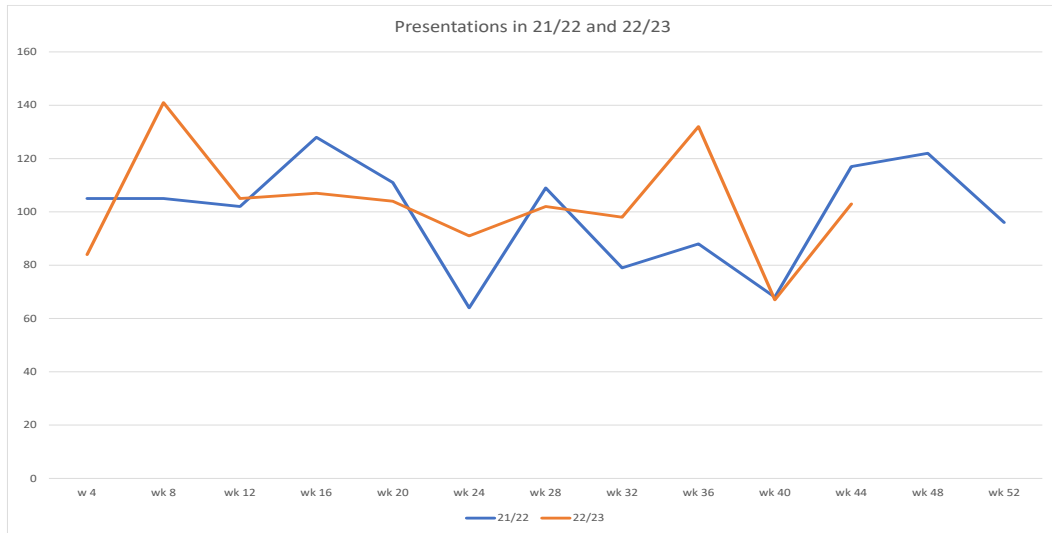
1.03

Demand for Services

Data in the following sections of this report provides an insight into the levels of demand for homeless services. This data is captured through a range of different datasets and is used to monitor service delivery, inform resource planning, and for reporting internally and to Welsh Government.

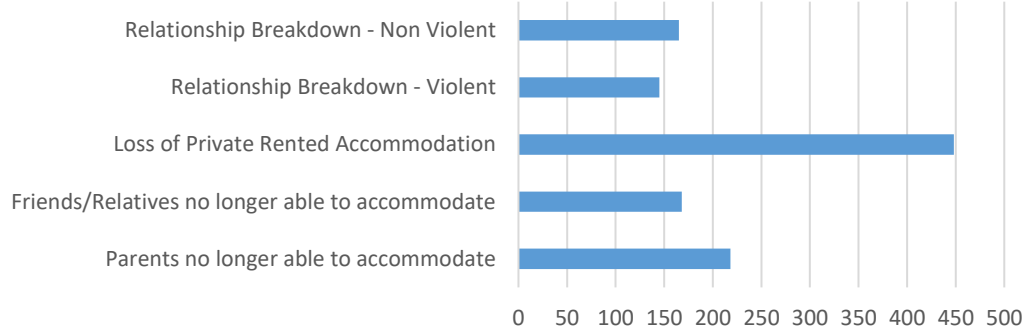
Homelessness Presentations

Numbers of homeless presentations continues to be high. Presentation data for 2021/22 and 2022/23 up to week 48 reporting period shows 1,134 homeless presentations in 2022/23 compared to 1,076 for the same period in 2021/22, a slight increase on the previous year.



The table below outlines the five most common reasons for people approaching the homelessness service for assistance.

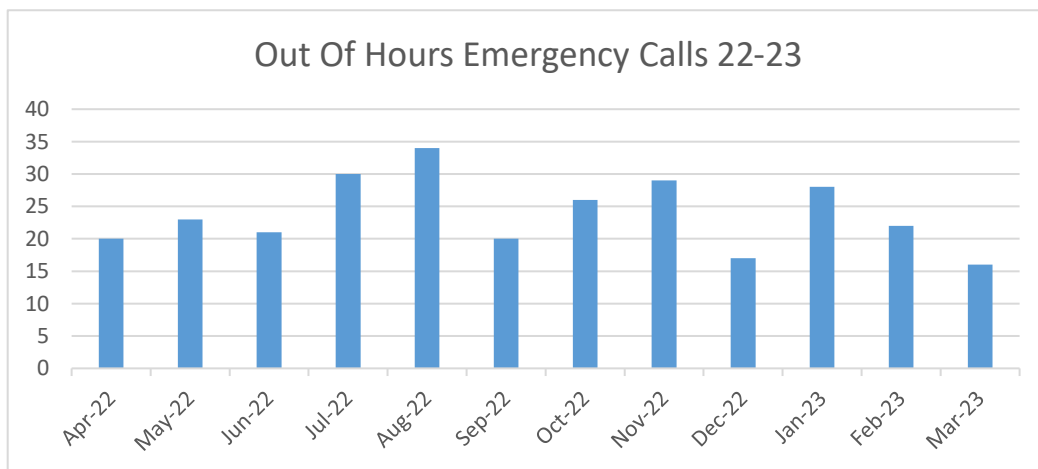
Top 5 Reasons for Homeless Presentation



A further and more detailed breakdown of the reasons for homeless presentations can be found in Appendix 1 (unvalidated data at time of reporting). Changes to the Homeless Case Management System are to be implemented 2023/2024 to streamline data capture processes and improve the recording of reasons for homeless presentations.

Out Of Hours Emergency Response

The Homelessness service operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year as homelessness often occurs outside of normal office hours. Calls are channelled through the Councils Emergency Out of Hours phonenumber and then referred onto Duty Homeless Staff. Detailed below are the number of calls received for emergency homeless response in the last 12 months.



Homeless Accommodation

Emergency and temporary accommodation is limited in Flintshire and a lot of positive work is undertaken to help people sustain their housing to avoid the need to access emergency and temporary housing through prevention. However, in recent months the increases in homelessness and significant barriers to successfully moving people on has resulted in more people requiring homeless accommodation.

Prior to the Covid pandemic there were 11 households placed in homeless accommodation in Flintshire. In February 2021 the numbers had increased to 55 households. The numbers now stand at 169 households. The reasons for the significant increases are referenced within this report. More detail about the breakdown of homeless accommodation placements can be found within Appendix 2.

Rough Sleeper Response

As referenced earlier, accommodation is available to everyone who fulfils the priority need status which now includes rough sleepers, and anyone deemed to be at risk of rough sleeping, following changes to Priority Need Guidance in December 2022.

