

# Public Document Pack

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



Contact Officer:  
Maureen Potter on 01352 702322  
maureen.potter@flintshire.gov.uk

To: All Members of the Council

17 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING**  
**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2024 at 1.00 PM**

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum  
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in The Lord Barry Jones Council Chamber, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

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 FOR ABSENCE**

**Purpose:** To receive any apologies.

### 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### 3 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 16)

**Purpose:** To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023.

### 4 **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**Purpose:** To receive the communications as circulated.

### 5 **PETITIONS**

**Purpose:** This is an opportunity for Members of Council to submit petitions on behalf of people in their ward. Once received, petitions are passed to the appropriate Chief Officer for action and response.

## **PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### 6 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR FINANCIAL BUSINESS PLAN** (Pages 17 - 32)

Report of Chief Officer (Housing and Communities), Corporate Finance Manager

**Purpose:** The purpose of this report is to present, for recommendation to Council, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2024/25, the HRA Business Plan and the summary 30 year Financial Business Plan.

### 7 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2023/24** (Pages 33 - 58)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager

**Purpose:** To present to Members the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Review for 2023/24

**8 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS (Pages 59 - 80)**

Report of Chief Executive

**Purpose:** To approve the recommendations of the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

**ORDINARY ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**9 RECRUITMENT OF A TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (Pages 81 - 84)**

Report of Chief Officer (Governance)

**Purpose:** To endorse the process for appointing a replacement Town and Community Representative to the Standards Committee

**FOR INFORMATION**

**10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Purpose:** This item is to receive any Public Questions.

**11 QUESTIONS (Pages 85 - 86)**

**Purpose:** To note the answers to any questions submitted in accordance with County Council Standing Order No. 9.4(A): one was received by the deadline.

**12 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Purpose:** To consider any issues raised by Members arising from the Minutes of the Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees and other Committees, together with any questions raised under Section 4.20 of the Council's Constitution. Copies of the Minutes of the various meetings that have taken place since the last ordinary meeting of the Council which have been approved and published on the Authority's website, can be obtained, if required, via the Committee and Member Services.

**13 NOTICE OF MOTION**

**Purpose:** This item is to receive any Notices of Motion: none were received by the deadline

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

This page is intentionally left blank

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

Minutes of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**PRESENT: Councillor Dennis Hutchinson (Vice Chair in the Chair)**

**Councillors:** Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Mel Buckley, Teresa Carberry, Tina Claydon, David Coggins Cogan, Geoff Collett, Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Rob Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke; Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, David Evans, Chrissy Gee, Ian Hodge, Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Richard Lloyd, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Ryan McKeown, Debbie Owen, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Dale Selvester, Jason Shallcross, Sam Swash, Linda Thew, Ant Turton, Roy Wakelam and Arnold Woolley

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors Glyn Banks, Pam Banks, Steve Copple, Ron Davies, Carol Ellis, Dave Healey, Gladys Healey, Ray Hughes, Billy Mullin, Ian Roberts, Linda Thomas, Antony Wren and the Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Housing and Communities), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Social Services), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Corporate Finance Manager, Strategic Finance Manager, Corporate Manager, Capital Programme and Assets, Senior Manager – School Place Planning and Provision, Head of Democratic Services, Democratic Services Officers and Father. P. Wheeler for prayers

The Chief Officer (Governance) welcomed Julia Hughes who was attending to observe the meeting as an independent member of the Standards Committee.

The Chief Officer advised Members that Councillors Dave and Gladys Healey were attending the funeral of their daughter that day. He also explained that the wife of Councillor Ron Davies had passed away. The Chair asked that on behalf of the Council, condolences be sent.

Councillor Attridge suggested that a get-well card be sent to the Leader, Councillor Ian Roberts on behalf of Council.

**49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Vice Chair, Councillor Hutchinson, declared a personal interest for Agenda Item 7 as a school governor of Drury County Primary School.

There were no other declarations of interest.

**50. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were received.

26 September 2023

Accuracy

On Declarations of Interest, Councillor Peers advised he had declared a personal interest on Agenda item number 10, Notice of Motion in relation to landlords. It was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly.

24 October 2023

Accuracy

Councillor Ibbotson referred to item 43 and asked for an update on his request for a written response to be provided. The Chief Officer (Governance) said he would circulate a response to Members advising that such a report was not required and the reasons why.

Councillor Attridge moved the minutes as a correct record which was seconded by Councillor Bibby and on being put to the vote was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meetings held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, with the amendment, and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**51. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

All Members had received details of the engagements that the Chair had undertaken since the last meeting. The Vice Chair reported on the school visits that he had attended which both himself and his wife had enjoyed.

**52. PETITIONS**

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received.

**53. CAPITAL STRATEGY INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2024/25 – 2026/27**

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced the report which presented the Capital Strategy Including Prudential Indicators 2024/25 – 2026/27 for approval.

The report highlighted the ways in which the Capital Programme was developed and funded, the potential impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and its relationship to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy. There was very little change to the Capital Strategy presented last year apart from updates to the Council Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Table 1 provided information on the intended spend of the Capital Programme for the next three years with Table 2 advising how this spend would be financed, with Table 8 providing an overview on how financing costs compared to budget.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Bibby

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the Capital Strategy be approved; and.
- (b) That the following be approved: -
  - The Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 – 2026/27 as detailed within Tables 1, and 4 – 8 of the Capital Strategy.
  - Delegated authority for the Corporate Finance Manager to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (Table 6 of the Capital Strategy).

**54. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 – 2026/27**

The Chief Executive introduced the report explaining that the Capital Programme covered the Council's investments in relation to assets and also reflected on the position with regard to revenue budget.

The Strategic Finance Manager then provided a presentation which included detailed information on the following slides:-

- Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2026/27
  - Statutory / Regulatory – allocations to cover regulatory and statutory works.
  - Retained Assets – allocations to fund infrastructure works necessary to ensure service and business continuity.

- Investment – allocations to fund works necessary to remodel services to deliver efficiencies outlined in portfolio business plans and invest in services as outlined in the Council Plan.
- Current Programme 2023/24 – 2025/26
- Projected Funding 2024/25 – 2026/27
- Statutory/Regulatory – Proposed Allocations
  - Retained Assets – Proposed Allocations (1)
  - Retained Assets – Proposed Allocations (2)
  - Investment Section – Proposed Allocations (1)
  - Investment Section – Proposed Allocations (2)
- Summary Generally Funded Programme
- Specifically Funded Schemes
- Summary Capital Programme
- Potential Future Schemes

In response to questions from Councillor Richard Jones on the school building works and retained assets section at page 48, the Strategic Finance Manager provided an explanation on the breakdown of the £500k figure in the Statutory Section. The Corporate Manager, Capital Programme and Assets, then provided information on the schools Repairs and Maintenance Programme and the yearly Priority Programme created from the Condition Surveys undertaken in schools. It was explained that there was a backlog of repairs for schools of around £15m and that the £1m was used to fund the priorities that were established through the building surveyor team and condition surveys.

Councillor Peers referred to the review of industrial estates and asked why there was a need to demolish the vacant units. He moved an amendment that the industrial estate units be reviewed by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to gain an understanding on what it related to.

The Corporate Manager clarified that the units were in Greenfield and were beyond the point of economical repair; with an amount of £200k included in the Capital Programme to undertake the work.

The Chief Executive reiterated that the particular estate referred to was beyond repair and in its place incubator units may be able to be installed for small businesses who required them. This would also address Empty Business Rates which were being charged to the Council.

Councillor Richard Jones welcomed the suggestion of a report to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for which he was the Chair.



Councillor Rosetta Dolphin welcomed demolition of the three units in Greenfield which she advised were, in her view, a health and safety risk.

In response to a question on Sustainable Communities for Learning, from Councillor Crease, the Corporate Manager understood that Band B and C of Sustainable Communities were now disbanded but that the Council could bring forward any project that it wished as part of its investment programme. The Senior Manager (School Places, Planning and Provision) confirmed that there were a number of projects which were in the Band B programme but were yet to be progressed which included education provision in the Saltney and Broughton area. A review was being undertaken on what could be considered in the next phase of investment, with any project not included being looked at in the next round. It was reported that an informal early engagement process had been undertaken in the communities of Saltney and Broughton which was different to a consultation. A press release had been provided to outline the key themes from the early engagement process, with full details to be provided in a future report to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny in the New Year.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Peers was seconded by Councillor Richard Jones and on being put to the vote was carried.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Bibby.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the allocations and schemes in Table 3 (paragraph 1.09) for the Statutory/Regulatory and Retained Assets sections of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2024/25 - 2026/27 be approved;
- (b) That the schemes included in Table 4 for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2024/25 -2026/27 be approved;
- (c) That the shortfall in funding of schemes in 2024/25 and 2025/26 in Table 5 at this point in the approval process which allows flexibility to be noted. Options including a combination of future capital receipts, alternative grants (if available), prudential borrowing or the re-phasing of schemes will be considered during 2024/25 and included in future Capital Programme reports;
- (d) That the schemes included in Table 6 for the specifically funded section of the Council Fund Capital Programme which will be funded in part through borrowing be approved; and
- (e) That a report on industrial units be presented to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

### **55. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion had been submitted:

“Israel-Gaza “ - Proposed by Councillor Parkhurst – Seconded by Councillor Swash

“Council condemns the awful terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas in Israel on 7th October.

Council is horrified by the scenes of violence in the weeks and days since, in particular the devastating humanitarian situation in Gaza where over 10,000 Palestinians have already been killed and hostages are still being held by Hamas.

Council supports Israel’s right to protect its citizens, in line with international law, which means targeting terrorists, not civilians, and ensuring that innocent Palestinians do not pay the price for Hamas’ actions.

Council expresses its concern at the UK Government’s failure to attempt to ensure that the Israeli government and its military adhere to the requirements of international law.

**This Council believes:**

A military solution alone will not achieve peace for Israelis or Palestinians.

The values of equality, democracy, human rights and the international rule of law are of fundamental importance.

All combatants must act in accordance with the rules of war and international humanitarian law.

The remaining hostages held by Hamas must be released.

Essential supplies of water, food, medicine and electricity must be restored to Gaza, and the passage of aid into Gaza must be facilitated.

That it is wrong to blame Jews for the actions of the Israeli Government or Palestinians for the actions of Hamas.

Council accordingly resolves to ask the UK Government to call for an immediate ceasefire in order to:

- a. Facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza
- b. Provide an opportunity to realise the release of the remaining hostages
- c. Allow for an intensive period of diplomacy to realise a political solution, aimed at achieving a lasting peace.

Council notes with deep concern the severe reverberations of this crisis in the UK, with Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities all fearing and grieving, and condemns the rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia since 7 October.

Council calls upon the residents of Flintshire, community leaders and public figures to act responsibly and work to bring communities together at this sensitive time.

Council calls upon Welsh Government to set up a Homes for Palestinians scheme in anticipation of and to facilitate the temporary housing of refugees from the conflict.”

In speaking to the Notice of Motion, Councillor Parkhurst commented on the horrors committed by Hamas, the appalling effect of Israel’s subsequent military bombardment and the number of innocent people killed, injured or displaced in Gaza. He reported on the numbers of children, women, medics, UN officials, journalists, together with generations of families which had been killed. Half of the infrastructure in Gaza had been destroyed. Flintshire as a local authority had a duty to uphold good relations in communities so all residents could go about their lives without fear or discrimination. As a County of Sanctuary Flintshire had a responsibility to open its heart and home when the remaining residents of Gaza who wanted to leave were able to do so. He commended the Notice of Motion to Council and asked Members to support it.

Councillor Richard Jones moved an amendment to the Notice of Motion which was to include the following;-

- d. That all costs in relation to the Homes for Palestine Scheme must be provided by Welsh Government in perpetuity whilst costs remain and that this Scheme must not affect the housing resource provision made available to local residents in Flintshire in a negative way.

This was seconded by Councillor Attridge.

Following a question on a point of order, Councillor Swash formally seconded Councillor Parkhurst’s Notice of Motion.

Councillor Parkhurst confirmed he accepted the amendment. Councillor Swash, as the seconder, did not accept the amendment.

Councillor Attridge requested a recorded vote on the amendment and the requisite 10 Members stood in support.

**The following Members voted for the amendment:**

Dennis Hutchinson, Mike Allport, Bernie Attridge, Marion Bateman, Sean Bibby, Chris Bithell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Teresa Carberry, Bill Crease, Rob Davies, Adele Davies Cooke, Chris Dolphin, Rosetta Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Dave Evans, Chrissy Gee, Ian Hodge, Andy Hughes, Dave Hughes, Christine Jones, Richard Jones, Simon Jones, Dave Mackie, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Hilary McGuill, Debbie Owen, Ted Palmer, Andrew Parkhurst, Mike Peers, David Richardson, Jason Shallcross, Linda Thew, Ant Turton, Roy Wakelam, Arnold Woolley.

