

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 FEBRUARY 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at Hybrid Meeting on Tuesday, 6th February, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor David Evans (Chair)

Councillors: Mike Allport, Mel Buckley, David Coggins-Cogan, Chris Dolphin, Ian Hodge, Richard Lloyd, Mike Peers, Vicky Perfect, Dan Rose and Roy Wakelam

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ray Hughes, and Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy), Councillor Chris Bithell (Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection) Councillor Dave Healey (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy), Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy), Corporate Finance Manager, Strategic Finance Managers, Transport Manager (Streetscene and Transportation), Regulatory Services Manager, and Highway Network Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: The Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officers

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

There were no declarations of interest.

68. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2023, were submitted.

Accuracy

Councillor Mike Peers explained that he had joined the meeting later and asked that his attendance be noted.

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2023, were submitted.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2024, were submitted.

Accuracy

Councillor David Coggins-Cogan referred to page 21, item 64, last paragraph, and said the wording needed to be amended as the Centre had not been operational for a full year and therefore the financial information could not be provided.

Councillor Coggins-Cogan also referred to page 23, item 65, and said it had been agreed that the Fleet Contract would be submitted to County Council and asked that this be recorded in the minutes

Subject to the above amendments the minutes were approved as an accurate record as moved by Councillor Richard Lloyd and seconded by Councillor Mike Peers.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above amendments, the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

69. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking report.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the Forward Work Programme and the items which were listed to be added on page 31, and suggested that these be scheduled for the meeting to be held on 9 July 2024. Referring to the Action Tracking report on page 33, Councillor Peers also suggested that an additional column be added to the table to update the Committee on progress.

The Chair requested that an update on the 20 mph speed limit also be included on the Programme for the meeting on 9 July 2024.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor Mike Peers and seconded by Councillor Roy Wakelam.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to the above amendments the Forward Work Programme be approved;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions

70. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting as the following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure until such time as those consultations/negotiations have been concluded.

71. COUNCIL FUND BUDGET 2024/25

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced a report on the cost pressures, proposed cost reductions, and associated risks, and to provide details of additional proposals for the Planning Environment and Economy portfolio and the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio.

Councillor David Coggins-Cogan moved recommendations 1 and 2 in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Richard Lloyd.

Councillor Mike Peers proposed that Efficiency Proposal No 9 (Restrict Waste Collections) be removed from the proposals for the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio. This was seconded by Councillor Roy Wakelam and when put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Planning, Environment and Economy portfolio's options to reduce budgets be noted;
- (b) That the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio's options to reduce budgets be noted; and.
- (c) that Efficiency Proposal No 9 (Restrict Waste Collections) be removed from the proposals for the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio.

72. WORKPLACE RECYCLING REGULATIONS

The Regulatory Services Manager presented the report to provide an overview of the workplace recycling reforms being implemented by Welsh Government, and to outline the potential impact on the Council and the actions required to achieve compliance. She provided background information and referred to the main points as detailed in the report.

Councillor Mike Peers referred to the information on page 49 that Welsh Government capital funding may be available to support with the procurement of infrastructure, vehicles etc., and asked for the timescale of the funding and if other funding streams were available if it was not provided by the WG. He also commented on the proposal to extend the waste collection service as referred to in section 1.09 of the report and expressed concerns that it would impact on general public access to existing HRC sites. He suggested that a stand-alone site be used for trade waste. The Regulatory Services Manager acknowledged the points made by Councillor Peers and responded to the questions raised.

Councillor Dan Rose referred to the list of locations in section 1.05 of the report and sought clarification around the arrangements for markets, festivals, and bus stations. The Regulatory Services Manager agreed to provide further information to Councillor Rose following the meeting on the questions raised.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Regulatory Services Manager explained that the collection services would be working with commercial providers to ensure compliance with legislation.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor David Coggins-Cogan and seconded by Councillor Richard Lloyd

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the changing legislation and the potential impact on Council Services be noted; and
- (b) That the option to explore opportunities to develop non-domestic recycling collections and disposal services be supported.

73. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

(The meeting started at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 2.30 p.m.)

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Chairman