During the pandemic this also extended to those with no recourse to public funding, the safety net of the public health response means that those with no recourse to public funds can no longer be assisted with accommodation even if rough sleeping.

Rough sleeper outreach activities are usually delivered through our Housing First service who are skilled at dealing with the most complex residents through assertive outreach activities. They provide the initial response during office hours and will respond within a few hours of an alert being received. Alerts come in through a wide range of sources:

- StreetLink Referrals
- Calls into the Homeless Team
- Referrals from partners across FCC and other public services
- Referrals from elected members
- Referrals from the public, Community Groups and Charities

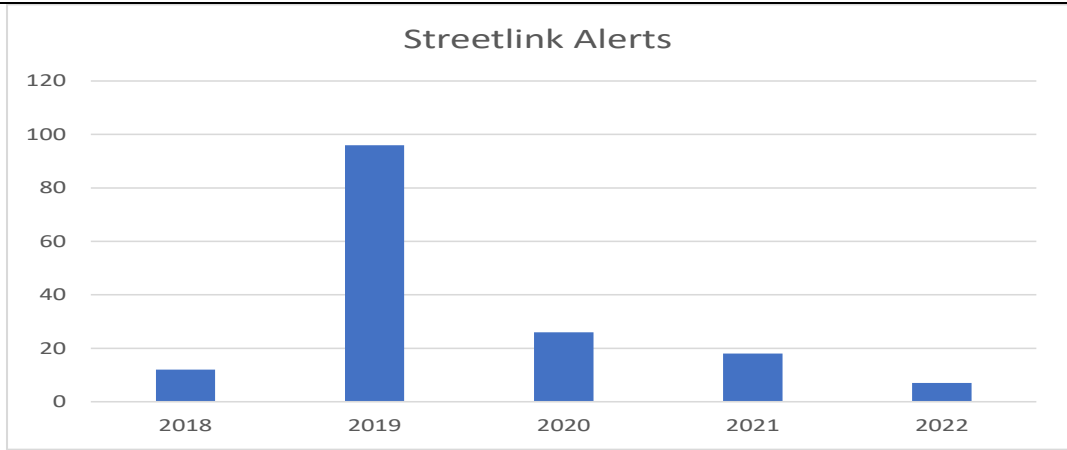
Alerts received outside of office hours are not always responded to immediately but can be channelled through our Out of Hours service on 0300 333 2222. Situations are risk assessed in terms of safety for officers to attend and may be actioned at a later stage.

Rough sleeper outreach activities include:

- Review and risk assessment of information within the alert / referral
- Site visits to the rough sleeper location where safe to do so
- Connection activity to help people access the homeless team
- Welfare checks for those who continue to sleep rough
- Offers of food, clothing and hygiene products as required
- Offers of accommodation where appropriate

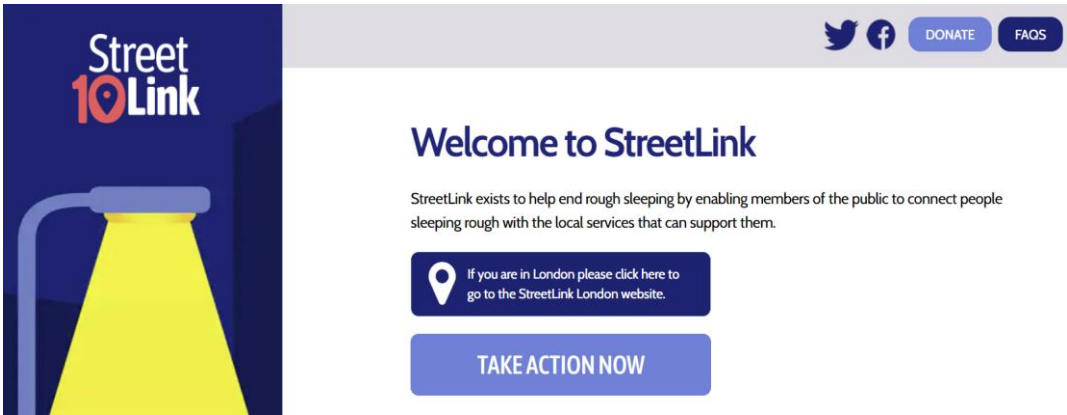
A recent incident of a rough sleeper in Holywell (28/02/23) saw a local charity identify a rough sleeper and connected the male to our Out of Hours Service. Within an hour of contact, he had been supported to access a taxi and taken to emergency housing. The following day a detailed homeless assessment was completed, and further assistance extended. The Councils Homeless Team received positive praise within local press coverage and social media for the excellent response offered.

Detailed below is data relating to Rough Sleeper Alerts received via StreetLink over the last five years. Numbers are relatively low in recent years as people have been picked up and supported through the “no one left out approach” and rough sleeping is significantly reduced across the county.



In 2019 there were high levels of rough sleeping with much of this concentrated within the Deeside area and a significant number of referrals were received as a result. There are currently believed to be two rough sleepers out in Flintshire at the time of reporting. Appropriate advice and assistance continue to be extended to the two people concerned.

StreetLink services are available via phone, via a downloadable App, accessed via the usual App Stores, and via their website. More information and a weblink to the StreetLink service can be found in the Accessible Documents section of this report.



1.04

Positive Homeless Outcomes

When managing homelessness under the HWA 2014, the primary aim is to prevent homelessness, and when it does occur, ensure it is rare, brief and non-repeated. Positive outcomes can be achieved through prevention activities and detailed below are some examples of the tools or interventions accessed to prevent homelessness.