**The following Members voted against the amendment:**

Alasdair Ibbotson, Dan Rose, Sam Swash

**The following Members abstained:**

Mel Buckley, Tina Claydon, Geoff Collett, Paul Cunningham, Paul Johnson, Richard Lloyd, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown, Michelle Perfect, Vicky Perfect, Carolyn Preece, Kevin Rush,

37 Members voted for the amendment, 3 voted against with 12 abstentions.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Notice of Motion with the addition be received and supported.

**56. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

In presenting the Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report the Chief Officer (Governance) explained that the terms of reference for this committee were set partly by legislation and partly by guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The report highlighted each specific term of reference and how the committee had met it during that period with the report being adopted at the last meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Attridge moved the recommendation in the report which was seconded by Councillor Bibby.

**RESOLVED**

That the Governance and Audit Committee's Annual Report be approved.

**57. APPOINTMENT OF A LAY PERSON TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Chief Officer (Governance) introduced the report and explained that the term of office for one of the existing lay members of the Governance and Audit Committee was due to expire in December 2023, having already served four years.

The Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 required the Council to ensure that one third of the committee were lay members.

The lay member, Mr Allan Rainford, was willing to serve for a further term if the Council was willing to re-appoint him.

Councillor Attridge moved the re-appointment of Mr Rainford as a member of the Governance and Audit Committee. Which was seconded by Councillor Palmer.

In response to a question on training, the Chief Officer (Governance) referred to the programme of development for all members and said those courses were also available to lay members.

The Chief Officer commented that the Constitution and Democratic Services Committee regularly considered the development programme as part of its work and said compulsory training for Chairs could be included for consideration at a future meeting.

On being put to the vote the recommendation in the report was carried.

### **RESOLVED**

That Council reappoints the lay member for another four years until 31 December 2027.

### **58. CHANGE OF MEETING TIME – PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report outlining the reason for moving forthcoming Planning Committee meetings to a 2.00 pm start time. The reasons for the suggested change of time were outlined in the report.

Councillor Lloyd moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Attridge.

In response to a question it was agreed that Planning site visits would be included in the Members calendar of meetings.

On being put to the vote the recommendation was carried.

### **RESOLVED**

That the start time of Planning Committee Meetings be changed to 2pm from the December 2023 meeting until the end of the current Schedule of Meetings.

### **59. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

### **60. QUESTIONS**

The Chair advised that a question had been received from Councillor Parkhurst.

### **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in respect of Mold Memorial Gardens**

Will the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection please explain why he told Cabinet on 17.10.23 that Mold Town Council had requested that dogs be excluded from Mold Memorial Gardens, and why the Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee (E&E OSC) was told the

same thing on 12.9.23 when in fact Mold Town Council had asked that the PSPO be amended to state, "Dogs must be on a lead at all times", and in view of the incorrect information given both to the E&E OSC and to the Cabinet would he now agree that the decision to ban dogs from these Gardens should be reconsidered?

**Councillor Chris Bithell responded to the Question as follows:-**

"At both meetings referred to, namely the Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 12 September 2023 and the Cabinet Meeting on the 17 October 2023, a Report was presented on the Renewal of Public Space Orders by the Chief Officer for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection. As was the custom and practice, the Cabinet Member for that portfolio usually introduces the report and in doing so will quote and refer to aspects and details from the report which was what I did.

Aspects of the report and indeed the manner in which the consultation took place had been subject to inquiries, comments, complaints and allegations. These were all currently being thoroughly investigated as part of the Council's formal Complaints procedure. Given that that was the case, I think that it would be unwise and inappropriate to comment further until that procedure has been completed."

Councillor Parkhurst asked why Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been told misleading information and if a mistake had been made why had it not been acknowledged. This matter was causing concern to elderly people. When Mold Town Council asked for dogs to be kept on leads why were the committees told that the Town Council wanted dogs to be banned. He referenced comments made that the Police and Crime Commissioner had been consulted but after contacting the Police and Crime Commissioner he advised that he had not been consulted. He also asked why the Equalities Assessment from 2023 read as a copy and paste complete with typing errors from 2020 to which he would appreciate a response from Councillor Bithell.

Councillor Attridge sought clarification from the Chief Officer (Governance) that if the Council were undertaking a formal complaints procedure at present would it be unwise to discuss this further until the outcome of that formal complaint was known. His concern was if Cabinet had misled Scrutiny and members of the public then this was a serious issue.

The Chief Officer (Governance) firstly reminded Members on the process around questions with the questioner having the right to ask one supplementary question either directly arising out of the original question or arising out of the answer provided. Councillor Bithell had confirmed in his answer to the original question that there had been complaints made which was why he believed that Councillor Parkhurst had raised this matter. He understood why Councillor Attridge had asked the question and advised that it was not appropriate to discuss it. The same complainants who had contacted Councillor Parkhurst had also raised formal complaints through the Council's Corporate Complaints procedure and had made a number of allegations which were being investigated. Until such time as it was

known if they were factually accurate it was not sensible to answer the question at this point in time. The Council acting through its Cabinet passed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) at its meeting in September and those Orders were in place and were validly made Orders until such time as they were overturned by a Court of Competent jurisdiction. The Council may, if it wished, revisit whether those Orders should be made or should be changed and that would be a decision that would be taken when the complaints had been considered with all Councillors informed of the outcome. He confirmed that Councillor Parkhurst had received a holding response but in due course a response would be provided to him and his residents and other residents in other wards outlining what the Council was proposing to do as a result of those complaints.

**RESOLVED:**

That the questions and written and verbal responses be noted.

**61 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Chief Officer (Governance) advised that none had been received by the deadline.

**62. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE**

There were no members of the press but one member of the public in attendance.

(The meeting started at 1.00 pm and ended at 2.38 pm)

.....  
**Chair**

This page is intentionally left blank





## COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024
<b>Report Subject</b>	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Financial Business Plan
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer, Housing and Communities
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present for consideration the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30-year Financial Business Plan and the proposed HRA Budget for 2024/25.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Council approve the HRA 30-year Financial Business Plan and budget for 2024/25 as set out in this report and attached appendices.
2	Council agree that consideration should be given, in year, to utilise available reserves to top up the tenant hardship fund to a cap of £0.350m if required.

## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	<b>EXPLAINING THE HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 UPDATE</b>														
1.01	<p><b>Considerations</b></p> <p>The HRA is required to produce a 30-year business plan.</p> <p>The strategic context for this year's HRA budget setting includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure affordability for contract holders is at the core of our considerations.</li><li>• Continued drive to ensure all service costs are efficient and that value for money can be achieved.</li><li>• Ensure the treasury management strategy continues to meet the Housing Revenue Account's new and ongoing borrowing requirements.</li><li>• Setting a balanced budget with a minimum of 3% surplus revenue over expenditure</li><li>• Maximisation of revenue efficiencies to minimise the borrowing required to meet Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS)</li><li>• Delivery of new build Council housing</li><li>• Continued drive to ensure homes are Energy Efficient and explore Decarbonisation.</li><li>• Provision of adequate ongoing capital to maintain WHQS levels.</li></ul>														
1.02	<p><b>HRA Funding</b></p> <p>The HRA is a ring-fenced service and therefore it must be self-financing and not subsidised by the Council.</p> <div data-bbox="371 1335 1286 2022"><table border="1"><caption>HRA Funding 2023/24</caption><thead><tr><th>Category</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Net Rental Income</td><td>68%</td></tr><tr><td>Borrowing</td><td>17%</td></tr><tr><td>Grants</td><td>12%</td></tr><tr><td>Other income</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>Non Dwelling Rents</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>Charges for Services</td><td>1%</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <p>The graph above indicates that the majority of the HRA income (68%)</p>	Category	Percentage	Net Rental Income	68%	Borrowing	17%	Grants	12%	Other income	1%	Non Dwelling Rents	1%	Charges for Services	1%
Category	Percentage														
Net Rental Income	68%														
Borrowing	17%														
Grants	12%														
Other income	1%														
Non Dwelling Rents	1%														
Charges for Services	1%														

	<p>comes from the rents charged to its customers and a further 29% of its funding comes from grants, in the form of the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA), Social Housing Grant (SHG), and borrowing. The remaining 3% comes from other sources such as non-dwelling rents and service charges.</p>
1.03	<p><b>HRA Pressures and Efficiencies</b></p> <p>Pressures and efficiencies have been identified and are detailed in appendix A. These also include several risks that we have not included in the business plan but may still materialise at a later point.</p> <p>An additional budget requirement of £1.254m has been identified for 2024/25. Of this, £0.910m relates to uncontrollable pressures such as pay and general inflationary increases and the remaining £0.344m are service pressures.</p> <p>A new pressure of £0.034m has been added since the last report for an additional charge for manager support in the rents team, however, this has been offset by a reduction in the bad debt provision of £0.110m</p> <p>We have also identified £0.301m of efficiencies to offset the pressures, which leaves a net pressure of £0.953m in 2024/25.</p>
1.04	<p><b>Capital Programme</b></p> <p>The total proposed capital programme for 2024/25 is £29.498m, summarised in Appendix B.</p> <p><b>Revised WHQS</b></p> <p>Welsh Government have just this week released the revised standard for WHQS.2, acknowledging the changes to how people live, work, and feel about their homes. The programme of works to deliver the new standard will run until 2033.</p> <p>WHQS.2 proposes to reduce the carbon emissions from social housing and in doing so contribute to the Welsh target of Net Zero Carbon. The standard sets out how this can be achieved by balancing the performance of homes with a high carbon footprint, against more efficient homes, this approach is proposed because not all homes will be able to reach the required carbon standards.</p> <p>The new standard will place significant additional capital pressures on the HRA over the next ten years particularly due to the net zero carbon agenda and these additional pressures are not yet reflected in the future business plan.</p> <p>The 2024/25 capital budget increases the energy efficiency programme of works to £4.562m as part of a 2-year programme to assess the best way to achieve net carbon zero homes.</p> <p>Welsh Government have also made grant available for the two years to support this programme of work (Optimised Retrofit Programme - ORP),</p>

which allows Local Authorities to trial how they can achieve net carbon zero homes. Flintshire have utilised this funding in 2023/24 and have assumed an additional £1.6m of ORP funding for 2024/25.

### **Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)**

A total of £1.100m has been allocated for this mandatory service. This service is customer driven and can be volatile dependant on customer demands.

### **Regeneration**

A £4.000m regeneration budget has been allocated in the Capital Programme for 2024/25. The aim is to utilise this allocation to remodel HRA stock where the current stock is no longer fit for purpose. There are several pipeline schemes for consideration including:

- Sheltered Housing Review
- Estate Remodelling

This allocation will also be utilised towards the acquisition of properties to help reduce homelessness, options of which are currently being explored by the Council. A total of 10 property acquisitions have been assumed in the business plan to support this strategy.

### **SHARP**

£4.153m has been built into 2024/25 for the development of council housing. The capital programme is currently forecasting the addition of 40 units per annum for the next 5 years, based on the Standard Viability Model and assumes receipt of Social Housing Grant (SHG).

Capitalisation of the costs of the development team have now been included in the programme at 6% of the total development budget.

All schemes are required to meet financial hurdle rates set by the Council and should be able to pay back the original investment via rents within 50 years.

<b>Asset Investment Budget Breakdown</b>	<b>£m</b>
Schemes agreed in 24/25 report	4.153
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.153</b>

### **Capital Funding**

The £29.498m capital programme will be funded by:

<b>WHQS &amp; Asset Investment Funding</b>	<b>£m</b>
Revenue Contribution (CERA)	14.467
Major Repairs Allowance	4.978
Energy Efficiency income (FIT) & ORP Grant	1.900
Prudential Borrowing (Regeneration)	4.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.345</b>

<b>SHARP Funding</b>	<b>£m</b>
Prudential Borrowing	4.153
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.153</b>

1.05

### Rent Setting

In December 2019, Welsh Government released the revised rent policy for a 5-year period beginning in April 2020/21.

The policy is designed to ensure that affordability for contract holders is at the core of our considerations and when setting the rent uplift, landlords should consider value for money and the whole cost of living in a property as part of their rationale for setting rents.

The Rent Policy for Social Housing Rents from 2020/21 sets out the following:

- An annual rent uplift of up to CPI+1%, for 5 years to 2024/25 using the level of CPI from the previous September each year.
- The level of rents for individual contract holders can be frozen or rise by up to an additional £2 over and above CPI+1%, on condition that total rental income collected by the social landlord increases by no more than CPI+1%.

The policy states, however, that should CPI fall outside the range of 0% to 3%, the Minister with responsibility for housing will determine the appropriate change to rent levels to be applied for that year only. CPI as of September 2023 was 6.7% and Welsh Government announced last month a rent cap for social housing of 6.7%.

Due to the impending start of WHQS.2 and therefore an increased capital requirement, we have identified during our modelling, that it is necessary to increase the Councils rents by a minimum of 6.5% to effectively balance the budget in 2024/25.

