

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

Date Not Specified

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2023 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 **APOLOGIES**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 12)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2022.

4 **CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS**

Purpose: To receive an update from the Programme Manager - Climate Change & Carbon Reduction.

5 **MOTION CARBON FOOTPRINT OF HOMEWORKING** (Pages 13 - 14)

Purpose: To receive a Motion on the Carbon Footprint of Homeworking.

6 **MOTION PRINT FREE COUNCIL** (Pages 15 - 16)

Purpose: To receive a Motion on Print free Council

7 **MOTION COLUMBARIA IN FLINTSHIRE MANAGED CEMETERIES - ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BEREAVEMENT SERVICES** (Pages 17 - 18)

Purpose: To receive a Motion on Columbaria in Flintshire managed cemeteries – Environmentally friendly bereavement services

8 **MOTION FLOOD RESILIENCE ADAPTATION** (Pages 19 - 20)

Purpose: To receive a Motion on Flood Resilience Adaptation.

9 **MOTION CLWYD PENSION FUND DIVESTMENT - 1** (Pages 21 - 22)

Purpose: To receive a Motion on Clwyd Pension Fund Divestment – 1.

10 **AREAS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME REVIEW**

Purpose: To agree on areas for review within the Climate Change Programme.

11 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 23 - 24)

Purpose: To consider the Forward Work Programme and inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.

12 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

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

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CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE **22 NOVEMBER 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a remote meeting on Tuesday 22 November 2022.

PRESENT: Councillor Alasdair Ibbotson (Chairman)

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy,
Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy), Programme Manager - Climate Change and Carbon Reduction,
Democratic Services Manager, Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed all Members of the Committee and officers to the meeting and made the following statement: -

With climate change so far up the political agenda now to warrant a Committee being formed was testament to the efforts of everyone who had battled to get this issue on the future of humanity taken seriously. From school children, scientists, global campaign groups and individual climate activists whose commitment and sacrifices had got us to the point where we had a fighting chance to beat the greatest threat we faced. Around the world the impacts of climate change were being felt from wildfires in California to flooding in Pakistan, as islands in the pacific drown and forests in the arctic circle burn, while droughts cripple entire nations and extreme weather destroys homes. We will never know which person was the first climate change death in Flintshire, but we can say with certainty that that sad milestone had already been passed.

The work of this committee was twofold, firstly prevention, with Flintshire having a large carbon footprint with steps not being taken fast enough to reduce it, for various reasons which undoubtedly came down to funding. Laudable Welsh Government (WG) goals for public sector decarbonisation by 2030 must come with a financial package which enabled the necessary steps to be undertaken. However, we must not shy away from looking long and hard at the Council's own failures. Secondly if the world's carbon emissions were to stop tomorrow the impacts of climate change would continue to be felt for at least a generation. More extreme weather, more flooding, more serious fires and sadly more loss of life, in our county even in the best-case scenario. With science prevention this committee must maintain an interest in adapting in whatever way we could towards the causes of climate change, protecting residents as much as possible but in the full knowledge that no steps we take would come close to mitigating the full effects.

The Chair then asked for a minute silence in memory of those Flintshire victims of climate change. He asked for quiet reflection of all those in Flintshire, Wales, the UK and around the world who had acted at any level to defend our planet and who too often faced violence, imprisonment or murder while doing so. Their bravery and selflessness inspired us.

1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair sought nominations from Members of the committee for the role of Vice Chair. Councillor Mared Eastwood nominated Councillor Allan Marshall, and this was seconded by Councillor Ian Hodge. Upon putting to the vote this was carried.

Councillor Allan Marshall thanked Members for the nomination and the appointment, and said he hoped to combine the Chair's youth and enthusiasm with his enthusiasm and experience to make a good team.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Allan Marshall be appointed as Vice Chair for the Committee.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

In response to a question from the Chair on agenda item 6, the Chief Officer (Governance) advised that this related to the setting up of terms of reference for the de-investment from carbon industries by the Pension Fund. He said the focus was on the Inquiry rather than the issues, but Members may feel that they wanted to declare a personal interest, if they felt it necessary.

Councillor Steve Cople declared a personal interest as a previous employee of Shell who he continued to receive a pension contribution from.

Councillor Dan Rose declared a personal interest as a member of several environmental charities as noted on his register of interests.

Councillor Ian Hodge declared a personal interest as a previous employee of BP who he continued to receive a pension contribution from.

Councillors Mared Eastwood, Dave Healey, Alan Marshall and Carolyn Preece declared a personal interest as members of the Clwyd Pension Fund.