- Rent arrears repayment planning
- Rent rescue payments
- Rent tops ups through Discretionary Housing Payments and other grant funding
- Budgeting support and income maximisation
- Repairs and property maintenance support
- Time critical interventions such as tenancy support
- Mediation and negotiation between tenant (now contract holder) and landlord

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for family's around managing relationships with young people <p>As referenced in the Housing Support Grant Report to Communities and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2023, funding is available to support the prevention of homelessness through Housing Support Grant (HSG) which enables a wide range of additional services and support. HSG does not, however, fund statutory homelessness service delivery.</p> <p>Prevention activities within the Homeless Team when residents are at risk of homelessness within 56 days (linked to s.66 Prevention Duty HWA 2014) are crisis interventions. The most effective and sustainable prevention activities are achieved through much earlier interventions and can be achieved across a wide range of services, to avoid people needing to access statutory homelessness services.</p> <p><u>Social Housing Allocations</u></p> <p>The 50% nominations process for the Covid cohort has been adopted across Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire SARTH housing partners since Summer 2020. This approach is intended to prevent significant blockages and increased expenditure on homeless accommodation.</p> <p>A breakdown of all social housing lettings including the 50% Homeless Direct Lets can be found in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Although the adoption of Homeless Direct Lets has been an incredibly positive intervention and appears to be in keeping with the Ministers intended direction of travel for housing allocations policy for Wales, the lack of 1 bed general needs housing is a significant and ongoing concern. This point is covered further within Section 1.09 of this report.</p> <p><u>Private Rental Outcomes</u></p> <p>Although the private rented sector is increasingly unaffordable for many households, there are opportunities to save tenancies and there are some successes through moving people into private rented accommodation. Opportunities for prevention work are limited however where landlords are selling properties and with rents increasing beyond levels that many low-income households can afford. Those residents in receipt of enhanced benefits and those with their main source of income through work, will often have the greatest chance of securing a home in the private rented sector.</p>
1.05	<p>National Policy – Homelessness</p> <p>In October 2019 Welsh Government published a Policy Statement, outlining a Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness. This statement acknowledges the importance of partnership working, adopting early interventions and support for those in crisis. The Policy Statement clearly sets out a vision for:</p> <p><i>”A Wales where everyone has a safe home that meets their needs and supports a healthy, successful and prosperous life. A Wales where we work together to prevent homelessness and where it cannot be prevented ensure it is rare, brief and unrepeated.”</i></p>

	<p>Homelessness prevention requires a holistic response, grounded in partnership working. Preventative action will happen at different stages, but will follow along a continuum, allowing a range of public services and service providers opportunities to assist, depending on the situation. This is illustrated by following four prevention elements, outlined in the Strategy, which reflect the scope and intensity of partnership working:</p> <p>Primary Prevention - Preventing or minimising the risk of problems arising, usually through universal policies e.g., education; health promotion; good housing management and tenancy support.</p> <p>Secondary Prevention - Targeting individuals or groups at high risk or showing early signs of a particular problem to try to stop it occurring e.g., early referral to family or youth support services.</p> <p>Tertiary Prevention - Intervening once there is a problem to stop it getting worse and to redress the situation e.g., writing off rent arrears to avoid eviction.</p> <p>Acute Spending - Spending to manage the impact of a strongly negative situation - does little or nothing to prevent problems recurring in future e.g. cost of temporary housing when made homeless; long term cost of supporting children who have suffered Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as a result of loss of home.</p> <p>Over time the move to Rapid Rehousing will shift the focus from acute spending on homelessness to more effective prevention and relief of homelessness activities. Flintshire's priorities for Rapid Rehousing as supported by Members in 2022 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting Early Intervention and Targeted Prevention Activities • Strengthening Person Centered Approaches and Responding to Complex Needs • Developing the TrACE Agenda • Supporting Workforce Development and Resilience • Reviewing and improving Flintshire's Housing Offer <p>Welsh Government have ambitious plans to build 20,000 more social housing properties during the current Senedd term. It is anticipated that changes to allocations guidance may further strengthen the links between homelessness and social housing as a mechanism for prevention and relief of homelessness.</p>
1.06	<p>Priority Need – Rough Sleepers</p> <p>In December 2022 amendments to legislation on “Priority Need”, which is a significant part of the HWA 2014. Whether or not a person or household has a qualifying priority need affects the duties the local authority will have in relation to that person or household. For the duty to provide homeless accommodation to apply, the local authority must have reason to believe the person or household has priority need. The main homelessness duties in section 75 of HWA 2014 apply only to applicants who have a priority need for accommodation.</p>

	<p>Welsh Government have now included rough sleeping into the established Priority Need categories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a pregnant woman; b) a person with whom a dependent child resides; c) someone vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap, physical disability, or other special reason; d) homeless as a result of an emergency such as flood, fire or other disaster; e) someone who is homeless as a result of domestic abuse; f) 16 and 17 year olds; g) 18-21 year olds who are at particular risk of sexual or financial exploitation; h) 18-21 year olds who are care leavers; i) ex-service men or women; j) a person who has a local connection with the area and is vulnerable as a result of being an ex-prisoner; k) a person who is street homeless (within the meaning of section 71(2)). <p>Welsh Government do not expect people to have to rough sleep for them to be assessed as fulfilling to Priority Need status. If the Council believes the person to be at risk of rough sleeping as they have no access to any safe accommodation, they will trigger the Priority Need for rough sleeping. More information about Priority need can be found within the Accessible Resources section.</p>
1.07	<p>Use of Homeless Accommodation</p> <p>Appendix 2 as referenced earlier in the report provides a breakdown of the types and the numbers of households currently accommodated as at 31/03//2023. Summary of the accommodation types used to house people who experience homelessness is detailed below:</p> <p><u>Council Properties</u> - Council owned homes currently being used at homeless accommodation.</p> <p><u>Private Sector Leased Properties</u> - Portfolio of properties secured on long term lease from local landlords</p> <p><u>Homeless Hub</u> - Kabins within the grounds of the Glanrafon Homeless Hub in Queensferry and three rooms within the main building</p> <p><u>Hotel Accommodation</u> - Hotels and B&Bs rooms across Flintshire and out of county</p> <p><u>Refuges</u> - Accommodation secured for people who have fled domestic abuse.</p> <p><u>Other</u> - Accommodation sourced through non-traditional means such as AirBnB and through caravan sites.</p>
1.08	<p>Improving the Homeless Accommodation Offer</p>