If we were unable to increase rents by the required amounts the impact would be as follows:

Rent assumption	inflation	Year 1 rent loss (based on 6.5%)	30-year rent loss (based on 6.5%)
6.5%		-	-
4.0%		£1.028m	£41.989m
2.0%		£1.850m	£75.673m
Rent freeze		£2.672m	£109.358m

Setting rent lower than 6.5% will mean the HRA will need to find further efficiencies of circa £0.400m every year for each 1% rent reduction.

In 2023/24 the Council agreed to uplift rents at 5%, which was the lower than permitted rate, to support contract holders during the recovery from the

pandemic. When compared to the 6.5% inflationary uplift allowable under the rent policy for 2023/24, the HRA lost potential additional rental income of £0.571m in year one and £23.242m over 30 years.

The table reflects how much potential income can be lost through setting rents lower than WG guidelines and highlights the importance of balancing affordability alongside the key investment required in HRA services and our housing stock.

Whilst affordability for contract holders should always be an important consideration when setting rents, it is also important to note, setting the rents at WG rent cap levels will enable the Council to utilise these additional funds on WHQS.2 which will reduce social housing utilities costs and improve affordability for contract holders.

**1.06 Rent Impact on Contract Holders**

We have identified that 68% of all contract holders are eligible for Housing Benefit (HB) or Universal Credit (UC) support toward their rent and service charges. The table below shows the impact on those in receipt of HB.

HB eligibility	Average % of rent paid by HB	Average impact on tenants p.w.
Full	100%	£0.00
Partial	34%	£4.80
None	0%	£7.28

Consultation with contract holders via a survey sent out with the rent statements has taken place together with a meeting with the tenant's federation.

Unfortunately, the response rate on the survey was not as high as we had hoped (1.76%) and we will need to do further work to achieve a higher response rate next year.

Most respondents, however, were self-payers and said they felt their rent was neither affordable nor unaffordable at the moment but were concerned to some degree about an increase in rent. However, they also placed high importance on improvements to their homes.

As part of the 2023/24 budget, the HRA set aside a £0.250m discretionary fund to assist contract holders who face financial hardship and who engage with us as their landlord. This funding has been maintained for 2024/25 in the business plan. Following consultation at Scrutiny committee we are further proposing that available reserves should be used to top up the reserve in year if required.

**1.07 Garage Rents and Service Charges (including impact to contract holders)**

The proposed garage rent, and garage plot increase is 6.5% for 2024/25, which equates to £0.70 per week for garage rent and takes the rent per week to £11.44 (based on 53 weeks). The proposed garage plot increase is

£0.05 per week taking the garage plot rent to £1.80 per week.

The business plan anticipates income levels of £0.319m for garages and garage plots.

The rent and service charges policy were introduced in 2015 and expected all Local Housing Associations (LHA's) to be achieving full cost recovery for service charges, if this had not yet been achieved a clear transition plan should be identified to achieve this.

To achieve full cost recovery, we would be required to increase service charges as follows:

Service Charge	Current charge per week	Full recovery cost per charge week	Increase per week	Impact per week with partial HB (ave. 34%)
Aerials	£1.55	£1.55	£0.00	£0.00
Laundry	£0.79	£1.13	£0.34	£0.22
Cleaning	£4.60	£5.23	£0.63	£0.42
Window cleaning	£0.75	£1.05	£0.30	£0.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7.69</b>	<b>£8.96</b>	<b>£1.27</b>	<b>£0.84</b>

Not all properties are subject to all service charges. Of all our contract holders, 2.8% are charged for four service charges and 5.6% are charged for three service charges.

Moving three of the existing service charges to full cost recovery would bring in additional income of £0.043m.

**1.08 Capital Financing**

The deed to terminate the voluntary agreement for the HRA borrowing cap was signed on the 2nd of December 2019, it is therefore important that going forward, increased borrowing in the HRA is carefully managed and monitored to ensure that it is sustainable and affordable to the business plan.

Borrowing should only be used for investment expenditure and not day-to-day running costs or maintaining WHQS. The HRA is likely to be required to increase borrowing in the future to fund WHQS.2 as Welsh Government have indicated this will not be fully funded via grant, therefore we need to manage the risk of this future borrowing by keeping current borrowing at prudent levels.

Borrowing undertaken by the HRA is repaid under the Annuity Method which is calculated in line with the useful life of the asset. Our current borrowing levels are shown below:

Capital Requirement	Financing	B/F Capital Financing Balance £'000	Proposed New Borrowing £'000	Less Repayments £'000	C/F Capital Financing Balance £'000
Prior Debt and HRA Subsidy Buyout		91,219	0	(1,184)	90,035
WHQS		19,349	0	(251)	19,098
SHARP		22,613	4,153	(293)	26,473
Regeneration		761	4,000	(10)	4,751
<b>Total Capital Financing</b>		<b>133,942</b>	<b>8,153</b>	<b>(1,738)</b>	<b>140,357</b>

### Interest Rates

The HRA is part of the single debt pool for the Council. All borrowing for the Council is managed within one pool and the average borrowing rate for the Council is applied to all new borrowing in the HRA, the rate assumed in the business plan is 3.69% and interest payments for 2024/25 are estimated at £5.062m.

### 1.09 Reserves

There is a requirement to hold a minimum level of reserves of 3% of expenditure, however, it was agreed as part of the 2023/24 Business Plan, for Flintshire's HRA to increase reserves to 7% due to the level of financial risk in the HRA rising as a result of increased borrowing levels for new build and increasing costs due to the volatility of the economy.

Reserves should not be used to fund recurring pressures to the Business Plan and levels should be reviewed annually in line with the HRA's proposed borrowing commitments and budgetary risk factors.

In the current climate it would be prudent to maintain reserve levels at 7% of expenditure (£2.892m) as we have ongoing risks to the Business Plan which would have to be funded from reserves if they materialised:

- Pay award could be higher than budgeted
- Inflation could be higher than the provision in the Business Plan
- Arrears could increase due to the cost-of-living crisis
- Interest rates increasing due to the economic climate

### 1.10 Options to Fund

A minimum rent uplift of 6.5% is required for the Business Plan to remain affordable, this is below the WG rent cap of 6.7%

If we were unable to increase rents to the levels required, the following savings would need to be made to balance the budget:



Rent inflation assumption	Annual saving required to balance budget
6.5%	£ nil
4.0%	£1.450m
2.0%	£2.700m
Rent freeze	£3.750m

This would need to be achieved through a slowdown of the capital programme. A complex review of all HRA services would be required in 2024/25 to identify recurring savings (revenue and capital) to fund the Business Plan in the longer term, however this could lead to reduced HRA services and could impact on the quality of our housing stock provision and the ability to meet WHQS.2.0

<b>2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
2.01	The HRA is a ring-fenced budget. This proposed HRA budget and Business Plan demonstrates that the council can achieve the ongoing WHQS, can meet service improvement plans and commitments and with prudential borrowing can continue its Council house building programme in 2024/25.

<b>3.00 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	
3.01	All households will benefit from the Councils WHQS 2023 programme. The impact of the investment planning and efficiencies is being modelled for various customer groups to ensure that there is no disproportionate impact on any groups with protected characteristics.
3.02	The Business Plan assumes a confirmation of Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) for 2024/25 and beyond, however, Welsh Government have indicated that the purpose of the funding will be reviewed in the future.

**3.03 Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact**

Long-term	Positive – There is a commitment to increase supply to provide the right types of homes in the right location.
Prevention	Positive – It is our aim to provide support to ensure people live and remain in the right type of home.
Integration	Positive - Achieving WHQS for all existing council houses and delivering new social housing will contribute to the integration within communities.
Collaboration	Positive - To deliver in partnership with stakeholders to support positive impacts for all our contract holders.
Involvement	Positive - Communication with contract holders, Members and other stakeholders.

**Well-being Goals Impact**

Prosperous Wales	Positive – Existing social homes are WHQS compliant and meet the changing housing needs. Also providing good quality new social homes aiming for low/zero carbon. Maximising local employment and training opportunities for local people.
Resilient Wales	Positive – Developing low / zero carbon homes through modern methods of construction and technologies. Ensuring that all statutory compliance requirements are adhered to.
Healthier Wales	Positive – Ensuring all existing homes and new homes are fit for purpose and meet the needs of all people.
More equal Wales	Positive - Provide good quality homes for the most vulnerable people in society.
Cohesive Wales	Positive – Contributing to attractive, viable and safe communities
Vibrant Wales	Positive – Ensuring all communities housing needs are supported
Globally responsible Wales	Positive – The HRA Business Plan will contribute to the improvement of the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

**4.00 CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT**

4.01 The report was presented to Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Consultation has been undertaken with elected members

	on rent and service charge increases and further consultation will be undertaken with elected members on WHQS 2.0 investment.
4.02	Full local consultation is carried out for each new build scheme.
4.03	As part of the 2023/24 rent settlement, the Council gave a commitment to WG around engagement with contract holders and therefore a survey has conducted around affordability to inform rent setting for 2024/25.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A – Draft Pressures and Efficiencies 2024/25.
5.02	Appendix B – Draft Capital Programme 2024/25.

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

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Rachael Corbelli, Strategic Finance Manager <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 703363 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:rachael.corbelli@flintshire.gov.uk">rachael.corbelli@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>Financial Year:</b> the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April 2024</p> <p><b>Revenue:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Capital expenditure:</b> money spent by the organisation on acquiring or maintaining fixed assets, such as land, buildings, and equipment.</p> <p><b>Budget:</b> a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p><b>Treasury Management:</b> the Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice. Treasury Management is conducted in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement and Treasury Management Practices which are both reviewed annually. All borrowing and long term financing is made in accordance with</p>

CIPFA's Prudential Code.

**Major Repairs Allowance:** Welsh Government grant paid to local authorities in Wales who still manage and maintain their council housing.

HRA - SUMMARY OF PRESSURES	£m	Notes
Heating - Individual metering/cost of communal Spaces	0.090	Estimate too low last year
Fleet contract renewal	0.200	Corporate contract renewal
Tai Teg Charges	0.020	Gwrp Cynefin
Pay Inflation 2024/25	0.439	Based on 5% uplift
Utilities Inflation	0.151	Budget correction in line with projections
Standard Inflation	0.320	Inflation at 3% uplift
Manager Support - Rents Team	0.034	
Pay Inflation 2023/24 - RISK	0.000	Possible impact of 23.24 pay award if above 4.5%
Pay Model - RISK	0.000	New payscales
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.254</b>	

HRA - SUMMARY OF EFFICIENCIES	£m	Notes
Travel Review	(0.016)	Review of mileage budgets
Laundry Equipment	(0.020)	Laundry review suspended
Reduction in Bad Debt Provision	(0.110)	
Pension surplus	(0.112)	
Service Charges	(0.043)	Full cost recovery
<b>Total</b>	<b>(0.301)</b>	

<b>Net pressure</b>	<b>0.953</b>
---------------------	--------------

This page is intentionally left blank

## HRA Capital Programme 2024/25

## Appendix B

HRA Capital Programme	£'m
<b>WHQS</b>	
Internal Works	4.269
Envelope Works	7.260
Externals	1.360
Renewables / Alternative Technology	4.562
<b>Total WHQS</b>	<b>17.451</b>
<b>Non WHQS</b>	
Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) - Mandatory/ Minor Adaps	1.100
Fire Risk Assessments Work	1.538
	<b>2.638</b>
<b>Fees</b>	
Capitalised salaries	<b>1.255</b>
<b>Regeneration of stock</b>	
Estate remodelling/ Support homeless strategy	4.000
<b>SHARP Programme</b>	
Programme Spend	3.955
Capitalised salaries @ 4%	0.198
<b>Total SHARP Programme</b>	<b>4.153</b>
<b>Total Capital Spend</b>	<b>29.498</b>

This page is intentionally left blank





## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024
<b>Report Subject</b>	Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023/24
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Finance Manager

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023/24 for Member approval.

The Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023/24 is attached as Appendix 1. As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, this Mid-Year Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Council approves the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023/24.
---	--

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE MID YEAR REPORT</b>
1.01	On 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023, the Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24, following the recommendation of the Cabinet and consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee.
1.02	<p>The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and regular monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Cabinet, and for execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Corporate Finance Manager, who acts in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement, Strategy and Practices.</p> <p>The Council has nominated Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies.</p>
1.03	<p>The Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2023/24 is attached as Appendix 1. The Mid-Year Report reviews the activities and performance of the treasury management operations during the period 1st April to 30th September 2023.</p> <p>As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, this Mid-Year Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. There were no significant issues raised that require bringing to the attention of Council.</p>
1.04	<p><u>Summary of Key Points</u></p> <p>UK inflation remained stubbornly high over much of the period compared to the US and euro zone, keeping expectations elevated of how much further the Bank of England (BoE) would hike rates compared to the regions.</p> <p>However, inflation data published in the latter part of the period undershot expectations, causing financial markets to reassess the peak in the BoE Bank Rate. This was followed very soon after by the BoE deciding to keep Bank Rate on hold at 5.25% in September, against the expectation for another 0.25% rise.</p> <p>Following the September Monetary Policy Committee meeting, Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, modestly revised its interest forecast to reflect the central view that 5.25% will now be the peak in Bank Rate.</p>
1.05	<p>No new borrowing was undertaken during the period, while £0.870m of existing loans were allowed to mature without replacement. This strategy enabled the Council to reduce net borrowing costs and reduce overall treasury risk.</p> <p>The Council continues to regularly review the position on its long-term borrowing requirement in conjunction with advice from Arlingclose.</p>

	<p>The borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.</p> <p>Section 4 provides more information on borrowing and debt management during the period.</p>
1.06	The average investment balance for the period was £48.4m and the average rate of return was 4.58%. Section 5 of the report provides more information on the Council's investments.
1.07	The treasury function has operated fully within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	Financial implications are addressed in the report, no other resource implications directly as a result of this report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Arlingclose Ltd, being the Council's treasury management advisors.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	Risk Management directly addressed within the report and appendices including identification of risks and measures to mitigate likelihood and impact of risks identified.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	1. Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2023/24

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Chris Taylor - Strategic Finance Manager  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 703309  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk">Christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Authorised Limit:</b> A statutory limit that sets the maximum level of external debt for the Council.

