

# Public Document Pack

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To: Cllr Alasdair Ibbotson (Chair)

Councillors: Gillian Brockley, Steve Copple, Mared Eastwood, Chrissy Gee,  
Ian Hodge, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Carolyn Preece, Dan Rose,  
Jason Shallcross and Sam Swash

Dear Sir/Madam

16 November 2022

**NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2022 at 2.00 PM**

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum  
Democratic Services Manager

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. The live streaming will stop when any confidential items are considered. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

## A G E N D A

### 1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

**Purpose:** To appoint a Vice-Chair for the Committee.

### 2 APOLOGIES

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

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

### 4 TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 3 - 6)

**Purpose:** To note the Terms of Reference for the Committee as approved by Council.

### 5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

**Purpose:** To set the Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

### 6 MOTION FOR PENSION FUND INQUIRY (Pages 7 - 8)

**Purpose:** To receive a Motion for the Clwyd Pension Fund and D-investment.

### 7 FUTURE MEETINGS

**Purpose:** Future meetings of the Climate Change Committee will take place at 2.00 pm on:

Wednesday 25 January 2023

Tuesday 28 March 2023

Tuesday 23 May 2023

Tuesday 18 July 2023

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

## **9.16 THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE**

### **Composition**

#### **9.16.1 Membership**

The Climate Change Committee is composed of 12 Members.

The Climate Change Committee is subject to the rules of political balance in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

#### **9.16.2 Term of Office**

It is important that members of the Committee are able to build up expertise.

#### **9.16.3 Quorum**

A meeting of the Climate Change Committee shall only be quorate when at least one third of the committee's members are attending the meeting

#### **9.16.4 Chairing the Committee**

9.16.4.1 The Full Council will appoint the Chair of the Climate Change Committee at the Annual Meeting. The Climate Change Committee will elect its own vice chair.

9.16.4.2 The Chair and Vice Chair will serve from the first meeting after the Annual Meeting of Council (or the first meeting at which they were elected if later) until the end of the municipal year or until the member ceases to be a member of the committee or ceases to be a councillor (for whatever reason).

#### **9.16.5 Role and Function**

9.16.5.1 The primary objectives of the Climate Change Committee are to:

9.16.5.2 assist and advise the Council on how to become a net zero carbon emitter by December 2030;

9.16.5.3 consult with, and raise awareness amongst, the public, business and suppliers on steps that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions;

9.16.5.4 It will have the following roles and functions to help the Council achieve those objectives:

9.16.5.5 To gather information on and model annual Council greenhouse gas emissions;

- 9.16.5.6 To consider the economic, environmental and social challenges/risks arising from climate change for businesses, residents, suppliers and the Council;
- 9.16.5.7 Reviewing, leading on and commenting on the Council Plan's Green Theme priorities and complementary priorities within other themes of the Council Plan;
- 9.16.5.8 To continue to develop, for approval by the Cabinet, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan with the aim of reducing the Council's net greenhouse gas emissions, the implementation of which it will continue to oversee;
- 9.16.5.9 To promote and support the use of renewable energy opportunities across the Council's estate and wider communities;
- 9.16.5.10 To support and promote Welsh Government's strategy to create a sustainable, circular economy in Flintshire;
- 9.16.5.11 To encourage local businesses in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient.
- 9.16.5.12 To advise the Cabinet on:
  - 9.16.5.13 steps it can take to limit the impact of the Council's services on the natural environment and supporting the wider communities of Flintshire to reduce their own carbon footprint;
  - 9.16.5.14 the use, good management and protection of the Council's green spaces to deliver multiple benefits to the environment and its residents and visitors;
  - 9.16.5.15 how to reduce the environmental impact of the Council's fleet by maximising the use of sustainable forms of transport;
  - 9.16.5.16 how to ensure that the Councils retained housing stock meets the Welsh Housing Quality Standard Developing plans for the de-carbonisation of council homes;
  - 9.16.5.17 how to ensure that the Council's non-residential buildings and land supports and contributes to the Councils net zero carbon agenda and supports the aims and objectives within the Councils Climate Change Strategy
- 9.16.5.18 To review and make recommendations on procurement policy and practice to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our suppliers;

- 9.16.5.19 To recommend to Council a policy for sustainable and long term energy usage in its capital projects;
- 9.16.5.20 To advise any other Committee on matters within the remit which might (word missing - affect?) achievement of the aims within the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

**9.16.6 Scope and Resources**

- 9.16.6.1 The Climate Change Committee cannot make decisions which affect the Council's Budget or Policy Framework, but it may make recommendations to Cabinet for investment as part of the cycle for preparing the Medium Term Financial Strategy and/or Capital Programme

**9.16.7 Work Programme**

The Committee will prepare a forward work programme which will be reviewed and approved at each Committee meeting.