	<p>Within the Flintshire Housing Support Programme Strategy Priority 5 is “Reviewing and improving Flintshire’s housing offer”. This will focus on making the best use of social housing and increasing its supply, and also to review and improve the current homeless accommodation offer.</p> <p>In recent years the Council has purchased and refurbished a block of 6 flats in Connahs Quay (4 x 2 bed flats and 2 x bedsits at The Swan) and has also built a further 6 flats (2 x 1 bed in Duke Street, Flint and 4 x 1 bed in Park Lane, Holywell) which are due for completion May 2023. These properties are Housing Revenue Account Assets used as homeless accommodation and were part funded Grant Funding from Welsh Government.</p> <p>Further plans are in place to develop a purpose-built Homeless Hub as a replacement to the existing Glanrafon Homeless Hub which has temporary planning permission until 16th July 2026. A potential site has been identified for the next Homeless Hub and initial designs and feasibility work is underway, as are discussions with Welsh Government in regard to potential for grant funding for this development. Plans will be shared with local ward members in the coming weeks.</p>
1.09	<p>Challenging Housing Market Conditions</p> <p>The housing market nationally and locally is increasingly challenging. Housing Needs recorded on the Flintshire Housing Register (not just homelessness) are increasing and the availability of social housing is limited. Members received a report on the Common Housing Register which outlined the current pressures in February 2023. The private rented sector should be an option for people to consider but again demand is greater than supply and this drives up prices, meaning renting privately is not an easily accessible housing option for many residents within Flintshire.</p> <p><u>Difficult Private Rented Sector (PRS)</u></p> <p>The private rented sector is increasingly unaffordable for many low-income households. A recent report into the Housing Crisis in Wales identified that there were no private sector properties available for letting at the Local Housing Allowance rate in Flintshire in the month of February 2023 out of a total of 59 advertised on the open market. A link to the full report by the Bevan Foundation can be found in the Accessible Documents section.</p> <p>A report into the local PRS commissioned by the Council in late 2022, established that availability of Private Rentals is down approx. 50% in the last four years across Flintshire. There is anecdotal evidence that landlords are selling up and leaving the market and over time national data sets will support this (national data is captured through Rentsmart Wales). This is in part due to high property values of properties for sale. Some landlords have also referenced their perception that recent Welsh Government legislative changes are “pro-tenant” and “anti-landlord” with the introduction of Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 often referenced.</p> <p>Those landlords who remain in the market have an abundance of prospective contract holders (previously tenants) to choose from and many residents face significant barriers to securing a home. Whilst some of these are financial barriers as evidenced through the lack of affordable housing, some are also social barriers. More information about barriers to</p>

housing are noted later in this report. Many private landlords now request working guarantors or 6+ months rent in advance.

Social Housing Supply

There are significant shortages of social housing when it comes to the homeless cohort. Whilst any household can experience homelessness, a significant proportion of homeless household are single people of working age who require one bed homes (83.4% currently accommodated). There is very little affordable housing for single people available each year. A recent snapshot report of Council void properties identified only 10 general needs flats (not sheltered housing) out of a total of 269 void Council properties. It is clear there is a significant disconnect between homeless needs and social housing supply. When social housing is available delays on void works can have an impact on homeless prevention and the timely relief of homelessness.

Barriers to securing housing

Many clients have additional needs presenting additional complexities and barriers to helping people secure suitable housing:

- Young people with no independent living skills
- People with pets
- People with issues around substance misuse
- People with significant mental health issues
- People with complex physical disabilities
- People with criminal offending history including sexual offences
- People requiring accommodation in specific locations

With a lack of housing, and with many people experiencing significant barriers when seeking to secure housing, many more people are being trapped in homeless accommodation. Current housing market conditions mean there are minimal opportunities to move people on and to support them to exit homelessness.

The numbers of people and households becoming homeless is completely out of sync with the supply and availability of affordable housing that is required to prevent and relieve homelessness. This is a national housing crisis and not unique to Flintshire.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Detailed below are the cost implications associated with the delivery of Homelessness and Rough Sleeper activity in Flintshire:</p> <p>Revenue: Statutory Homeless Services are funded through Council Fund. Additional duties placed on Councils and the current demands on services and homeless accommodation results in additional expenditure and budget pressures. Whilst some grant is available for 2023-2024 for emergency housing and other discretionary funding for crisis interventions, this is not sufficient to cover the full scale of the financial risk.</p>

	<p>Capital: Creating a new Homeless Hub and additional social housing will require significant capital investment and has been flagged early within the Councils Capital Programme. The Flintshire Housing Prospectus has been approved by Council and shared with our Housing Partners and Social Housing Grant (SHG) supports ambitious plans to increase housing supply at scale and pace.</p> <p>Human Resources: The Homeless Team has seen a significant amount of turnover in staff over the last three years. Recruitment in the last six months has been positive but officers new to the role require significant training and development.</p>
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>The following risks and mitigations have been identified by way of control measures:</p> <p>Risk: Insufficient turnover and move on from homeless accommodation creates blockages within the system due to insufficient levels of affordable housing, creating significant financial pressures through the use of costly hotel accommodation.</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the 50% nominations process to support move on from homeless accommodation into social housing. • Continue to maximise discretionary homeless funding and spend to save budgets for support rent in advance and deposits to help people secure private rental accommodation • Build more social housing to increase the supply of affordable homes at scale and pace <p>Risk: Failure to recruit or retain enough people within statutory homeless services and in HSG funded services to fulfil the aspirations outlined in the Housing Support Programme Strategy.</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise communications and engagement opportunities for all recruitment activities • Ensure packages of training and development opportunities to attract, develop and retain a high skilled workforce. • Ensure officers internally and through commissioned services are paid a good wage and feel valued for the services they deliver. <p>Risk: Failure to utilise all available grants including “no one left out”, Discretionary Homeless Payment, and Housing Support Grant</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise and monitor spend against grant eligibility criteria • A robust delivery plan aligned to the Housing Support Programme and Needs Assessments

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prompt commissioning and varying of services as required to meet local needs within budget <p>Risk: Reduction in grants in future years because of budget cuts at Welsh Government</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal mitigations and this is part of services delivery being in receipt of grant funding Lobby Welsh Government on the importance of existing grants whilst we are managing a significant period of change and demand for homelessness services
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3.02	Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact	
	Long-term	Positive – Increase in targeted support and alternative delivery methods to ensure services are inclusive for all
	Prevention	Prevention - Preventing homelessness through ensuring there is adequate support and accommodation to cater for a range of people’s needs
	Integration	Positive – Increased integration between services and partner organisations
	Collaboration	Positive – Increased collaboration between services, partner organisations and service users
	Involvement	Positive – Service user involvement to help shape effective services so that support is timely, and person centred

3.03	Well-being Goals Impact	
	Prosperous Wales	Positive – With additional funding more jobs will be created to deliver housing related support on a greater scale within Flintshire. Opportunities to support the labour market through training and development opportunities are being considered in conjunction with colleagues from Communities for Work.
	Resilient Wales	Positive – Creating services that are prevention focused and build resilience to avoid households becoming homeless
	Healthier Wales	Positive – Reduction in rough sleeping, overcoming health inequalities associated with homelessness and poor housing

		conditions and investment to increase targeted support for people with housing issues and mental ill-health
	More equal Wales	Positive – Services are delivered in a way that are inclusive for all. Consideration has been given to local and regional gaps in provision for often marginalised communities such as the homeless, those with mental health or substances issues and the LGBTQ+ community.
	Cohesive Wales	No Impact
	Vibrant Wales	No impact
	Globally responsible Wales	No impact