**Balances and Reserves:** Accumulated sums that are held, either for specific future costs or commitments (known as earmarked) or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.

**Bank Rate:** The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate".

**Basis Point:** A unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent). In most cases, it refers to changes in interest rates and bond yields. For example, if interest rates rise by 25 basis points, it means that rates have risen by 0.25% percentage points.

**Bond:** A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.

**Capital Expenditure:** Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets.

**Capital Financing Requirement (CFR):** The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.

**Certificates of Deposits (CD's):** A savings certificate entitling the bearer to receive interest. A CD bears a maturity date, a specified fixed interest rate and can be issued in any denomination. CDs are generally issued by commercial banks. The term of a CD generally ranges from one month to five years.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** The UK's main measure of inflation (along with Retail Price Index or 'RPI') The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England set the Bank Rate in order to try and keep CPI at or close to the target set by the Government. The calculation of CPI includes many items of normal household expenditure but excludes some items such as mortgage interest payments and Council Tax.

**Corporate Bonds:** Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.

**Cost of Carry:** The "cost of carry" is the difference between what is paid to borrow compared to the interest which could be earned. For example, if one takes out borrowing at 5% and invests the money at 1.5%, there is a cost of carry of 3.5%.

**Counterparty List:** List of approved financial institutions with which the Council can place investments.

**Credit Rating:** Formal opinion by a registered rating agency of a counterparty's future ability to meet its financial liabilities; these are opinions only and not guarantees.

**Debt Management Office (DMO):** The DMO is an Executive Agency of His Majesty's Treasury and provides direct access for local authorities into a government deposit facility known as the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF). All deposits are guaranteed by HM Government and therefore have the equivalent of a sovereign credit rating.

**Federal Reserve:** The US central bank, the equivalent of the Bank of England. (Often referred to as "the Fed").

**Financial Instruments:** Financial instruments are tradable assets of any kind. They can be cash, evidence of an ownership interest in an entity, or a contractual right to receive or deliver cash or another financial instrument

**Gilts:** Gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government. They take their name from 'gilt-edged'. They are deemed to be very secure as the investor expects to receive the full face value of the bond to be repaid on maturity.

**IFRS:** International Financial Reporting Standards.

**LIBID:** The London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) is the rate bid by banks on Eurocurrency deposits (i.e. the rate at which a bank is willing to borrow from other banks).

**LIBOR:** The London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is the rate of interest that banks charge to lend money to each other. The British Bankers' Association (BBA) work with a small group of large banks to set the LIBOR rate each day. The wholesale markets allow banks who need money to borrow from those with surplus amounts. The banks with surplus amounts of money are keen to lend so that they can generate interest which it would not otherwise receive.

**LOBO:** Stands for Lender Option Borrower Option. The underlying loan facility is typically very long-term - for example 40 to 60 years - and the interest rate is fixed. However, in the LOBO facility the lender has the option to call on the facilities at pre-determined future dates. On these call dates, the lender can propose or impose a new fixed rate for the remaining term of the facility and the borrower has the 'option' to either accept the new imposed fixed rate or repay the loan facility.

**Low Volatility Net Asset Value Money Market Funds (LVNAV MMFs):** Refers to highly liquid money market funds which aim to maintain the level of their worth by investing in very secure instruments.

**Maturity:** The date when an investment or borrowing is repaid.

**Maturity Structure / Profile:** A table or graph showing the amount (or percentage) of debt or investments maturing over a time period.

**Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP):** An annual provision that the Council is statutorily required to set aside and charge to the Revenue Account for the repayment of debt associated with expenditure incurred on capital assets.

**Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** Government Body that sets the Bank Rate. Its primary target is to keep inflation within 1% of a central target of 2%. Its secondary target is to support the Government in maintaining high and stable levels of growth and employment.

**Money Market Funds (MMF):** Pooled funds which invest in a range of short term assets providing high credit quality and high liquidity.

**Non Specified Investment:** Investments which fall outside the WG Guidance for Specified investments (below).

**Operational Boundary:** This linked directly to the Council's estimates of the CFR and estimates of other day to day cash flow requirements. This indicator is based on the same estimates as the Authorised Limit reflecting the most likely prudent but not worst case scenario but without the additional headroom included within the Authorised Limit.

**Premiums and Discounts:** In the context of local authority borrowing,  
(a) the premium is the penalty arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date and  
(b) the discount is the gain arising when a loan is redeemed prior to its maturity date.

**Prudential Code:** Developed by CIPFA and introduced in April 2004 as a professional code of practice to support local authority capital investment planning within a clear, affordable, prudent and sustainable framework and in accordance with good professional practice.

**Prudential Indicators:** Indicators determined by the local authority to define its capital expenditure and asset management framework. They are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable; they are not intended to be comparative performance indicators

**Public Works Loans Board (PWLB):** The PWLB is a statutory body operating within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office, an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. The PWLB's function is to lend money from the National Loans Fund to local authorities and other prescribed bodies, and to collect the repayments.

**Quantitative Easing (QE):** In relation to the UK, it is the process used by the Bank of England to directly increase the quantity of money in the economy. It does not involve printing more banknotes. Instead, the Bank buys assets from private sector institutions – that could be insurance companies, pension funds, banks or non-financial firms – and credits the seller's bank account. So the seller has more money in their bank account, while their bank holds a corresponding claim against the Bank of England (known as reserves). The end result is more money out in the wider economy.

**Retail Price Index (RPI):** A monthly index demonstrating the movement in the cost of living as it tracks the prices of goods and services including mortgage interest and rent.

**Revenue Expenditure:** Expenditure to meet the continuing cost of delivery of services including salaries and wages, the purchase of materials and capital financing charges.

**Specified Investments:** Term used in the Welsh Assembly Guidance for Local Authority Investments. Investments that offer high security and high liquidity, in sterling and for no more than one year. UK government, local authorities and bodies that have a high credit rating.

**Supported Borrowing:** Borrowing for which the costs are supported by the government or third party.

**Supranational Bonds:** Instruments issued by supranational organisations created by governments through international treaties (often called multilateral development banks). The bonds carry an AAA rating in their own right. Examples of supranational organisations are the European Investment Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

**Temporary Borrowing:** Borrowing to cover peaks and troughs of cash flow, not to fund capital spending.

**Term Deposits:** Deposits of cash with terms attached relating to maturity and rate of return (Interest).

**Treasury Bills (T-Bills):** Treasury Bills are short term Government debt instruments and, just like temporary loans used by local authorities, are a means to manage cash flow. They are issued by the Debt Management Office and are an eligible sovereign instrument, meaning that they have an AAA-rating.

**Treasury Management Code:** CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services, initially brought in 2003, subsequently updated in 2009 and 2011.

**Treasury Management Practices (TMP):** Treasury Management Practices set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve its policies and objectives and prescribe how it will manage and control these activities.

**Unsupported Borrowing:** Borrowing which is self-financed by the local authority. This is also sometimes referred to as Prudential Borrowing.

**Yield:** The measure of the return on an investment instrument.

This page is intentionally left blank





# **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

### **MID YEAR REPORT 2023/24**

## **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To provide Members with a mid-year update on matters relating to the Council's Treasury Management function.

## **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 Treasury management comprises the management of the Council's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.
- 2.02 The Council's primary objectives for the investment of its surplus funds are to protect the principal sums invested from loss, and to ensure adequate liquidity so that funds are available for expenditure when needed. The generation of investment income to support the provision of local authority services is an important, but secondary, objective.
- 2.03 The Council's policy is to appoint external consultants to provide advice on its treasury management function. In September 2021 Arlingclose Ltd were reappointed as the Council's advisors for a period of 3 years, following a competitive tendering exercise. This period can be extended a further 2 years as per the contract terms to September 2026.
- 2.04 The Council has adopted the 2021 edition of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice, which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year, a mid-year report, and an annual report after the end of each financial year.

This report includes the new requirement in the 2021 Code, mandatory from 1st April 2023, of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators and non-treasury prudential indicators.

- 2.05 In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issues guidance on local authority investments that requires the Council to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year.
- 2.06 This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.
- 2.07 The Council approved the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.

### **3.00 ECONOMIC & INTEREST RATE REVIEW APRIL – OCTOBER 2023.**

*Provided by Arlingclose Ltd, the Council's treasury management advisors.*

**Economic background:** UK inflation remained stubbornly high over much the period compared to the US and euro zone, keeping expectations elevated of how much further the Bank of England (BoE) would hike rates compared to the regions. However, inflation data published in the latter part of the period undershot expectations, causing financial markets to reassess the peak in BoE Bank Rate. This was followed very soon after by the BoE deciding to keep Bank Rate on hold at 5.25% in September, against expectation for another 0.25% rise.

Economic growth in the UK remained relatively weak over the period. In calendar Q2 2023, the economy expanded by 0.2%. However, monthly GDP data showed a 0.5% contraction in July, the largest fall to date in 2023 and worse than the 0.2% decline predicted which could be an indication the monetary tightening cycle is starting to cause recessionary or at the very least stagnating economic conditions.

July data showed the unemployment rate increased to 4.3% (3mth/year) while the employment rate rose to 75.5%. Pay growth was 8.5% for total pay (including bonuses) and 7.8% for regular pay, which for the latter was the highest recorded annual growth rate. Adjusting for inflation, pay growth in real terms were positive at 1.2% and 0.6% for total pay and regular pay respectively.

Inflation continued to fall from its peak as annual headline CPI declined to 6.7% in July 2023 from 6.8% in the previous month against expectations for a tick back up to 7.0%. The largest downward contribution came from food prices. The core rate also surprised on the downside, falling to 6.2% from 6.9% compared to predictions for it to only edge down to 6.8%.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee continued tightening monetary policy over most of the period, taking Bank Rate to 5.25% in August. Against expectations of a further hike in September, the Committee voted 5-4 to maintain Bank Rate at 5.25%. Each of the four dissenters were in favour of another 0.25% increase.

Financial market Bank Rate expectations moderated over the period as falling inflation and weakening data gave some indication that higher interest rates were working. Expectations fell from predicting a peak of over 6% in June to 5.5% just ahead of the September MPC meeting, and to then expecting 5.25% to be the peak by the end of the period.

Following the September MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, modestly revised its interest forecast to reflect the central view that 5.25% will now be the peak in Bank Rate. In the short term the risks are to the upside if inflation

increases again, but over the remaining part of the time horizon the risks are to the downside from economic activity weakening more than expected.

The lagged effect of monetary policy together with the staggered fixed term mortgage maturities over the next 12-24 months means the full impact from Bank Rate rises are still yet to be felt by households. As such, while consumer confidence continued to improve over the period, the GfK measure hit -21 in September, it is likely this will reverse at some point. Higher rates will also impact business and according to S&P/CIPS survey data, the UK manufacturing and services sector contracted during the quarter with all measures scoring under 50, indicating contraction in the sectors.

The US Federal Reserve increased its key interest rate to 5.25-5.50% over the period, pausing in September following a 0.25% rise the month before, and indicating that it may have not quite completed its monetary tightening cycle.

Having fallen throughout 2023, annual US inflation started to pick up again in July 2023, rising from 3% in June, which represented the lowest level since March 2021, to 3.2% in July and then jumping again to 3.7% in August, beating expectations for a rise to 3.6%. Rising oil prices were the main cause of the increase. US GDP growth registered 2.1% annualised in the second calendar quarter of 2023, down from the initial estimate of 2.4% but above the 2% expansion seen in the first quarter.

The European Central Bank increased its key deposit, main refinancing, and marginal lending interest rates to 4.00%, 4.50% and 4.75% respectively in September, and hinted these levels may represent the peak in rates but also emphasising rates would stay high for as long as required to bring inflation down to target.

Although continuing to decline steadily, inflation has been sticky, Eurozone annual headline CPI fell to 5.2% in August while annual core inflation eased to 5.3% having stuck at 5.5% in the previous two months. GDP growth remains weak, with recent data showing the region expanded by only 0.1% in the three months to June 2023, the rate as the previous quarter.