Councillor Roz Mansell declared a personal interest as she received a pension through the NHS.

RESOLVED:

That the declarations of interest be noted

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair introduced the Terms of Reference for the Committee which had been circulated to Members and had been previously approved by Council.

Councillor Steve Cople referred to the production of emission models and asked how this would be approached. In response, the Programme Manager - Climate Change and Carbon Reduction confirmed that the models had been developed by Officers and would be overseen by the Committee.

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that the terms of reference of the Committee were intentionally broad to enable the Committee to address all areas within the Council where a carbon footprint was generated because of the Council's activities. This would enable steps to be taken within the carbon reduction plan with the role of Officers to advise and provide Members with a policy steer. There was a very small team supporting this with wide ranging work within their time and resources. The Committee's principal role was advisory, and he explained how this would work to ensure issues were properly addressed.

The Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) commented that the production of emission models was a good example of ongoing work which could be brought to the earlier meetings of the Committee. This would highlight what had been achieved so far, what the footprint looked like and where the greatest values and impacts came from in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. He confirmed that literacy training would be provided to enable a better understanding of what had been achieved so far and the impacts on the Council's carbon footprint. The commitment that the Council had made was for the Council to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy said how pleased he had been to see the development of this Committee to consider such important issues. The Council was on track to build the first carbon neutral care home and school and was phasing in EV charging points in public car parks. There was concern regarding the 62 % emissions from the supply chain and work was ongoing with the social care sector regarding decarbonisation. The cost implications for decarbonisation were being considered together with the financial implications.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference be noted.

4. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair confirmed that the Forward Work Programme was not set in stone and enabled items and suggestions to be considered for inclusion which would help formulate the programme moving forward.

The following items were suggested by Members of the Committee: -

Councillor Dan Rose

- Solar Panels on Council Owned Car Parks - and review of SV types
- Review of alternative energy generation opportunities. There is a vast array of wind options coming up which could be used on public buildings and within areas where full wind turbines would not be appropriate (e.g. AONB)
- Planning Changes to include requirements for All Passive house standards (inc. elect charging points)
- Review of land use, new mapping system for FCC, can we protect 30% of land by 2030?
- School Recycling program review to look for improvements and extensions
- Possibility of Bioreactors being installed into schools or public buildings for FCC to utilise for grass cutting arisings of our meadows.
- Building's efficiencies - motion lights, pcs left on and overall heated space
- Print free council?
- Zero Email standards (carbon cost of storing emails) can we review the worst offenders
- Review of data storage, cloud facilities and digital providers efficiencies
- review of carbon of home working?
- Review of catering facilities - plant based treaty

Councillor Roz Mansell

- School food recycling in hospitals and Hotels. This could be investigated to help regenerate more electricity.
- More trees to be planted.
- All new homes to have solar panelling as this will prevent much needed land being covered with solar panelling which also need maintaining.
- Potholes can also be refilled using recyclable tarmac saving money and our climate, car tyres and preventing accidents. I will send all the information on this asap.

Councillor Steve Copple

- Progress within the programme so far. This would provide a solid basis for the Committee when prioritising items for the Forward Work Programme.

Councillor Carolyn Preece

- Procurement – the use of local trades and local products for carbon footprint
- Looking at making it mandatory that plan-based products are used at least one day a week where that is the only choice in schools

Councillor Dave Healey

- Reaching out to the wider Flintshire community with regard to Climate Change
- Exploring how Welsh Government can further assist Councils in achieving Net Zero.

Councillor Alastair Ibbotson – Chair

- Flood resilience – coastal erosion / sea level rises.
- Installation of electric charging points

Councillor Mared Eastwood

- The possibility of tidal energy and whether it was possible to get Grant Funding for it.
- Hydrogen utilisation
- The use of Hydrogen when considering the use/installation of electric charging points

Councillor Sam Swash

- Bereavement services – environmentally friendly options

Councillor Allan Marshall suggested that a working group be set up to discuss items on the Forward Work Programme and consider different ideas.

The Chair suggested that a review of the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy be included on the Agenda for the March 2023 meeting. Preparation could be undertaken for this at the January meeting.

It was suggested that the Programme Manager - Climate Change & Carbon Reduction liaised with the Chair and Vice-Chair following the meeting to discuss identifying dates for items suggested for inclusion on the Forward Work Programme. It was also agreed that a copy of the action sheet, to show all items suggested by Members of the Committee be circulated following the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the items suggested by Members of the Committee be noted; and
- (b) That the Programme Manager - Climate Change & Carbon Reduction liaise with the Chair and Vice-Chair following the meeting to discuss the Forward Work Programme.