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Consultation with Housing Associations and Local Authority partners, via the SARTH Steering Group, ensures there is a consistent approach being adopted across all three counties for social housing allocations and confirms ongoing commitment to the 50% Homeless Direct Let's approach.
4.02	Officers from the Housing & Prevention Service have attended a number of workshops and consultation events led by Welsh government in relation to recent changes in housing and homelessness legislation.
4.03	Feedback from residents who access our services is important so we can learn from issues of poor performance and celebrate successes. During the delivery of this report 2 case studies will be shared from 2 residents who have accessed Homeless Services in Flintshire and these experiences will be presented on Video.
4.04	Service user feedback is not currently captured on a routine basis; however plans are in place for 2023-2024 onwards to gather feedback from people accessing our services to enable service improvement and action planning activities.
4.05	The report was presented to the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 19 th April, 2023.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: SARTH Lettings Data including Homeless Direct Lets 2019-2023

5.02	Appendix 2: Homeless Presentation Data for 2022-2023 (year end data still to be validated)
5.03	Appendix 3: Homeless Households Accommodated at 31.03.2023

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness – Policy Statement Ending Homelessness in Wales; A High Level Action Plan Helping You Understand Housing Wales Act 2014 Part 2 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023-2024 Flintshire’s HSP Strategy 2022-2026 Priority Need Categories – Shelter Cymru Website Wales Housing Crisis Winter 2023 – Bevan Foundation StreetLink Website

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Martin Cooil, Housing & Prevention Service Manager Telephone: 07880 423234 E-mail: martin.cooil@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	Rough Sleeper A person who is homeless and who sleeps without adequate shelter, typically on the streets of a town or city. Includes people living in sheds, outbuildings etc.
8.02	Housing Support Grant (HSG) This is an early intervention housing related support programme targeted at people in housing need and at increased risk of homelessness. The HSG programme brings the historic funding streams for Supporting People, Homelessness Prevention and Rent Smart Wales grants into 1 single funding stream.
8.03	Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) A Single Access Route to Housing, operates in Flintshire and ensures that people are offered a wide range of housing options. Those people with a

	clearly evidenced housing need, will be accepted onto Flintshire's Common Housing Register.
8.05	<p>Rapid Rehousing</p> <p>Rapid rehousing is an approach for people whose first and most important need is to access housing; with a lack of it often the main reason why they are homeless. Rapid rehousing helps people settle quickly back with family or friends, into private rented, social housing or other affordable and safe long-term housing options.</p>
8.05	<p>Priority Need</p> <p>Categories of people who are protected the most when assisting people under the Housing Wales Act 2014 homeless legislation. Those in Priority Need are owed accommodation duties and when homelessness is not prevented or relieved within 56 days, they will be owed full homeless duties.</p>
8.06	<p>Housing Support Programme Strategy</p> <p>The Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy incorporates the reviewed and updated 2018-2022 Homelessness Strategy produced as of part the local authority's statutory duty under Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the strategic plans for use of the Housing Support Grant.</p>
8.07	<p>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)</p> <p>ACE's are stressful experiences occurring during childhood that directly harm a child (e.g. sexual or physical abuse) or affect the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house with domestic violence).</p>
8.08	<p>Housing Wales Act 2014</p> <p>The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (HWA 2014) received Royal Assent on 17 September 2014. Part 2 of the Act provides legislation on homelessness. It replaced Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 and reforms existing homelessness law in Wales by placing new or wider duties on local housing authorities.</p>
8.09	<p>Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016</p> <p>The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 is new legislation that came in 2st December 2022 and aims to simplify the process of renting a home in Wales and to provide parties with more information about their rights and responsibilities.</p>

Appendix 1

Social Housing Lettings for All Housing Partners by letting type

Allocations by Landlord and Category of Offer (Flintshire Register)

Tenancies Started Between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2020

By Category Offer Code	Landlord	Number	Percentage
SARTH Banding Offer	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	79	10.62%
	Flintshire CC	497	66.80%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	28	3.76%
	Wales And West Housing Association	67	9.01%
	Total	671	90.19%
SARTH Management Offer	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	10	1.34%
	Flintshire CC	48	6.45%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	2	0.27%
	Wales And West Housing Association	13	1.75%
	Total	73	9.81%
Total		744	

Allocations by Landlord and Category of Offer (Flintshire Register)

Tenancies Started Between 01/04/2020 and 31/03/2021

By Category Offer Code	Landlord	Number	Percentage
SARTH Banding Offer	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	72	11.08%
	Flintshire CC	381	58.62%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	3	0.46%
	Wales And West Housing Association	34	5.23%
	Total	490	75.38%
SARTH Management Offer	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	28	4.31%
	Flintshire CC	71	10.92%
	Wales And West Housing Association	13	2.00%
	Total	112	17.23%
SARTH Homeless Direct Let	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	11	1.69%
	Flintshire CC	22	3.38%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	1	0.15%
	Wales And West Housing Association	14	2.15%
	Total	48	7.38%
Total		650	

Allocations by Landlord and Category of Offer (Flintshire Register)

Tenancies Started Between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2022

By Category Offer Code	Landlord	Number	Percentage
SARTH Banding Offer	Adra	2	0.32%
	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	62	9.92%
	Flintshire CC	333	53.28%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	7	1.12%
	Wales And West Housing Association	61	9.76%
	Total		465
SARTH Management Offer	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	24	3.84%
	Flintshire CC	54	8.64%
	Wales And West Housing Association	17	2.72%
	Total		95
SARTH Homeless Direct Let	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	15	2.40%
	Flintshire CC	39	6.24%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	1	0.16%
	Wales And West Housing Association	10	1.60%
	Total		65
Total		625	

Allocations by Landlord and Category of Offer (Flintshire Register)