**Financial markets:** Financial market sentiment and bond yields remained volatile, with the latter generally trending downwards as there were signs inflation, while still high, was moderating and interest rates were at a peak. Gilt yields fell towards the end of the period. The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 3.30% to peak at 4.91% in July before trending downwards to 4.29%, the 10-year gilt yield rose from 3.43% to 4.75% in August before declining to 4.45%, and the 20-year yield from 3.75% to 4.97% in August and then fell back to 4.84%. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.73% over the period.

**Credit review:** Having completed a review of its credit advice on unsecured deposits at UK and non-UK banks following concerns of a wider financial crisis after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank purchase of Credit Suisse by UBS, as well as other well-publicised banking sector issues, in March Arlingclose reduced the advised maximum duration limit for all banks on its recommended counterparty list to 35 days. This stance continued to be maintained at the end of the period.

During the second quarter of the period, Moody's revised the outlook on Svenska Handelsbanken to negative from stable, citing concerns around the Swedish real estate sector.

Having put the US sovereign rating on Rating Watch Negative earlier in the period, Fitch took further action in August, downgrading the long-term rating to AA+, partly around ongoing debt ceiling concerns but also an expected fiscal deterioration over the next couple of years.

Following the issue of a Section 114 notice, in September Arlingclose advised against undertaking new lending to Birmingham City Council, and later in the month cut its recommended duration on Warrington Borough Council to a maximum of 100 days.

Arlingclose continued to monitor and assess credit default swap levels for signs of ongoing credit stress and although no changes were made to recommended durations over the period, Northern Trust Corporation was added to the counterparty list.

Heightened market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, as ever, the institutions and durations on the Council's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remains under constant review.

#### **Outlook for the remainder of 2023/24**

The MPC held Bank Rate at 5.25% in September. Arlingclose believe this is the peak for Bank Rate.

The MPC will cut rates in the medium term to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second round effects. Arlingclose see rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early 2026.

The immediate risks around Bank Rate lie to the upside, but these diminish over the next few quarters and shift to the downside before balancing out, due to the weakening UK economy and dampening effects on inflation.

Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to eventually fall from current levels reflecting the lower medium-term path for Bank Rate. However, yields will remain relatively higher than in the past, partly due to quantitative tightening, with continued elevated volatility.

	Current	Dec 23	Mar 24	Jun 24	Sept 24	Dec 24	Mar 25	Jun 25	Sept 25	Dec 25	Mar 26	Jun 26	Sept 26
Upside Risk (%)	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Interest Rate (%)	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00
Downside Risk (%)	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00

#### **4.00 BORROWING**

4.01 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Council. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.

The Council has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Council. It has no plans to do so in future.

#### **BORROWING STRATEGY & ACTIVITY**

4.02 Borrowing Strategy

As outlined in the treasury strategy, the Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

There was a substantial rise in the cost of both short- and long-term borrowing over the last 18 months. Bank Rate rose by 1% from 4.25% at the beginning of April to 5.25% at the end of September. Bank Rate was 2% higher than at the end of

September 2022.

UK gilt yields were volatile, mainly facing upward pressure since early April following signs that UK growth had been more resilient, inflation stickier than expected, and that the Bank of England saw persistently higher rates through 2023/24 as key to dampening domestic demand. Gilt yields, and consequently PWLB borrowing rates, rose and broadly remained at elevated levels. On 30th September, the PWLB certainty rates for maturity loans were 5.26% for 10 year loans, 5.64% for 20-year loans and 5.43% for 50-year loans. Their equivalents on 31st March 2023 were 4.33%, 4.70% and 4.41% respectively.

A new PWLB HRA rate which is 0.4% below the certainty rate was made available from 15th June 2023. Initially available for a period of one year, this discounted rate is to support local authorities borrowing for the Housing Revenue Account and for refinancing existing HRA loans, providing a window of opportunity for HRA-related borrowing.

The Council submitted its application for access to PWLB lending 2023/24 (including access to HRA and certainty rates) in April 2023.

In keeping with the Council's objectives, no new borrowing was undertaken, while £0.870m of existing loans were allowed to mature without replacement. This strategy enabled the Council to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk.

4.03 The long-term borrowing outstanding at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 totals £292.97million.

4.04 Loans with the Public Works Loans Board are in the form of fixed rate (£269.55m). £18.95m is variable in the form of LOBOs (Lender's Option, Borrower's Option) and £4.47m are interest free loans from government. The Council's average long-term borrowing rate is currently 4.51%.

	Balance 01/04/2023 £m	Debt Maturing £m	New Debt £m	Balance 30/09/2023 £m
Long Term Borrowing	290.49	(1.99)	0.00	288.50
Government Loans	4.71	(0.24)	0.00	4.47
<b>TOTAL BORROWING</b>	<b>295.20</b>	<b>(2.23)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>292.97</b>
Other Long Term Liabilities *	2.75	0.00	0.00	2.75
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT</b>	<b>297.95</b>	<b>(2.23)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>295.72</b>
Increase/ (Decrease) in Borrowing £m				(2.23)

\* relates to finance leases in respect of Deeside Leisure Centre and Jade Jones Pavilion

- 4.05 No new long or short-term borrowing was undertaken during the period.
- 4.06 The Council has £18.95m LOBO loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. These loans all have call dates within the next 12 months. The Council has liaised with Arlingclose over the likelihood of the options being exercised. If the option is exercised and an increased rate proposed, the Council will repay the LOBO loans with available cash or by borrowing from other local authorities or the PWLB.

#### 4.07 Debt Rescheduling

The premium charge for early repayment of PWLB debt remained relatively expensive for the loans in the Council's portfolio and therefore unattractive for debt rescheduling activity. No rescheduling activity was undertaken as a consequence.

The Corporate Finance Manager, in conjunction with the Council's treasury advisors, will continue to review any potential opportunities for restructuring the Council's debt in order to take advantage of potential savings as interest rates change and to enhance the balance of the long term portfolio (amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

## **5.0 INTERIM INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT**

- 5.01 The definition of investments in the Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).

Investment Guidance issued by the Welsh Government also includes within the definition of investments all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

Non-treasury investments, including loans to subsidiaries and purchases of investment property, are not normally considered to be treasury investments, and these are therefore covered separately in Appendix A.

- 5.02 The maximum investments the Council had on deposit at any one time totalled £62m. The average investment balance for the period was £48.4m and the average rate of return was 4.58%, generating investment income of £1.11m.
- 5.03 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its



funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report (paragraph 6.01), the Council expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different asset classes and boost investment income.

- 5.04 Up to 30<sup>th</sup> September, investments were made in the Debt Management Office Deposit Account, banks, other local authorities and money market funds.
- 5.05 The average of long-term borrowing was £294.04m generating interest payable of £6.659m, in line with budget forecasts to date.

	Investments		Long Term Borrowing		Short Term Borrowing	
	Interest received £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %
2023/24 Apr - Sept	1,112	4.58	6,659	4.51	0	n/a
2022/23 Apr - Sept	304	1.05	6,655	4.53	0	n/a
Difference	808		4			

Year-end projections are as follows:

	Investments		Long Term Borrowing		Short Term Borrowing	
	Interest received £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %
2023/24 est.	1,700	4.58	13,438	4.51	980	5.95
2022/23 act	940	1.87	13,297	4.53	14	4.55
Difference	760		141		866	

#### 5.06 Credit Risk (security)

Counterparty credit quality was assessed and monitored with reference to credit ratings (the Council's minimum long-term counterparty rating for institutions defined as having "high credit quality" is A- across rating agencies Fitch, S&P and Moody's); credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press.

## 5.07 Liquidity

In keeping with the WG's Guidance on Investments, the Council maintained a sufficient level of liquidity through the use of money market funds.

## 5.08 Yield

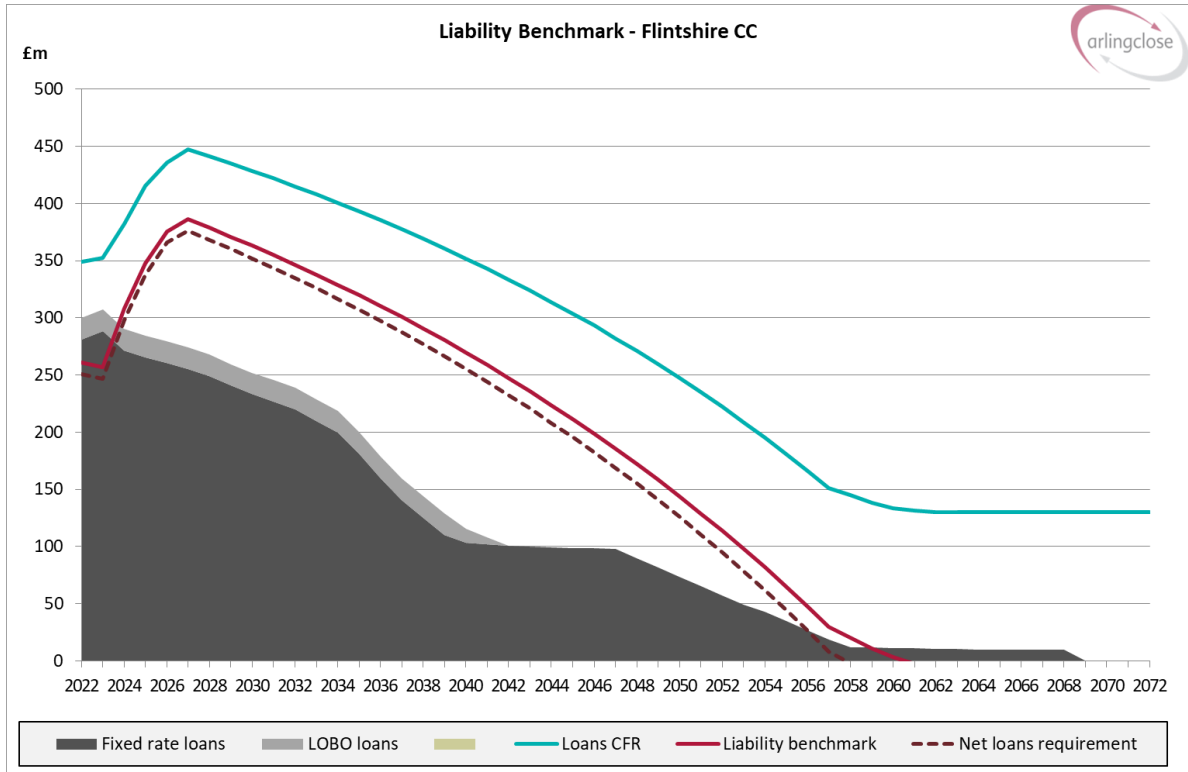
The Council sought to optimise returns commensurate with its objectives of security and liquidity. The Council's investment yield is outlined in 5.0.2.

## **6.00 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Council monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

### 6.01 Liability Benchmark

This new indicator compares the Council's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.



## 6.02 Interest rate exposures

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk.

Interest rate risk indicator	30.06.23 £'000	30.09.23 £'000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	30.2	44.0
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	99.5	101.0

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at new market rates.

Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for at least 12 months, measured from the start of the financial year or the transaction date if later. All other instruments are classed as variable rate.

## 6.03 Maturity structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper

and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing will be:

	Lower	Upper	Actual as at 30.09.23
Under 12 months	0%	20%	1.65%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	20%	2.15%
24 months and within five years	0%	30%	6.41%
Five years and within 10 years	0%	50%	14.75%
10 years and above	0%	100%	75.04%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

#### 6.04 Long-term treasury management investments:

The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management investments will be:

Price risk indicator	2023/24 Limit	30.09.23 Actual
Limit on total principal invested beyond year end	£5m	£0m

Any long-term investments carried forward from previous years will be included in each year's limit.

#### 6.05 Borrowing Limits

These limits are reported as part of the quarterly monitoring of the capital programme, however, they are repeated here for completeness.

	2023/24 Limit	30.09.23 Actual
Operational Boundary	£403m	£297.67m
Authorised Limit	£438m	£297.67m

### 7.00 OTHER ITEMS

7.01 Other treasury management related activities that took place during April – September 2023 included:

- Statutory override: In April 2023 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities published the full outcome of the consultation on the extension of the

statutory override on accounting for gains and losses on pooled investment funds. The override has been extended for two years until 31st March 2025 and is unlikely to be extended beyond this date. The Council will discuss with Arlingclose the implications for the investment strategy and what action may need to be taken.

- The Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 was reported to Governance and Audit Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and Council on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- The Quarter 1 Treasury Management update was reported to the Governance and Audit Committee.