5. MOTION FOR PENSION FUND INQUIRY

The Chair introduced the item and advised that he had met with the Chief Officer (Governance) prior to the meeting to discuss the proposed Motion. He said that following the advice of the Chief Officer, he was proposing to withdraw the Motion at this time to allow for the advice he received to be circulated to all Members of the Committee. Councillor Dan Rose, who had seconded the Motion supported the Chairman's suggested to its withdrawal.

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that the discussion with the Chairman has been around the role of Members and Officers which was for Officers to prepare reports to advise Members and it was not possible to delegate this function to Members. He explained the Programme Manager - Climate Change and Carbon Reduction and Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) would draft reports on the views that Members had put forward. If Members wanted to put forward views and actions on carbon neutrality either within the Council or Clwyd Pension Fund, then the Officers would draft a form of words for the Committee upon which comments could be made.

The Chairman informed the Committee that he would take questions around points of order on this item.

Councillor Ian Hodge asked, as the Clwyd Pension Fund was across a number of Council's in North Wales, were they aware of the fact that Flintshire were going to investigate or discuss the pension fund on their behalf. The Chair responded that this committee did not have decision making powers but could provide advice on procedural issues.

The Chief Officer (Governance) clarified that the Committee's role was to advise other Committees of the Council but that it could not dictate to other Councils or organisation in North-East Wales. This committee could set the council's stance and communicate this to its Members and ask them to communicate it at the Clwyd Pension Fund meetings.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy asked what the next steps would be in moving forward.

The Chair commented that the Chief Officer (Governance) has agreed to circulate his views and advice on this to Members which could be discussed at the next meeting.

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

In response to a question on the frequency of meetings, the Democratic Services Manager agreed to review the schedule of meetings based on the number of items planned for the Forward Work Programme. The Chief Officer (Planning Environment & Economy) suggested that once the proposed items had been included in the Forward Work Programme, the Committee would then be able to request further details and consider setting up a task and finish group to consider specific items in greater detail.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the future meeting dates.

Future meeting dates of the Climate Change Committee had been scheduled to take place at 2.00 pm on:

Wednesday 25 January 2023
Tuesday 28 March 2023
Tuesday 23 May 2023
Tuesday 18 July 2023

7. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 15.02 pm

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Chairman

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Carbon Footprint & Homeworking

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee Notes:

1. That Flintshire County Council, prior to covid, offered a range of flexible working options in a number of roles where this was feasible;
2. That as a result of restrictions imposed during the pandemic, a significant number of staff were required to work from home;
3. That as we have emerged from the pandemic, the council now has a greater number of staff working from home than was the case prior to the pandemic, and that this is reflected in our emissions data, in particular relating to employee transport, and
4. That the experience of staff working from home varies, with some more enthusiastic than others, and some more keen to work from home in the Summer than when energy bills are higher in Winter.

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee Believes:

1. That the issue of provision of flexible working options is complex and requires a significant number of factors to be fed into formulation of policy in this area;
2. That one of the factors that must be taken into consideration is the carbon impact of various proposed policy options;
3. That at present, the methodology the council uses, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance, reflects employee travel (and therefore working from home shows a reduction in carbon emissions as people don't drive to the office), but not energy use by staff working from home;
4. That while failing to account for this energy usage may be correct as part of determining the council's own emissions, the council has a wider responsibility to reduce actual emissions and not just those that are accounted for as the council's own;
5. That homeworking in Winter is likely to lead to higher emissions than office based working, while the reverse is likely to be the case in Summer, but that the council lacks firm evidence either way, and
6. That employee preference should remain a significant factor in determining homeworking policy.

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee Resolves:

1. To recommend that cabinet reviews the homeworking policy, establishing a coherent and climate-informed framework for the council;
2. To recommend to the cabinet that a study is commissioned in respect of total net emissions from homeworking, whether this takes the form of a survey of Flintshire staff or a review of comparable evidence from elsewhere in the UK if similar studies are already available;
3. To recommend that as an interim measure pending the completion of a review of the climate evidence, the council should allow anyone who wishes to work from the office in Winter to do so, particularly in light of rising heating costs, and
4. To instruct the Chair to write to the Welsh Government's Climate Change Minister requesting that a mechanism that accurately reflects seasonal variation in net homeworking emissions is included in the guidance for assessing emissions, such that the council is not penalised for taking steps to reduce total emissions at the expense of those that show on its own figures.

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Agenda Item 6

This committee notes;

That paper and print products account for around 1% of all carbon emissions.