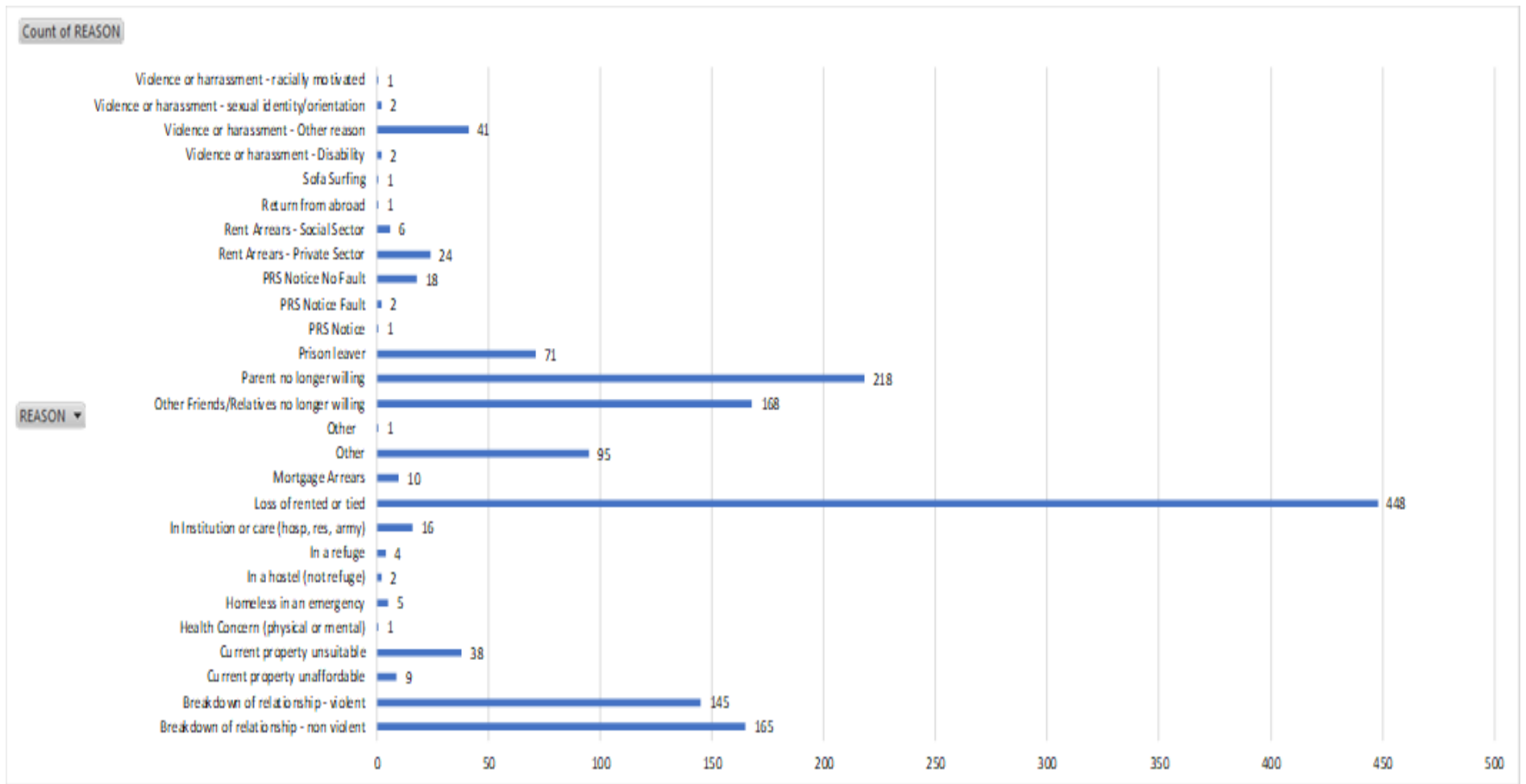
Tenancies Started Between 01/04/2022 and 31/12/2022

By Category Offer Code	Landlord	Number	Percentage
SARTH Banding Offer	Adra	4	1.00%
	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	23	5.74%
	Flintshire CC	198	49.38%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	3	0.75%
	Wales And West Housing Association	48	11.97%
	Total		276
SARTH Management Offer	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	5	1.25%
	Flintshire CC	27	6.73%
	Wales And West Housing Association	17	4.24%
	Total		49
SARTH Relationship Breakdown-Direct Let	Flintshire CC	3	0.75%
	Total		3
SARTH Homeless Direct Let	Clwyd Alyn Housing Association	10	2.49%
	Flintshire CC	53	13.22%
	Grwp Cynefin Housing Association	1	0.25%
	Wales And West Housing Association	8	2.00%
	Total		72
SARTH Hard To Let Property (Direct Let)	Flintshire CC	1	0.25%
	Total		1
Total		401	

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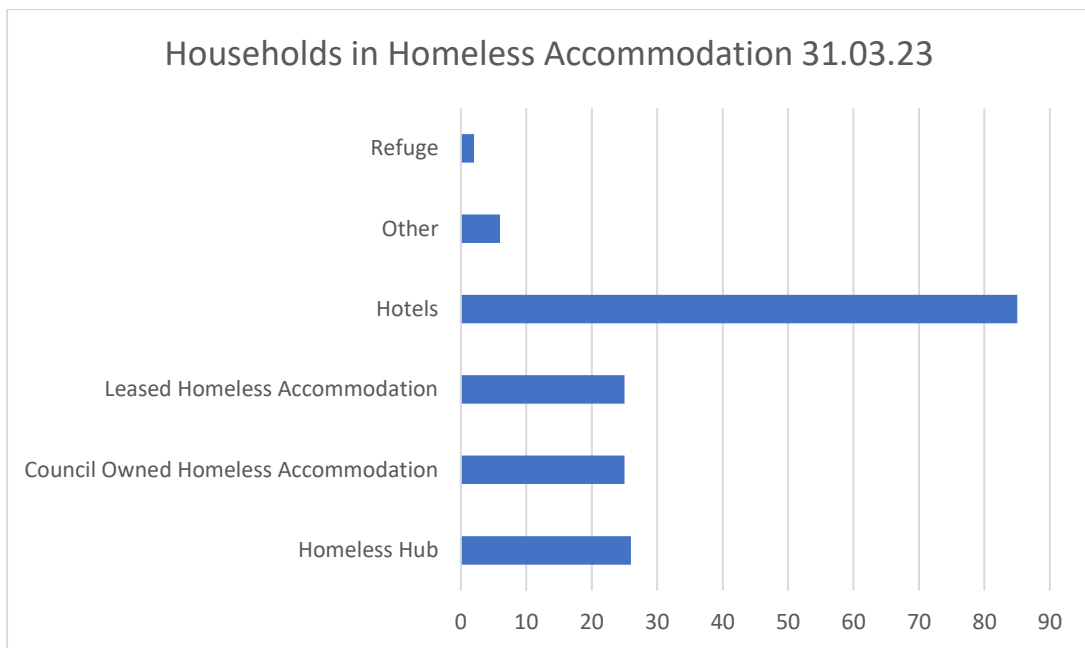
Reasons for Homeless Presentation 2022/2023