## **8.00 COMPLIANCE**

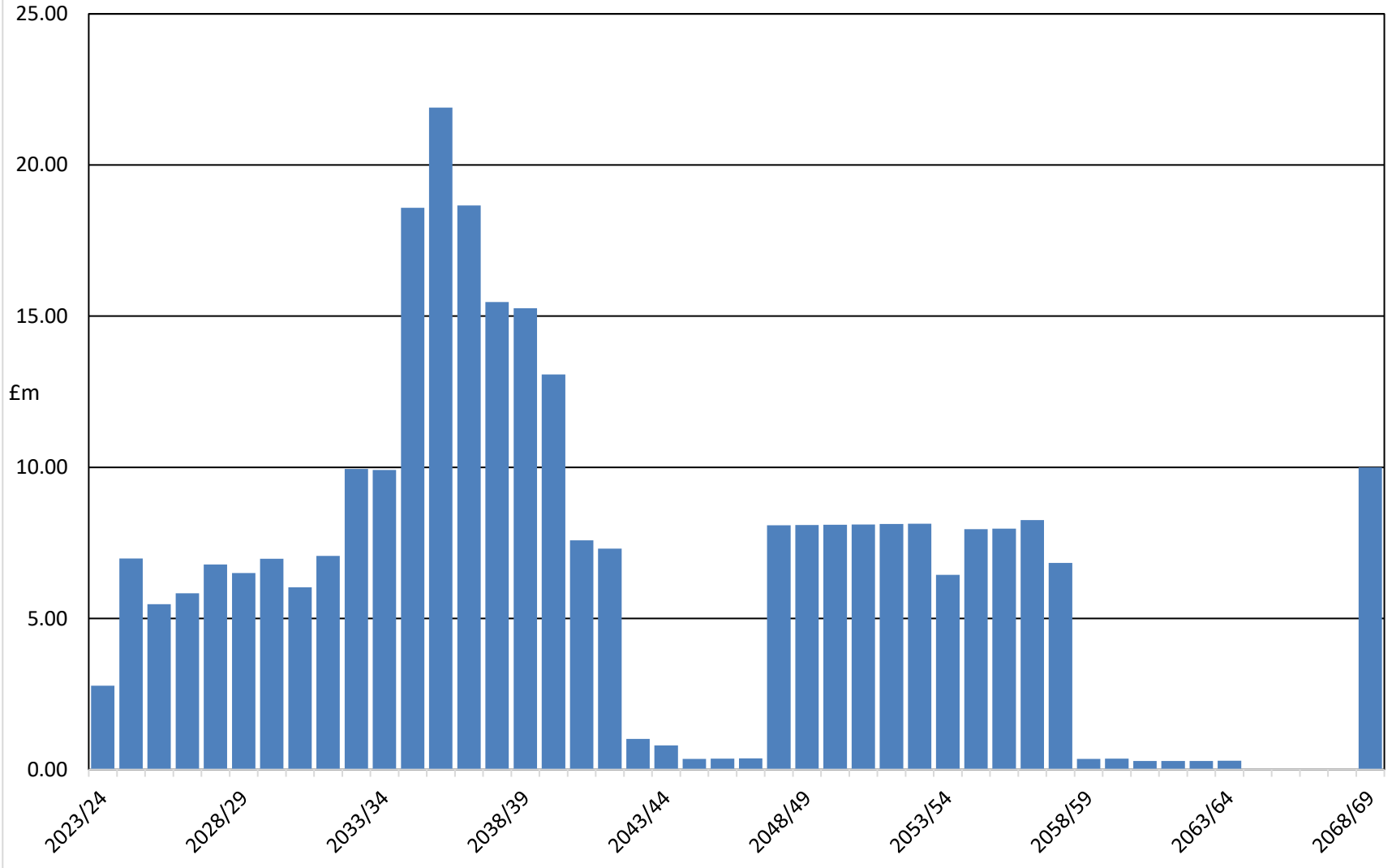
8.01 The Corporate Finance Manager reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the quarter complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Section 6.00.

## **8.00 CONCLUSION**

8.01 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides Members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during the first half of 2023/24.

8.02 As indicated in this report none of the prudential indicators have been breached and a prudent approach has been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

### Debt Maturity Profile - Sept 2023



## APPENDIX A NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

1.01 The definition of investments in the Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).

Investment Guidance issued by the Welsh Government also includes within the definition of investments all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

The Council has given loans to wholly owned companies for service purposes and has historical non-financial investments in property defined as Investment Properties within the Council's Statement of Accounts. The Council considers both to be non-treasury investments.

### 1.02 Wholly Owned Companies

The Council's investments in the form of loans to wholly owned companies contribute to its service delivery objectives and/or to promote wellbeing as follows:

- The Council has embarked on an ambitious house building programme as part of its Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP). Over a 5-year period 500 new homes will be built at a range of sites across the county, a mixture of new council houses and affordable homes, alongside commissioning a range of linked regeneration initiatives and community benefits.
- Affordable homes are being developed through the Council's wholly owned subsidiary North East Wales Homes Limited (NEW Homes) in partnership with the Council. Affordable homes for rent are built or purchased by NEW Homes funded by loans from the Council. New affordable homes for rent have been built in Flint, Penyffordd (Holywell), Dobshell, Bryn-y-Baal, Northop and Saltney.

The Council considers that its financial exposure to loans to wholly owned companies is proportionate and has set the limits in the table below. The Council's loan book is currently within these self-assessed limits.

<b>Borrower</b>	<b>Cash Limit</b>
Wholly owned companies	£40m
Treasury management investments meeting the definition of a loan	Unlimited

#### Yield (net profit)

The loans generate a small income for the Council as there is a margin of approx. 0.25% charged to NEW Homes on the Council's borrowing rate from the PWLB. The income makes a very small contribution to achieving a balanced revenue budget.

### 1.03 Investment Properties

The Welsh Government guidance includes an investment category covering non-financial assets held primarily or partially to generate a profit, primarily investment property. Proper accounting practice defines an investment property as those that are held solely to earn rent and / or for capital appreciation.

The Council has a portfolio of investment properties, in the form of agricultural property and industrial units. Although these are classified as investment properties, they are legacy assets, and the Council is managing down its agricultural portfolio and is reviewing its position regarding industrial units.

#### **Fair Value of Investment Properties**

	31.03.2023 £m	31.3.2022 £m	31.3.2021 £m	31.3.2020 £m	31.3.2019 £m
Fair Value Inv. Properties	28.8	27.6	25.2	25.0	25.2

#### Yield (net profit)

The profit generated by investment activity makes a small contribution to achieving a balanced revenue budget. The table below details the extent to which funding expenditure to meet the service delivery objectives and or promote wellbeing in the Council is dependent on achieving the expected yield over the life cycle of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.



### Proportionality of Investment Properties

	2022/23 Actual £m	2023/24 Budget £m	2024/25 Budget - Estimated £m
Net Revenue Budget	326.683	352.121	357.681
Net Investment income	1.67	1.65	1.65
Proportion	0.51%	0.47%	0.46%

This page is intentionally left blank



## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024
<b>Report Subject</b>	Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty to undertake a review of UK Parliamentary polling districts, polling places and polling places every five years. The current review had to be completed by 31st January 2025, but it was decided to conduct this early as the next UK Parliamentary general must take place before 28th January 2025 and is likely to take place in 2024.

This report sets out the final proposals for polling districts, polling places and polling stations following the review.

If there are any changes to polling district boundaries the Register of Electors will be re-published on 1st February 2024.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Council note the outcome of the review and the consultation undertaken.
2	That the final proposals detailed in Appendix 2 regarding polling districts, polling places and polling stations be approved.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS</b>
1.01	The Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty to undertake a review of UK Parliamentary polling districts, polling places and polling places every five years. The current review had to be completed by 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025.
1.02	Polling districts are, in effect, subdivisions of electoral wards. When designating polling districts, the local authority must seek to ensure that all the electors in the area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practical in the circumstances. Responsibility for determining polling district boundaries lie with the Council itself.
1.03	<p>The following criteria has been adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The place for voting must be accessible for all electors, including those with disabilities.</li><li>• Polling places should be within the polling district unless it is not possible to find a suitable place with the area.</li><li>• The polling station should be easy to find and as close to electors as possible.</li></ul>
1.04	The Council is responsible for designating polling places, whereas authority for determining where the polling station should be within the polling place has been delegated to the Returning Officer. Typically, a school might be designated as the polling place, leaving the discretion to the Returning Officer to decide, in consultation with the school, the exact location of the polling station within the school premises.
1.05	Public notice of the review was published on the Council's website on 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023. The consultation period closed on 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.
1.06	<p>Over 50 representations were received during the consultation period, mostly in support of the current arrangements.</p> <p>The following issues were either raised through the consultation process or already known –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A polling station for Broughton North East electoral ward, as it was raised that the community of Broughton would benefit from another polling place because of the size and electorate.</li><li>2. The closure of Bistre Methodist Schoolroom, Spon Green, Buckley.</li><li>3. Election issues and complaints that happen at each election using Hawkesbury Community Centre as a polling place.</li><li>4. The closure of Presbyterian Church Hall, High Street, Caergwrle.</li><li>5. The closure of St. Davids Church Hall, Mold Road, Connah's Quay</li><li>6. The closure of Parkfields Community Centre, Park Avenue, Mold.</li><li>7. A polling place for the area of Rhewl Mostyn.</li></ol>

	<p>8. No longer able to use St. John the Baptist School, Chester Road, Penymynydd and an alternative venue for the Youth Centre, Penyffordd.</p> <p>9. The closure of Shotton Community Centre, Plymouth Street, Shotton.</p>
1.07	The Acting Returning Officer Comments for the new Constituencies of Alyn & Deeside and Clwyd East were published on Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 and can be found in Appendix 1.
1.08	The final proposals detailed in Appendix 2 have been identified for consideration. Once Council has agreed the proposals, details of the new polling districts, polling places and polling stations will be published.

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

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	<p>The formal consultation period ran from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023. A public notice was placed on the Council's website, giving notice of the review and full details of the review. In addition, the following specific consultations were undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) With Members of the Council, by way of an email dated 9<sup>th</sup> October and a reminder email was sent 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</li> <li>b) An email to each of the Members of Parliament with the explanatory information.</li> <li>c) An email to each of the Members of the Senedd for Alyn and Deeside, Delyn and North Wales region with the explanatory information.</li> <li>d) An email to each Town and Community Council with the explanatory information.</li> <li>e) An email to local known disability groups and interested parties with explanatory information.</li> <li>f) The Acting Returning Officer for the Alyn &amp; Deeside and Delyn Constituencies with the same explanatory information.</li> </ul>

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	So far as possible venues for polling places have been selected that are reasonably central within the polling district to limit the need for electors to travel to them by car.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Acting Returning Officer’s Comments Appendix 2 – Final Proposals for Consideration

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 Public Notice of Review Flintshire County Council Consultation Document  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Lynn Phillips, Team Leader – Democratic Services <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702329 <b>E-mail:</b> lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Polling district</b> is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area, i.e. a constituency, district ward or division into smaller parts.  <b>Polling place</b> is a building or area in which polling stations will be located.  <b>Polling station</b> is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place.

**Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections)**  
**Regulations 2006**

**Acting Returning Officer's Comments on the Schedule of existing Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023**

**Alyn & Deeside and Clwyd East Parliamentary Constituencies**

**Argoed and New Brighton Electoral Ward**

<b>Polling District (inc.electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
AAD – 2,130	Community Centre, Mynydd Isa	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
ABD1 – 1,459	Women's Institute, Chambers Lane, Mynydd Isa	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
ABD2 – 1,033	Community Centre, New Brighton	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

**Bagillt Electoral Ward**

<b>Polling District (inc electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
BAD – 1,446	Community Centre, Bagillt	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BBD1 - 577	Bagillt Community Library, Bagillt	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BBD2 – 1,061	Trem Afon Community Hall, Holywell Road, Bagillt	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

**Broughton North East Electoral Ward**

<b>Polling District (inc electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
BCA – 1,750	Broughton & Bretton Community Centre (No.1) Brookes Avenue, Broughton	<p>This polling place is situated in the adjacent polling district of BDA. Arrangements considered satisfactory, no change is proposed to this polling place.</p> <p>Having said this it has been suggested that the electoral wards of Broughton South and Broughton North East due to the size of the electorate would benefit an alternative polling station. The following alternative venues have been suggested Broughton Library and St Mary's Church.</p>

		These venues will be inspected over the coming weeks.
--	--	---

### Broughton South Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
BDA – 3,363	Broughton & Bretton Community Centre (No.2) Brookes Avenue, Broughton	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed.  Please see comments above

### Brynford and Halkyn Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
BED - 839	St. Michael's Church, Brynford	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BFD - 903	Community Centre, Pentre Halkyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BGD1 - 390	Parish Hall, Halkyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BGD2 - 336	Village Hall, Rhes y Cae	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BGD3 - 680	Rhosesmor Village Hall, Rhosesmor	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Buckley: Bistre East Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
BHA1 – 1,619	Jubilee Court Community Centre, Jubilee Road, Buckley	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BHA2 – 1,714	Bistre Methodist Schoolroom, Spon Green, Buckley	The Bistre Methodist Schoolroom is no longer available for use. Our Lady of the Rosary, Jubilee Road was used as a polling place for the local elections in 2022. It is proposed to designate Our Lady of the Rosary as the polling place.

