

Public Document Pack

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Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Leader)

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

11 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
CABINET
TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 2023 at 10.00 AM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

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

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

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Purpose: To receive any declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

STRATEGIC REPORTS

4 CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT (Pages 15 - 48)

Report of Chief Executive - Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

Purpose: To provide the final report, detailing a summary of the findings following Stage 2 completion including a summary of feedback following consultation and stakeholder engagement.

5 HOUSING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN PERFORMANCE UPDATE (Pages 49 - 102)

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

Purpose: To provide an update on the progress of the Council's Housing Strategy 2019-2023 and action plan.

6 FLINTSHIRE HOUSING NEED PROSPECTUS (Pages 103 - 130)

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

Purpose: To provide the annual update on the Council Housing Needs prospectus which allows the local authority to identify their priorities for Social Housing Grant as part of the WG Grant framework. The prospectus also provides a clear and concise summary of the housing need and demand.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

7 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 (MONTH 5) (Pages 131 - 154)

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

Purpose: This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2023/24 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5, and projects forward to year-end.

8 RENEWAL OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS – ALCOHOL AND DOG CONTROL (Pages 155 - 184)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

Purpose: To determine the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders relating to dog control and alcohol.

9 DISABLED ADAPTATIONS POLICY (Pages 185 - 220)

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

Purpose: To present the updated Policy for Disabled Facilities Grants.

10 ELECTIONS ACT 2022 – VOTER IDENTIFICATION (VOTER ID) UPDATE (Pages 221 - 226)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

Purpose: To provide an update on the voter identification (ID) process and support provided to voters who do not have an acceptable form of photo ID. It also outlines work undertaken to promote Voter ID and planned communications ahead of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for Thursday 2 May 2024.

11 CHANGES TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION (Pages 227 - 236)

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

Purpose: To delegate all matters and Council responses associated with Developments of National Significance and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy).

12 EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS (Pages 237 - 238)

Purpose: To provide details of actions taken under delegated powers.

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - COUNTY COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY - FOR INFORMATION

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

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

The public interest in withholding the information outweighs the interest in disclosing it until such time as the contract has been awarded.

13 CHILDCARE AND EARLY YEARS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022-2025 (Pages 271 - 280)

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

Purpose: To seek approval of the proposed Childcare and Early Years Capital (phase 2) Programme to allow submission of a Business Justification Case to Welsh Government to release Capital funding for the projects noted.

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

CABINET **19TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 19th September 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chair)

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager – Capital Programme and Assets, Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development, Highway Network Manager, Senior Manager – Safeguarding and Commissioning, Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager, Democratic Services Manager and Team Leader – Democratic Services.

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Bill Crease.

At the start of the meeting Councillor Roberts explained that an urgent report would be considered following agenda item number 16, titled Procurement of Fleet Contract Extension, which was a confidential Part 2 report. A revised agenda had been despatched to all Members the previous day.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

41. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023 were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

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

42. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2024/25

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which provided an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2024/25 financial year.

Following the meetings of Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July, budget workshops had been held for Members on 31st July to allow Members the opportunity to request any further detail on the overall budget position and timeline for formal budget setting.

The latest budget position for 2024/25 was reflected in the report including an update on the work undertaken by Portfolios over the Summer. The Council still had a major challenge to identify solutions that would enable it to agree a legal and balanced budget by March next year which it needed to address with urgency.

The Corporate Finance Manager explained that two Member workshops had been arranged and would take place on 5th and 10th October where details of the latest position would be shared. Jon Rae, Director of Resources at the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) would also be in attendance.

The details of the Settlement were likely to be received towards the end of December.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the report had been submitted to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week where a detailed discussion took place. Members recognised that difficult decisions would be required and asked questions on what radical proposals would be forthcoming.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revised additional budget requirement for the 2024/25 financial year be received and noted and referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees; and
- (b) That the ongoing work on budget solutions that would need to be urgently considered to enable the Council to set a legal and balanced budget in February 2024 be noted.

43. STRATEGIC CAPITAL PLAN PRIORITISATION

Councillor Jones introduced the report and explained that The North Wales Regional Programme Board (NWRPB), and all regions in Wales, had been tasked by Welsh Government (WG) to develop and implement a Strategic Capital Plan (SCP). The plan should reflect a ten-year view of the proposed capital investment needs of its community infrastructure for the provision of social care and primary and community healthcare. The plan was the only mechanism to release external capital funding to the Council.

The report provided an update on the development of a ten-year SCP by the North Wales Regional Partnership Board, in collaboration with all local authorities, health teams and other service delivery partners.

The report was seeking approval for Flintshire County Council's participation in the plan and its strategic intent, noting that individual projects would need to be brought back to Cabinet for approval and considered in line with the Council's Medium-term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Programme.

Councillor Johnson welcomed the information on the impact assessment and the mitigation of the risks.

Councillor Jones said the report had been debated at Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the requirement for a ten-year Strategic Capital Plan for North Wales and the associated prioritisation and business case processes required to secure Welsh Government funding be noted; and
- (b) That participation in the regional programme, the proposed projects, and the plan's strategic intent be approved.

44. COUNCIL PLAN 2022/23 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that the Council Plan 2022/23 was adopted by the Council in July 2022. This report presented a summary of performance of progress against the Council Plan priorities identified for 2022-23 at year end (Q4) position.