Row Labels	Count of REASON
Breakdown of relationship - non violent	165
Breakdown of relationship - violent	145
Current property unaffordable	9
Current property unsuitable	38
Health Concern (physical or mental)	1
Homeless in an emergency	5
In a hostel (not refuge)	2
In a refuge	4
In Institution or care (hosp, res, army)	16
Loss of rented or tied	448
Mortgage Arrears	10
Other	95
Other	1
Other Friends/Relatives no longer willing	168
Parent no longer willing	218
Prison leaver	71
PRS Notice	1
PRS Notice Fault	2
PRS Notice No Fault	18
Rent Arrears - Private Sector	24
Rent Arrears - Social Sector	6
Return from abroad	1
Sofa Surfing	1
Violence or harassment - Disability	2
Violence or harassment - Other reason	41
Violence or harassment - sexual identity/orientation	2
Violence or harassment - racially motivated	1
Grand Total	1495



APPENDIX 2: Homeless Households Accommodated as at 31.03.23

Forms of Emergency Housing	Households	Singles	Couples	Families
Homeless Hub	26	26	0	0
Council Owned Homeless Accommodation	25	17	2	6
Leased Homeless Accommodation	25	25	0	0
Hotels	85	70	5	10
Other	6	2	0	4
Refuge	2	1	0	1
TOTAL	169	141	7	21



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EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN REPORTED TO CABINET – 25.04.23

Streetscene and Transportation

- **A5119 Northop Road, Maes Hyfryd, Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue and Fifth Avenue, Flint. Proposed Prohibition of Waiting and Waiting at any Time Restrictions**
To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Waiting and Waiting at any Time on the roads listed above.
- **The Flintshire County Council (Kiln Lane, Hope) (Prohibition of Driving) (Except for Access) Order 2023**
To advise Members of the objection received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Driving – Except for Access on Kiln Lane, Hope.
- **Ffordd Yr Ysgol, Deansbury Close, Shaftsbury Drive and Windsor Drive, Flint. Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order**
To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order on the roads listed above.
- **Proposal to Implement no Stopping on School Keep Clear Carriageway Markings at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Flint High School, Flint**
To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the proposed School Keep Clear markings on Maes Hyfryd, Flint.
- **The Flintshire County Council – Ffordd Llewelyn, Flint. Proposed Prohibition of Waiting**
To advise Members of the unresolved matter received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time on the roads listed above.

Revenues

- **Business Rate Write Offs**
Financial Procedure Rules requires the Corporate Finance Manager and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources to write off debts between £10k and £25k.

Two outstanding Business Rates debts totalling £34,762 are considered irrecoverable and write offs are necessary.

Governance

- **Review of Non-statutory Registration Fees**
The Council manages the Registration Service which has several statutory functions including the registration of births, deaths, civil marriages and civil partnerships. The service is based at Llwynegrin Hall, Mold and has custody of archived records from which copy certificates are issued. The service also licences venues for civil ceremonies across the County and conducts a variety of non-statutory celebratory services.

The fees relating to statutory services are prescribed by statute and cannot exceed the cost of providing the service. However, the Council has scope to set fees for non-statutory services.

The nature of the Registration Service means some services such as marriage are booked up to 24 months in advance and consequently non-statutory fees need to be set in advance to allow couples to plan. A fundamental review of fees was undertaken when the Council introduced its “Fees and Charges Cost Recovery Template” and new fees were implemented on 1st April 2021, for three years.

Each year the fees are reviewed to ensure the service always publishes a three year set of fees. This report seeks approval to set the fees for 2025-26 to ensure the Registration Service continues to publish three years fees.

Social Services

- **Social Care Case Management System**

The contract for the existing Social Care Case Management System is due to end on 31st March 2025 and therefore procurement of a Social Care Case Management System is required.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are retained by the Team Leader – Committee Services and available to view on request by Members.

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY
1 April 2023 TO 30 September 2023**

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
April					
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Housing regeneration grants and loans policy to ask the Scrutiny Committee to review the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy and to recommend approval to Cabinet.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/04/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2023-28 Development (E&E OSC) To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

Page 383

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	18/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC) 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.</p>	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>North Wales Energy Strategy & Action Plan and Local Area Energy Plan Adoption of Regional Energy Strategy & Action Plan and support for development of Local Area Energy Plans</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Disrepair Update To provide an update on work ongoing to deal with disrepairs.</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)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Housing and Communities	Homelessness Update including Rough Sleepers To provide an update on the work ongoing to mitigate Homelessness and support provided to rough sleepers.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Housing and Communities	Void Management To provide a further update on voids management and delivery.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/04/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2023-28 Development (C&H OSC) To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	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	20/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Action Tracking To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	Community Foundation in Wales Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022 To share the Flintshire Funds Impact Report 2022 which has been produced by the Community Foundation in Wales (CFIW).	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	NEWydd Business Plan 2023/24 To present the NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd Business Plan 2023/24 for endorsement.	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)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2023-28 To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	Employment and Workforce End of Year Update To present end of year workforce statistics and their analysis.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	Delivering public services in the 21st Century - an overview To explore the benefits and limitations of outsourcing and/or creating shared services as a means to deliver Council services - as requested at the July meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	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)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	2022/23 In-Year Budget Management – Budget Monitoring Report Month 11 To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 (Month 11) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 388	20/04/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking 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	
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Social Services	Social Services Annual Report For Members to view the draft Annual Social Services Report and feedback on the draft content considered for inclusion, which include the key developments of the past year and our priorities for next year.	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)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Social Services	Audit Wales Direct Payments for Adult Social Care To provide Members with assurance that the recommendations of the Audit Wales report have been taken into account in Flintshire.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/04/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2023-28 To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 draft content for review/feedback prior to sign off at Cabinet.	Strategic	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Cabinet	25/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy To review and approve the draft refreshed Housing Regeneration Grants and Loans Policy.	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	25/04/23	Chief Executive's	Delivering public services in the 21st century, an overview To explore the benefits and limitations of outsourcing and/or creating shared services as a means to deliver Council services.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	25/04/23	Chief Executive's	NEWydd Business Plan 2023/24 To present the NEWydd Catering & Cleaning Ltd Business Plan 2023/24 for endorsement.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	25/04/23	Chief Executive's	Theatr Clwyd Business Plan To present the Theatr Clwyd Business Plan for 2023-2029 for endorsement.	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)
Cabinet	25/04/23	Education and Youth	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) This provide a progress update on local implementation of UPFSM.	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Cabinet	25/04/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2023-28 Development To share the Council Plan 2023-28 Part 1 and Part 2 content for review and sign off.	Strategic	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Cabinet	25/04/23	Streetscene and Transportation	Parking Outside Schools and Enforcement To review parking outside schools and advise Members of the current position.	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)
Cabinet	25/04/23	Internal Audit	<p>Corporate Self-Assessment 2021/22 To report on the findings and improvement plan following the completion of the Corporate Self-Assessment 2021/22.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	25/04/23	Chief Executive's	<p>2022/23 In-Year Budget Management – Budget Monitoring Report Month 11 To update on the latest revenue monitoring position for 2022/23 and claims received from the Corporate Hardship Fund</p>	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	25/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Planning for Dark Night Skies SPG To formally adopt a Supplementary Planning Guidance Note on Planning for Dark Night Skies relating to lighting in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), following earlier adoption by Wrexham and Denbighshire.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Cabinet	25/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>HyNet Carbon Capture Project; The Council's Local Impact Report for the proposed cross country Carbon Dioxide Pipeline To endorse the draft Local Impact Report and delegate any further versions/addendums that may be required during the examination process of the Carbon Dioxide Pipeline.</p>	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)
Cabinet	25/04/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	North Wales Energy Strategy & Action Plan and Local Area Energy Plan To approve adoption of the Regional Energy Strategy & Action Plan and support for development of Local Area Energy Plans.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
May					
Flintshire County Council Page 394	4/05/23	Governance	Constitutional Issues including Committees To approve the constitutional arrangements for the Council for the forthcoming year		
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&C OSC) 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	