### Buckley: Bistre West Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
BIA1 – 1,453	Buckley Cross Community Centre, Tabernacle Street	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed



BIA2 – 1,667	Bistre Youth & Community Centre, Nant Mawr Road	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed. The centre is to be renamed The Rise @ Bistre Community Centre.
--------------	---	---

### Buckley: Mountain Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
BJA1 - 641	Hawkesbury Community Centre, Mill Lane, Buckley	At recent elections issues have arose using this venue as a polling place. It is proposed, therefore, to designate St Johns United Reformed Church, Hawkesbury Road as the polling place.
BJA2 – 1,365	Bistre Parish Church Hall, Mold Road, Buckley	This polling place is situated on the border in the adjacent polling district of BIA2. There is no known suitable alternative within BJA2 and no adverse comments have been made about its use in the past. Arrangements considered satisfactory; no change is proposed to this polling place.

### Buckley: Pentrobin Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
BKA1 – 1,096	St. Matthews Church Hall, Church Road, Buckley	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
BKA2 – 1,827	Hawkesbury Community Centre, Mill Lane, Buckley	St Johns United Reformed Church, Hawkesbury Road was used as a polling place for the local elections in 2022. It is proposed to designate St Johns United Reformed Church, Hawkesbury Road as the polling place.
BKA3 – 1,129	Methodist Church Schoolroom, Drury Lane, Buckley	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Caergwrle Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
CAA – 1,224	Presbyterian Church Hall, High Street, Caergwrle	The Presbyterian Church Hall, High Street is no longer available for use. The following alternative venues have been suggested The Boy's Brigade, Castle Street, Methodist Church, Castle

		Street and Caergwrle Evangelical Church, High Street. These venues will be inspected over the coming weeks.
--	--	--

### Caerwys Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
CBD – 1,003	Town Hall, Caerwys	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
CCD1 – 596	Berthen Chapel, Lixwm, Holywell	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
CCD2 – 436	Village Hall, Ysceifiog	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Cilcain Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
CDD – 611	Village Hall, Cilcain	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
CEP – 529	War Memorial Institute, Rhydymwyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
CEB – 389	Memorial Hall, Nannerch	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Connah's Quay Central Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
CGA1 – 1,546	Community Centre, Tuscan Way, Connah's Quay	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
CGA2 – 1,954	Bryn Deva C.P. School, Connah's Quay	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Connah's Quay: Golftyn Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
CHA1 – 1,272	St. Mark's Church Hall, High Street, Connah's Quay	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
CHA2 – 2,498	Connah's Quay Youth Centre, Golftyn Lane	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Connah's Quay South Electoral Ward

Polling District (in electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
CIA1 – 2,094	Wepre C. P. School, Llwyni Drive, Connah's Quay	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
CIA2 – 1,505	St. Davids Church Hall, Mold Road, Connah's Quay	The Church Hall is no longer available for use. The following alternative venue has suggested The Green Room, Wepre Park Visitor Centre. Wepre Drive.  This venue will be inspected over the coming weeks.

### Connah's Quay: Wepre Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
CJA – 1,710	Civic Hall, Connah's Quay	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Flint: Castle Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
FAD1 – 549	Town Hall, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
FAD2 – 1,132	Community Room, Castle Heights, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Flint: Coleshill and Trelawny Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
FBD1 – 607	St. John's United Reformed Church Schoolroom, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
FBD2 – 2,421	Cilfan Community Hall, Cornist, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
FCD1 – 2,635	Flint High School, Mount Pleasant, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
FCD2 – 544	St Thomas' Church, Flint Mountain, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Flint: Oakenholt Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
FDD1 – 733	Neuadd, Maes-Y-Coed, Woodfield Avenue, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
FDD2 – 1,718	Oakenholt Bowling Club, Croes Atti Lane, Flint	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Greenfield Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
GAD – 1,988	Youth & Community Centre, Greenfield	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Gwernaffield and Gwernymynydd Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
GBD – 771	Church Hall, Gwernaffield	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
GCD – 814	Village Hall, Pantymwyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
GDD – 902	Village Centre, Gwernymynydd	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
GFD – 477	Soar Chapel School Room, Nercwys	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Hawarden: Aston Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
HAA1 – 1,270	Woodside Close Community Centre, Ewloe	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
HAA2 – 1,210	Aston Community Centre, Aston Park Road, Aston	This polling place is situated on the border in the adjacent polling district of SDA2. There is no known suitable alternative within HAA2 and no adverse comments have been made about use in the past. Arrangements considered satisfactory; no change is proposed to this polling place.
HAA3 – 818	Masonic Hall, Gladstone Way, Hawarden	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Hawarden: Ewloe Electoral Ward

<b>Polling District (inc electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
HBA1 – 3,279	Community Centre, Level Road, Hawarden	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
HBA2 – 1,111	Ewloe Social Club, Mold Road, Ewloe	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Hawarden: Mancot Electoral Ward

<b>Polling District (inc electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
HCA1 – 2,586	Mancot Village Hall, Mancot Lane, Mancot	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
HCA2 – 811	Tithe Barn, Church Lane, Hawarden	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Higher Kinnerton Electoral Ward

<b>Polling District (inc electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
HDA – 1,419	Village Hall, Higher Kinnerton	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Holywell Central Electoral Ward

<b>Polling District (inc electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
HED1 – 791	Youth Centre, North Road, Holywell	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed. The centre is to be renamed The Early Years Family Centre.
HED2 – 732	St. Peters Church, Rose Hill, Holywell	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Holywell East Electoral Ward

<b>Polling District (inc electorate)</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>	<b>Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals</b>
HFD – 1,428	St. Peters Church, Rose Hill, Holywell	This polling place is situated in the adjacent polling district of HED2. There are no known suitable alternative within HFD and no adverse comments have been made about use in the past. Arrangements considered satisfactory.

### Holywell West Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
HGD1 – 1,069	Youth Centre, North Road, Holywell	This polling place is situated in the adjacent polling district of HED1. There is no known suitable alternative within HGD1 and no adverse comments have been made about use in the past. Arrangements considered satisfactory; no change is proposed to this polling place. The centre is to be renamed The Early Years Family Centre.
HGD2 – 732	Community Centre, Holway, Holywell	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Hope Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
HHA – 2,015	Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Leeswood Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
LAD – 1,360	Community Centre, Leeswood	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LBD – 238	Pontblyddyn Cricket Club, Wrexham Road, Pontblyddyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
LCD1 – 595	Community Wing, Ysgol Bryn Garth, Penyffordd	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LCD2 – 322	Community Centre, Talacre	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LCD3 – 544	Canolfan, Ffynnongroyw	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LDD1 – 905	Family Centre, Nant y Gro, Gronant	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LDD2 – 346	Village Hall, Gwespyr	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LED1 – 247	Llanasa Village Hall, Llanasa	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LED2 – 531	Community Centre, Berthengam	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

LFD – 186	Gwaenysgor Village Hall, Gwaenysgor	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LGD – 491	Memorial Hall, Trelawnyd	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Llanfynydd Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
LHA – 471	C. P. School, Abermorddu	C.P. School, Abermorddu to be designated the polling place if an alternative venue cannot be found.
LIA – 347	Community Centre, Cymau	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LJA – 457	Community Centre, Ffrith	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
LKA – 189	Coed Talon Bowling Club, Pontybodkin	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Mold: Broncoed Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
MAD – 2,029	Glanrafon Centre, Glanrafon Road, Mold	The centre is no longer available for use. The following alternative venue has been suggested Bethesda Presbyterian Chapel, New Street.  This venue will be inspected over the coming weeks.

### Mold East Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
MBD – 1,964	St. Davids Church Hall, St. David's Lane, Mold	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Mold South Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
MCD – 2,172	Daniel Owen Centre, Earl Road, Mold	This polling place is situated in the adjacent polling district of MAD. There is no known suitable alternative within MCD and no adverse comments have been made about use in the past.

		Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
--	--	--

### Mold West Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
MDD – 1,758	Parkfields Community Centre, Park Avenue, Mold	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Mostyn Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
MED – 985	Community Centre, Maes Pennant Estate, Mostyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
MFD – 482	Community Centre, Maes Pennant Estate, Mostyn	This polling place is situated in the adjacent polling district of MED. Arrangements considered satisfactory but an alternative has been suggested The Lady Augusta Masonic Hall, Rhewl Mostyn.  This venue will be inspected over the coming weeks.

Page

### Northop Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
NAD – 1,045	Memorial Institute, Northop	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
NBD – 1,478	Memorial Hall, Sychdyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
NCD – 1,426	Community Pavilion, Northop Hall	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Penyffordd Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
PAA1 – 1,912	Youth Centre, Penyffordd	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
PAA2 – 1,933	St. John The Baptist School, Chester Road, Penymynydd	It is proposed to designate the Youth Centre, Penyffordd as the polling place in the short term if an alternative venue cannot be found in this polling district.



		<p>The following alternative venue has been suggested; Penyffordd and Penymynydd War Memorial Institute.</p> <p>This venue will be inspected over the coming weeks.</p>
--	--	---

### Queensferry and Sealand Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
QAA1 – 471	Queensferry War Memorial Institute, Queensferry	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
QAA2 – 115	Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft	This polling place is situated in the adjacent polling district of QBA. There are no known suitable alternative within QAA2 and no adverse comments have been made about use in the past. Arrangements considered satisfactory; no change is proposed to this polling place.
QBA – 881	Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
QCA – 2,565	Youth & Community Centre, Sandy Lane, Sealand	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Saltney Ferry Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
SAA – 1,180	Saltney Ferry Scout and Guide Headquarters, Bradshaw Avenue, Saltney Ferry	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
SBA1 – 1,157	Community Centre, Sandy Lane, Saltney	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
SBA2 – 1,483	Community Hall, Douglas Place, Saltney	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Shotton East and Shotton Higher Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
SCA – 1,301	St. Ethelwolds Church Hall, Shotton Lane, Shotton	This polling place is situated in the adjacent polling district of SDA1. There is no known suitable alternative within SCA and no adverse comments have been made about use in the past. Arrangements considered satisfactory; no change is proposed to

		this polling place.
SDA1 – 788	St. Ethelwolds Church Hall, Shotton Lane, Shotton	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
SDA2 – 955	Community Centre, Elmwood Close, Shotton	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed.

### Shotton West Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
SEA – 1,570	Shotton Community Centre, Plymouth Street, Shotton	The Community Centre is no longer available for use. It is proposed to designate Rivertown Church, Chester Road West as the polling place.

### Treuddyn Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
TEA – 1,330	Community Centre, Hafan Deg, Treuddyn	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

### Whitford Electoral Ward

Polling District (inc electorate)	Designated Polling Place	Acting Returning Officer's Comments and Alternative Proposals
WAD1 – 382	Ysgol y Llan, Whitford	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed
WAD2 – 1,507	Village Hall, Carmel	Arrangements considered satisfactory – no changes proposed

## FINAL PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

1.01 The following polling places are considered satisfactory: -

Polling Place for Polling District AAD – Argoed and New Brighton Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Mynydd Isa

Polling Place for Polling District ABD1 – Argoed and New Brighton Electoral Ward  
Women’s Institute, Chambers Lane, Mynydd Isa

Polling Place for Polling District ABD2 – Argoed and New Brighton Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, New Brighton

Polling Place for Polling District BAD – Bagillt Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Bagillt

Polling Place for Polling District BBD1 – Bagillt Electoral Ward  
Bagillt Community Library, Bagillt

Polling Place for Polling District BBD2 – Bagillt Electoral Ward  
Trem Afon Community Hall, Holywell Road, Bagillt

Polling Place for Polling District BDA – Broughton South Electoral Ward  
Broughton and Bretton Community Centre, Brookes Avenue

Polling Place for Polling District BED – Brynford and Halkyn Electoral Ward  
St. Michael’s Church, Brynford

Polling Place for Polling District BFD – Brynford and Halkyn Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Pentre Halkyn

Polling Place for Polling District BGD1 – Brynford and Halkyn Electoral Ward  
Parish Hall, Halkyn

Polling Place for Polling District BGD2 – Brynford and Halkyn Electoral Ward  
Village Hall, Rhes y Cae

Polling Place for Polling District BGD3 – Brynford and Halkyn Electoral Ward  
Rhosesmor Village Hall, Rhosesmor

Polling Place for Polling District BHA1 – Buckley: Bistre East Electoral Ward  
Jubilee Court Community Centre, Jubilee Road, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District BIA1 – Buckley: Bistre West Electoral Ward  
Buckley Cross Community Centre, Tabernacle Street, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District BIA2 – Buckley: Bistre West Electoral Ward  
The Rise @ Bistre Community Centre, Nant Mawr Road, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District BKA1 – Buckley: Pentrobin Electoral Ward  
St. Matthews Church Hall, Church Road, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District BKA3 – Buckley: Pentrobin Electoral Ward  
Methodist Church Schoolroom, Drury Lane, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District CBD – Caerwys Electoral Ward  
Town Hall, Caerwys