Taking the UK government's conversion factors for carbon emissions, just 100,000 sheets of A4 paper has a carbon footprint of 6,000kg and requires eight trees and 2,000kWh of energy. The same paper recycled seven times produces 3,200kg of carbon over its lifetime.

Paper

- Copier paper recycling can save 2 tonnes of wood for every tonne of paper
- Recycled paper creates 74% less air pollution, with 40% less energy needed and 35% less water needed.

Printers

Energy consumption during the printing process plays an important role in carbon release. This is almost negligible for an inkjet printer, which only needs 15 watts to print. Using a laser printer (the expected majority for Flintshire Council), which during the warm-up phase requires around 1300 watts:

- Per kilowatt hour, 474g CO₂, or 7.9g of CO₂ per minute is produced.
- A laser printer that prints 10 pages per minute with 1.3KW causes 7.9g CO₂ x 1.3KW = 10.27g CO₂.

Producing an average of CO₂ emissions per printed page is 5g if an inkjet printer is used, and 6g if a laser printer is used.

This doesn't take into consideration the components used in print devices can include non-recycled plastics used to make the device. Like the plastics required for toners and cartridges, essential to run the devices.

While toner waste is one of the major electronic waste materials posing serious environmental threat and health hazards. Globally, only about 20–30% of toner waste is recycled, while the remaining percentage is dumped in landfills.

Over 65 million printer cartridges are sold each year in the UK alone. Of these 65 million cartridges, only an estimated 15% are recycled or reused.

All while an estimated half of all pages printed are never even looked at.

The committee recommends to cabinet that a policy be implemented across all departments setting out that printing should only be considered where:

- There is a statutory requirement to provide information in printed form;
- A disabled staff member or service user requires material in printed form because they are disabled;
- A staff member or service user requires material in printed form because they are digitally excluded;
- The relevant chief officer has directed that a paper backup of the document is necessary for service resilience, or
- For the purposes of advertising a service or change in service to the general public; and
- That all paper, toners, inks and consumables procured will be made of recycled materials and recycled after use.

The committee also calls on the cabinet to initiate an efficiency review of the current stock of printers owned or operated by the council with a view to rationalising these to the minimum strictly necessary.

Proposed by Dan Rose

Seconded by Gillian Brockley

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Motion to Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee: Columbaria in Flintshire County Council managed cemeteries

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee notes:

1. that local authorities across the United Kingdom are facing challenges with limited burial space, with the shortage of burial space in Wales being described as reaching 'crisis point'¹
2. that Flintshire County Council has itself faced issues in relation to limited burial space, with Flintshire previously having been described as having an 'unusually high' number of people who opt for traditional burials, placing significant pressure on local authority cemeteries²
3. that UK trends show an increase in demand for cremation and a reduction in demand for traditional burial, with up to three-quarters of Britons now choosing cremation over burial³
4. that both burial and cremation have a significant detrimental impact on the environment
5. that Flintshire County Council currently offers traditional burials, cremation and natural woodland and meadowland burials
6. that a number of local authorities and community councils across the UK offer columbaria as an option for the deceased

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee believes:

1. that Flintshire County Council must explore options to tackle the problem of reducing burial space across the County
2. that Flintshire County Council should be adequately prepared for an increase in demand for cremation of deceased remains and their associated storage
3. that columbaria* offer a more efficient form of storage for human remains than traditional burial and cremated remains burials as they are relatively small in size (per individual) and above ground meaning cemetery space can be better utilised and diversified
4. that residents of Flintshire should be able to access as wider-range of bereavement options as possible
5. that the offering of columbaria would assist the authority in solving the problems caused by a lack of space for traditional burials and could reduce the necessity of purchasing and using more land for cemetery space, which has a significantly detrimental impact on the environment
6. that columbaria are a versatile option which can be situated on areas of land which may not have suitable ground for traditional burials

Flintshire County Council Climate Change Committee resolves:

1. to recommend to Cabinet and the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee that Flintshire County Council offer columbaria as an option for residents as part of its suite of bereavement and burial services

¹ [Wales' burial space running out, warns Church - BBC News](#)

² [Flintshire bucks the national trend for more burials - BBC News](#)

³ [A greener way to go: what's the most eco-friendly way to dispose of a body? | Death and dying | The Guardian](#)

2. to recommend to Cabinet and the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee that Flintshire County Council explores the viability of offering other environmentally-friendly burial options, such as resomation**, in the longer term

* a columbarium is an above ground piece of funerary architecture which is made up of individual chambers which house cremated remains

** resomation is sometimes referred to as 'water cremation' or alkaline hydrolysis. It involves the use of water and alkali at high temperatures and pressure to chemically reduce the body to liquid and white ash. The resulting ash is returned to relatives as is the process for flame cremation. The excess fluid created during the process can then be used as fertiliser because of the high nutrient content.