**9.16.8 Rules of Procedure and Debate**

- 9.16.8.1 The Council Procedure Rules at Section 4.10 of the Model Welsh Constitution will apply to the meetings of the Climate Change Committee Members.

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## Clwyd Pension Fund & Divestment

### 1 - Outline

1.01 Flintshire County Council's pension scheme is the Clwyd Pension Fund. While the fund is run by FCC, and the pension committee hosted by FCC, this is done on behalf of all member authorities and Flintshire has no more or less a formal role in decision making regarding the fund.

1.02 Within Flintshire's structures, the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee holds responsibility for scrutinising the council's role as an employer in the fund. Not being an overview and scrutiny committee, the climate committee does not have specific scrutiny responsibilities, but can under the committee's terms of reference undertake any work of relevance to its objectives of reducing the council's direct and indirect carbon footprint.

1.03 Pension funds are major institutional investors and hold significant shares in fossil fuel extraction and trading companies. The Clwyd fund is no exception to this. Varying estimates have been produced, including a detailed list from Friends of the Earth of Clwyd's fossil fuel investments. Representatives of the pension fund have disputed this list.

1.04 According to the fund's strategy, it has an "ambitious" target to be carbon neutral by 2045. Flintshire's target is to achieve net zero by 2030. Other local government pension funds have earlier targets than Clwyd.

### 2 - Purpose of Inquiry

2.01 The committee will hold an inquiry with the objective of providing a detailed report setting out the considerations the council as an employer feels that the fund should make in setting its investment strategy insofar as fossil fuel investments are concerned.

2.02 The committee's report will take into account recommendations from various interested parties, and will propose a course of action consistent with the fund's fiduciary duty.

### 3 - Form of inquiry

3.01 The inquiry will take written evidence from any person or organisation who wishes to give it. The inquiry will actively seek written evidence from particular sources set out in Appendix 1. Requests for written evidence shall be issued in the name of the chair of the committee on behalf of the committee.

3.02 The inquiry will take oral evidence from persons or organisations invited to take part. The decision as to which persons or organisations are invited will rest with the chair, vice chair and rapporteur, on the advice of committee members. At a minimum, a representative of the Clwyd Pension Fund will be invited to give oral evidence. Requests for oral evidence shall be issued in the name of the chair of the committee on behalf of the committee.

3.03 Oral evidence sessions will be held in person except where the chair, vice chair and rapporteur direct otherwise. They will not be formal meetings of the committee and will not have any decision making role. As such, standing orders will not apply, however these sessions shall be chaired in a manner consistent with the spirit of standing orders.

3.04 In view of the relevance of this inquiry to their work, an invitation to observe oral evidence sessions and contribute to the drafting of the report will be extended to members of the corporate resources overview and scrutiny committee, and to all members of the Clwyd Pension Fund Committee, including those members not from Flintshire.

3.05 The rapporteur, chair and vice chair shall be responsible for co-ordinating the drafting of the committee's report. The rapporteur shall be responsible for drafting it. All committee members are encouraged to participate in the drafting of the report.

3.06 The report will be proposed for adoption at the March meeting of the Climate Committee. The report will contain recommendations for action, and the motion accompanying the report will detail the steps to be taken in relation to conveying these.

#### 4 - Formal recommendations

4.01 That the committee commissions an inquiry into the climate performance and targets of the Clwyd Pension Fund.

4.02 That this inquiry shall take written and oral evidence as set out in section 3.

4.03 That the inquiry will report back to the committee at the March meeting.

4.04 That the committee appoint a rapporteur, who shall not be the chair or vice chair, to draft the report on behalf of the committee. If the chair and vice chair are from the same political group, the rapporteur shall not be from that political group.

Appendix 1 - List of persons and organisations from whom written evidence shall be actively sought

- Clwyd Pension Fund management
- Clwyd Pension Fund committee members
- The Chair of Corporate Resources Committee
- Members of Clwyd Pension Fund
- Fossil fuel extracting or trading companies in which the fund holds investments
- Third sector organisations with campaigns on pension fund fossil fuel divestment, including Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace
- Any other person who the rapporteur shall direct.