Polling Place for Polling District CCD1 – Caerwys Electoral Ward  
Berthen Chapel, Lixwm

Polling Place for Polling District CCD2 – Caerwys Electoral Ward  
Village Hall, Ysceifiog

Polling Place for Polling District CDD – Cilcain Electoral Ward  
Village Hall, Cilcain

Polling Place for Polling District CED – Cilcain Electoral Ward  
War Memorial Institute, Rhydymwyn

Polling Place for Polling District CFD – Cilcain Electoral Ward  
Memorial Hall, Nannerch

Polling Place for Polling District CGA1 – Connah’s Quay: Central Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Tuscan Way, Connah’s Quay

Polling Place for Polling District CGA2 – Connah’s Quay: Central Electoral Ward  
Bryn Deva C. P. School, Connah’s Quay

Polling Place for Polling District CHA1 – Connah’s Quay: Golftyn Electoral Ward  
St. Mark’s Church Hall, High Street, Connah’s Quay

Polling Place for Polling District CHA2 – Connah’s Quay: Golftyn Electoral Ward  
Connah’s Quay Youth Centre, Golftyn Lane

Polling Place for Polling District CIA1 – Connah’s Quay South Electoral Ward  
Wepre C. P. School, Llwyni Drive, Connah’s Quay

Polling Place for Polling District CKA – Connah’s Quay: Wepre Electoral Ward  
Civic Hall, Connah’s Quay

Polling Place for Polling District FAD1 – Flint: Castle Electoral Ward  
Town Hall, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District FAD2 – Flint: Castle Electoral Ward  
Community Room, Castle Heights, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District FBD1 – Flint Coleshill and Trelawny Electoral Ward  
St. John’s United Reformed Church Schoolroom, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District FBD2 – Flint Coleshill and Trelawny Electoral Ward  
Cilfan Community Hall, Cornist, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District FCD1 – Flint Coleshill and Trelawny Electoral Ward  
Flint High School, Mount Pleasant, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District FCD2 – Flint Coleshill and Trelawny Electoral Ward  
St Thomas’ Church, Flint Mountain, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District FDD1 – Flint: Oakenholt Electoral Ward  
Neuadd, Maes-Y-Coed, Woodfield Avenue, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District FDD2 – Flint: Oakenholt Electoral Ward  
Oakenholt Bowling club, Croes Atti Lane, Flint

Polling Place for Polling District GAD – Greenfield Electoral Ward  
Youth & Community Centre, Greenfield

Polling Place for Polling District GBD – Gwernaffield and Gwernymynydd Electoral Ward  
Church Hall, Gwernaffield

Polling Place for Polling District GCD – Gwernaffield and Gwernymynydd Electoral Ward  
Village Hall, Pantymwyn

Polling Place for Polling District GDD – Gwernaffield and Gwernymynydd Electoral Ward  
Village Centre, Gwernymynydd

Polling Place for Polling District GED – Gwernaffield and Gwernymynydd Electoral Ward  
Soar Chapel Schoolroom, Nercwys

Polling Place for Polling District HAA1 – Hawarden: Aston Electoral Ward  
Woodside Close Community Centre, Ewloe

Polling Place for Polling District HAA3 – Hawarden: Aston Electoral Ward  
Masonic Hall, Gladstone Way, Hawarden

Polling Place for Polling District HBA1 – Hawarden: Ewloe Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Level Road, Hawarden

Polling Place for Polling District HBA2 – Hawarden: Ewloe Electoral Ward  
Ewloe Social Club, Mold Road, Ewloe

Polling Place for Polling District HCA1 – Hawarden: Mancot Electoral Ward  
Mancot Village Hall, Mancot Lane, Mancot

Polling Place for Polling District HCA2 – Hawarden: Mancot Electoral Ward  
Tithe Barn Church Lane, Hawarden

Polling Place for Polling District HDA – Higher Kinnerton Electoral Ward  
Village Hall, Higher Kinnerton

Polling Place for Polling District HED1 – Holywell Central Electoral Ward  
The Early Years Family Centre, North Road, Holywell

Polling Place for Polling District HED2 – Holywell Central Electoral Ward  
St. Peters Church, Rose Hill, Holywell

Polling Place for Polling District HGD2 – Holywell West Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Holway

Polling Place for Polling District HIA – Hope Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope

Polling Place for Polling District LAD – Leeswood Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Leeswood

Polling Place for Polling District LBD – Leeswood Electoral Ward  
Pontblyddyn Cricket Club, Wrexham Road, Pontblyddyn

Polling Place for Polling District LCD1 – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Community Wing, Ysgol Bryn Garth, Penyffordd

Polling Place for Polling District LCD2 – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Talacre

Polling Place for Polling District LCD3 – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Canolfan, Ffynnongroyw

Polling Place for Polling District LDD1 – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Family Centre, Nant y Gro, Gronant

Polling Place for Polling District LDD2 – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Village Hall, Gwespyr

Polling Place for Polling District LED1 – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Llanasa Village Hall, Llanasa

Polling Place for Polling District LED2 – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Berthengam

Polling Place for Polling District LFD – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Gwaenysgor Village Hall, Gwaenysgor

Polling Place for Polling District LGD – Llanasa and Trelawnyd Electoral Ward  
Memorial Hall, Trelawnyd

Polling Place for Polling District LHA – Llanfynydd Electoral Ward  
C. P. School, Abermorddu

Polling Place for Polling District LIA – Llanfynydd Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Cymau

Polling Place for Polling District LJA – Llanfynydd Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Ffrith

Polling Place for Polling District LKA – Llanfynydd Electoral Ward  
Coed Talon Bowling Club, Pontybodkin

Polling Place for Polling District MBD – Mold East Electoral Ward  
St. Davids Church Hall, St. David's Lane, Mold

Polling Place for Polling District MDD – Mold West Electoral Ward  
Parkfields Community Centre, Park Avenue, Mold

Polling Place for Polling District MED – Mostyn Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Maes Pennant Estate, Mostyn

Polling Place for Polling District NAD – Northop Electoral Ward  
Edith Bankes Memorial Institute, Northop

Polling Place for Polling District NBD – Northop Electoral Ward  
Memorial Hall, Sychdyn

Polling Place for Polling District NCD – Northop Electoral Ward  
Community Pavilion, Northop Hall

Polling Place for Polling District QAA1 – Queensferry and Sealand Electoral Ward  
Queensferry War Memorial Institute, Queensferry

Polling Place for Polling District QAA2 – Queensferry Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft

Polling Place for Polling District QCA – Queensferry Electoral Ward  
Youth & Community Centre, Sandy Lane, Sealand

Polling Place for Polling District SAA – Saltney Ferry Electoral Ward  
Saltney Ferry Scout and Guide Headquarters, Bradshaw Avenue, Saltney Ferry

Polling Place for Polling District SBA1 – Saltney Ferry Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Sandy Lane, Saltney

Polling Place for Polling District SBA2 – Saltney Ferry Electoral Ward  
Community Hall, Douglas Place, Saltney

Polling Place for Polling District SDA1 – Shotton East and Shotton Higher Electoral Ward  
St. Ethelwolds Church Hall, Shotton Lane, Shotton

Polling Place for Polling District SDA2 – Shotton East and Shotton Higher Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Elmwood Close, Shotton

Polling Place for Polling District TEA – Treuddyn Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Hafan Deg, Treuddyn

Polling Place for Polling District WAD1 – Whitford Electoral Ward  
Ysgol y Llan, Whitford

Polling Place for Polling District WAD2 – Whitford Electoral Ward  
Village Hall, Carmel

- 1.02 The following polling places are located in an adjacent polling district. These polling places have been the designated polling places for electors for a number of years. In the past there have been no complaints and no alternative polling place has been suggested or been identified as suitable during the consultation period. It is proposed that there be no changes to the following polling places:-

Polling Place for Polling District HAA2 – Hawarden: Aston Electoral Ward  
Aston Community Centre, Aston Park Road

Polling Place for Polling District BJA2 – Buckley: Mountain Electoral Ward  
Bistre Parish Church Hall, Mold Road, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District HFD2 – Holywell East Electoral Ward  
St. Peters Church, Rose Hill, Holywell

Polling Place for Polling District HGD1 – Holywell West Electoral Ward  
The Early Years Family Centre, North Hill, Holywell

Polling Place for Polling District MCD – Mold South Electoral Ward  
Daniel Owen Centre, Earl Road

Polling Place for Polling District MFD – Mostyn Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Maes Pennant

Polling Place for Polling District QBA – Queensferry and Sealand Electoral Ward  
Community Centre, Phoenix Street

Polling Place for Polling District SCA – Shotton East and Shotton Higher Electoral Ward  
St. Ethelwolds Church Hall, Shotton Lane

1.03 The following proposals are being made to the following polling places: -

Polling Place for Polling District BCA – Broughton North East Electoral Ward  
St. Marys Church, Church Road, Broughton

Polling Place for Polling District BHA2 – Buckley: Bistre East Electoral Ward  
Our Lady of the Rosary, Jubilee Road, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District BJA1 – Buckley: Mountain Electoral Ward  
St Johns United Reformed Church, Hawkesbury Road, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District BKA2 – Buckley: Pentrobin Electoral Ward  
St Johns United Reformed Church, Hawkesbury Road, Buckley

Polling Place for Polling District CAA – Caergwrle Electoral Ward  
The Boy's Brigade Hall, Castle Street, Caergwrle

Polling Place for Polling District CIA2 – Connah's Quay South Electoral Ward  
To be confirmed

Polling Place for Polling District MAD – Mold: Broncoed Electoral Ward  
Bethesda Presbyterian Chapel Hall, New Street, Mold

Polling Place for Polling District PAA1 – Penyffordd Electoral Ward  
Penyffordd and Penymynydd War Memorial Institute, Chester Road, Penyffordd

Polling Place for Polling District PAA2 – Penyffordd Electoral Ward  
Penyffordd and Penymynydd War Memorial Institute, Chester Road, Penyffordd

Polling Place for Polling District SEA – Shotton West Electoral Ward  
Rivertown Church, Chester Road West, Shotton





## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024
<b>Report Subject</b>	Recruitment of a Town and Community Council Representative to the Standards Committee
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Governance)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standards Committee needs to include one member who represents the Town and Community Councils within Flintshire. Following the elections in 2022 we appointed a representative from Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council. Unfortunately, he has to step down for personal reasons and so the Council must appoint a replacement.

It is proposed to follow the same process as last time for appointment. All Town and Community Councils will be asked for nominees and then each council will be given a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> preference vote in order to conclude the process in a single round of voting.

To 'get the ball rolling' clerks have already been approached for nominees.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the proposed appointment process be endorsed.
2	That Cllr Ian Papworth be thanked for his work on the Standards Committee.

### REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE RECRUITMENT OF A TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
1.01	The Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require the County Council to appoint a representative of the Town and

	Community Councillors in its area. The representative cannot be “dual hatted” i.e. they cannot also be a County Councillor.
1.02	The current Town and Community Council representative, Cllr Ian Papworth, from Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor Community Council, was appointed in October 2022. He now needs to stand down from his role as a community councillor and as representative on the Standards Committee due to personal reasons. The County Council therefore needs to appoint a replacement.
1.03	The process for appointing such a representative is not specified in the legislation. To give the Town and Community Councils control over who will represent them we have used a process whereby they vote for the representative (rather than, for example, the County Council holding interviews).
1.04	In 2022 we used a simple two preference system so that, in the event of one or more candidates having an equal number of votes, there would be a second preference vote to help break the tie. Holding a second round of voting would be an alternative way of breaking the tie but it would add (at least) an extra month into the process as we would have to wait for another round of town and community council meetings to take place.
1.05	In order to “get the ball rolling” I have already written to town and community clerks asking for nominations. The nominees will be asked to prepare a pen portrait to help inform the voting process. These are due by the end of January, and I would propose to hold the vote during February with an appointment being made at the March meeting (if held) or in April.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The process adopted is not resource intensive. The costs are therefore minimal and easily absorbed.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	One Voice Wales must be consulted before an appointment can be made. On the last occasion, One Voice Wales commented - “The process which you have adopted seems very fair and reasonable and ... represents an effective way of determining which of the nominations is to be approved.”

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The process gives a high level of influence to the Town and Community Councils which should help them feel engaged by the process. The recruitment process does not ask for any specific qualifications or any relevant experience. However, as the role is representative, the main

	<p>criterion for appointment can be said to be the status of being a Town or Community Councillor. All further training will be provided in any event as part of the development programme for Committee members thereby addressing any current lack of knowledge or experience.</p>
--	--

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance)  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702344  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk">gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>One Voice Wales</b> – the membership/representative body for Town and Community Councils in Wales. It provides advice and training as well as acting as spokes body for the sector.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Question from Councillor Sam Swash**

When a Flintshire resident is required to use a certain type of vehicle because of health issues or a disability, and that vehicle is prohibited from using household recycling centres, what reasonable adjustment does the Council make for residents in such a position, and if no reasonable adjustment is being made, is the Council confident that it is not in breach of the Equality Act 2010?

This page is intentionally left blank