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	11/05/23	Education and Youth	<p>Attendance & Exclusions To provide Members with an overview of school attendance and exclusions and the role of the Portfolio's support services in this area.</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/05/23	Education and Youth	<p>Supporting Service Children in Education To provide an update report to outline the priority actions of schools following the audit.</p>	Operational	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/05/23	Education and Youth	<p>Tackling Inequality To outline how the Council supporting early childhood education and care, primary and secondary education and all forms of post-16 education, training and lifelong learning to ensure an equitable education system for all.</p>	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)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC)</p> <p>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.</p>	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/05/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Town Centre Regeneration Loans</p> <p>To provide an update on the Welsh Government Town Centre Loan funding available for the Council to administer as part of Flintshire's town centre regeneration programme</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/05/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)</p> <p>To renew the PSPO's as legally they have to be reviewed every three years</p>	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)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/05/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Void Management To provide a further update on voids management and delivery.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/05/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Poverty To provide information on work being undertaken to mitigate the impacts of Poverty, specifically around food poverty.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17/05/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site To report to the Committee on a Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site in the County.</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)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (CROSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	18/05/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Action Tracking (CROSC) To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Cabinet	23/05/23	Governance	Flintshire Connects Annual Report 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
Cabinet	23/05/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Town Centre Regeneration Loans To provide an update on the Welsh Government Town Centre Loan funding available for the Council to administer as part of Flintshire's town centre regeneration programme	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	23/05/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Draft Statement of Licensing Policy Review To seek approval for the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2023 – 2026	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Cabinet	23/05/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Adoption of Skin Piercing Byelaws To recommend the adoption of byelaws in relation to skin piercing. These are in accordance with provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Part VIII, sections 14 and 17.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Page 399 June					
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&HC OSC) 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	8/06/23	Social Services	North East Wales Community Equipment Service (NEWCES) To receive a progress report on the service.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/06/23	Social Services	Disabled Facilities Grants and Occupational Therapy To receive an update.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/06/23	Social Services	Social Services Annual Report For Members to view the draft Annual Social Services Report and feedback on the draft content considered for inclusion, which include the key developments of the past year and our priorities for next year.	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)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC) 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	
Page 401 Governance and Audit Committee	14/06/23	Education and Youth	Estyn Inspection of Adult Community Learning (ACL) within the North East Wales Adult Community Learning Partnership 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
Governance and Audit Committee	14/06/23	Governance	Annual Audit Summary for Flintshire County Council To receive the Annual Audit Summary from the Auditor General for Wales and note the Council's response.	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	14/06/23	Chief Executive's	Audit Wales 2023 Audit Plan To review the Audit Wales - Audit Plan 2023 for the Council which sets out the proposed audit work for the year along with timescales, costs and the audit teams responsible for carrying out the work.	Operational	
Page 402 Governance and Audit Committee	14/06/23	Governance	Risk Management Update To be assured that the updated risk management framework is comprehensive and functional.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	14/06/23	Governance	Internal Audit Charter To outline to Members the updated Internal Audit Charter.	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/06/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Void Management</p> <p>To provide a further update on voids management and delivery.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/06/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Communal Heating Charges 2023/24</p> <p>To consider the proposed heating charges in council properties with communal heating systems for 2023/24 prior to Cabinet approval.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Action Tracking (CROSC)</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	15/06/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (CROSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Cabinet	20/06/23	Social Services	Maes Gwern To provide 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
Flintshire County Council	20/06/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Draft Statement of Gambling Policy Review To seek Flintshire County Council approval for the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2023 – 2026		
July					

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	11/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC) 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.</p>	Operational	
Environment & Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee Page 9 of 405	11/07/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>FCC Social Enterprise Update Report To provide an update of social enterprise activity, achievements and future priorities</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 Page 406	11/07/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2022-23 Year-End Performance (E&E OSC) 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 Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing 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 Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Housing and Communities	Estate Management To consider Estate Management and work being undertaken by the Council and the impact this has on tenants.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Housing and Communities	Anti-Social Behaviour To update Members on the Policy and to outline any proposed changes to the Policy.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Housing and Communities	Welfare Reform Update /Housing Rent Income To provide an update on the impacts of welfare reforms and the work that is ongoing to mitigate them.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Housing and Communities	Council Plan 2022-23 Year-End Performance (C&H OSC) 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

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Housing and Communities	Temporary Accommodation Audit Update 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
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/07/23	Housing and Communities	Void Management To provide a further update on voids management and delivery.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Action Tracking (CROSC) To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme (CROSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	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	13/07/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2022-23 Year-End Performance (CROSC) 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
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&C OSC) 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	13/07/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2022-23 Year-End Performance (EY&C OSC) 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

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	18/07/23	Governance	Annual Performance Report To review the Annual Performance Report for 2022/23	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	18/07/23	Social Services	Annual Social Services Report Cabinet to view the draft Annual Social Services Report and feedback on the draft content considered for inclusion, which include the key developments of the past year and our priorities for next year.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	20/07/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&HC OSC) 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	20/07/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2022-23 Year-End Performance (S&HC OSC) To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
August					
September					

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