Flood Resilience & Adaptation

1 - Outline

1.01 With the changing climate, Flintshire faces an increased risk of flooding of all types.

1.02 Coastal flooding and fluvial flooding receive a significant amount of attention and investment, with clearly delineated responsibilities in terms of the planning process, mitigation, management and emergencies.

1.03 Surface water flooding has historically been dealt with at a lower level, with local authorities taking steps to make improvements where this occurs regularly in populated areas without any overarching national strategy. This reflects the less predictable nature of surface water flooding and the often smaller scale measures needed to address it.

1.04 In respect of surface water flooding, climate change poses two problems. Firstly, any increase in rainfall will lead to more stagnant water that cannot be absorbed by the ground immediately. Secondly, increased frequency of extreme weather events are likely to see drainage systems across the county more regularly overwhelmed and flooding of homes more frequently occur. When these two risks are combined, with a period of increased rainfall followed by an extreme weather event, it is likely that infrastructure will struggle to cope. Whereas we know where coastal and fluvial flooding is likely to take place, extreme weather events leading to flash surface water flooding can impact anywhere in Flintshire.

2 - Purpose of Inquiry

2.01 The inquiry will review the current position in terms of high risk areas for surface water and small watercourse flooding, and the likely impact of climate change on these areas.

2.02 The inquiry will also seek information on the costs of a range of infrastructure upgrades that may be required to protect homes in the county.

3 - Form of Inquiry

3.01 The inquiry will gather evidence and make recommendations on a county-wide basis. However, in order to facilitate a thorough exploration of the particular technical challenges, the inquiry will also look at a case study from the county where surface water flooding is currently a problem.

3.02 The case study for the inquiry will be the Sandycroft / Pentre / Lower Mancot area due to the scale of the issues at this location.

3.03 The inquiry will take written and oral evidence from relevant persons and bodies as to the substantive issues and the funding position.

3.04 The inquiry will result in a report containing recommendations that the committee may choose to adopt. These recommendations may be addressed to other parts of the council, to the Welsh Government, or to any other body as the committee sees fit.

3.05 The inquiry will conclude and the report be submitted for consideration no later than the July meeting of the climate change committee.

3.06 The following are to be invited to submit written evidence:

- Andy Roberts, Flintshire County Council
- Andy Farrow, Flintshire County Council
- Natural Resources Wales
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (sewerage)
- Representatives of the Welsh Government (climate adaptation and resilience)
- Residents of Flintshire who are affected by this issue

3.07 In addition to the persons listed above, any other person or organisation who wishes to do so may submit written evidence. All written evidence should be submitted in advance of the March meeting of the climate change committee.

3.08 To facilitate the provision of written evidence, a series of questions shall be drafted in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee to which witnesses may wish to respond in their evidence.

3.09 The committee will consider a witness list for oral evidence sessions at the March meeting.

4 - Recommendations

4.01 That the inquiry be established on the basis set out above.

4.02 That provision is made for an oral evidence session, including a venue, in either April or May.

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 one of the employers 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. A list of invitations shall be prepared for submission to the March meeting of the committee, taking into account written evidence received. Requests for oral evidence shall be issued in the name of the chair of the committee on behalf of the committee.

3.03 Witnesses in oral evidence sessions will be invited to give evidence in person wherever possible, which is the committee's strong preference.

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 report will be proposed for adoption at the May 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.

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
- The Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
- 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

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Date of meeting	Subject	Actions
Tues 28th March	Climate Change Programme Review,	
	EV charging infrastructure,	
	Hydrogen fuelled vehicles,	
	Recyclable materials for potholes,	
	Tidal Energy and associated grant funding,	
	Reaching out to wider community on Climate Change	
Tues 23rd May	Renewable energy generation, Alternative renewable energy generation opportunities including, wind, solar on Council owned car parks, Hydro power and Milwr Tunnel,	
	Review of catering facilities – mandatory plant based meals,	
	Carbon offsetting – tree planting	
	Review of data storage & cloud facilities and zero email standards	
Tues 18th July	Feasibility of bioreactors for grass arisings/food waste,	

	Planning changes to incorporate requirements for Passivhaus/solar/EV charging,	
	Use of local trades and local products to reduce carbon footprint	