This out-turn report for the Council Plan 2022/23 showed 77% of activities were making good progress and 62% of the performance indicators had met or exceeded their targets for the year.

This was an exception-based report which concentrated on those areas of performance which were not currently achieving their target.

Councillor Hughes welcomed the document which had been well received at Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week. He commented on the 100% percentage complete on "Making the processes for claiming free school meals as simple and straightforward as possible to increase the percentage of take-up against entitlement" and asked about figures for the 2023 summer. The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) explained that the information was currently being collated from the 14 schools who delivered the "food and fun" programme and that information would be shared with Members once available.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the levels of progress and confidence in the achievement of priorities as detailed within the Council Plan 2022/23 be endorsed and supported;
- (b) That the overall performance against Council Plan 2022/23 performance indicators/measures be endorsed and supported; and
- (c) That Cabinet be assured by explanations given for those areas of underperformance.

45. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24 (MONTH 4)

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which provided Members with the first detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year.

The projected year end position was as follows:

Council Fund

- An operating deficit of £2.644m (excluding the impact of the pay award which would need to be met by reserves – currently estimated as £2.727m)
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31st March 2024 of £4.043m (after the estimated impact of pay awards)

Housing Revenue Account

- Net in-year revenue expenditure was forecast to be £0.065m lower than budget
- A projected closing balance as at 31st March, 2024 of £3.262m

The economic outlook remained challenging due to inflation levels remaining high. The impacts of that, together with continued increases in service demand was becoming increasingly hard to deal with as the Councils funding failed to keep up with the scale of those pressures. To assist with managing those risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, a moratorium through the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continued.

There was a significant and growing demand within the Homelessness Service. The Council had a statutory duty to provide suitable temporary accommodation for Homeless persons and families who meet the Welsh Government eligibility criteria which were less stringent than in England. The growth in demand commenced in the second half of 2022/23 and had accelerated markedly since the start of 2023. An in-depth discussion took place at a recent Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the pressures being faced in homelessness. A meeting would take place on 4th October with Cabinet Members to discuss how the risks could be faced and a further report would be submitted to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2023/24 budget be noted;
- (b) That a budget virement of £0.400m from Localities within Older People's Services to the Residential Placements budget within Adults of Working Age be approved; and
- (c) That a separate report from the Housing and Communities Portfolio on the reasons for the significant projected overspend within the Homelessness Service and the mitigations being put in place be requested.

46. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2023/24 (MONTH 4)

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which summarised changes made to the Capital Programme 2023/24 since it was set in January 2023 to the end of Month 4 (July 2023), along with expenditure incurred to date and the projected outturn at this early stage of the year.

The Capital Programme had seen a net increase in budget of £36.586 during the period which comprised of:-

- Net budget increase in the programme of £18.557m – Council Fund (CF) £16.066m, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) £2.491m;
- Introduction of Carry Forwards from 2022/23 of £18.029 (all CF)

Actual expenditure was £16.215m.

Capital receipts received in the first quarter of 2023/24 totalled £0.651m.

That provided a revised projected surplus in the Capital Programme at Month 4 of £1.953m (from an opening funding surplus of £1.302m) for the 2023/24 – 2025/26 Capital Programme, prior to the realisation of additional capital receipts and/or other funding sources.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the overall report be approved;
- (b) That the carry forward adjustments be approved; and
- (c) That the additional allocations be approved.

47. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Councillor Johnson introduced the report which presented the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 which was appended to the report.

As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Annual Report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 26th July where officers responded to questions to the satisfaction of the Committee and there were no specific issues to bring to the attention of Cabinet.

It was recommended that the report be presented to County Council on 24th October for final approval

RESOLVED:

That the draft Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 be recommended to County Council on 24th October for final approval.

48. SELF-EVALUATION REPORT OF EDUCATION SERVICES 2022-23

Councillor Eastwood introduced the report and explained that the Education and Youth Portfolio undertook a rigorous annual self-evaluation of its performance and services to provide assurance to the Council on the quality of education services in Flintshire.

The report identified strengths and areas for further improvement and those areas for improvement were then reflected in the Council Improvement Plan and the Portfolio's own Business Plan.

With the resumption of all inspection activity by Estyn from April 2022 onwards, the Portfolio's evaluation report this year reported against the Estyn framework for Local Government Education Services. The report was structured to provide assurance to the Council across the three inspection areas of:

- Outcomes
- Quality of Education Services (including Youth Services)
- Leadership and Management

Each inspection area was evaluated in detail for the period 2022-2023 and concluded with a summary of further areas identified for improvement to ensure the continued provision of quality education services to the residents of Flintshire. The report also contained a summary of progress against the four recommendations from the Estyn inspection of Flintshire's Education Services in 2019.

The overall conclusion of the self-evaluation report was that education services in Flintshire were strong, effectively supported children and young people and provided good value for money.

The report had been submitted to Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous week where it was welcomed and supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the outcome of the Education Portfolio's annual self-evaluation report on the quality of education services for the period 2022-23 be received; and
- (b) That any observations be provided to the Portfolio Team.

49. BUSINESS RATES – WRITE OFFS

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

A Business Rates debt totalling £36,798.60 for Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited was deemed to be irrecoverable as the ratepayer was registered as an overseas company.

The company was not a UK listed company on Companies House and was registered in Hong Kong. The business liability ended from 23rd April 2023.

The Chief Officer (Governance) explained that the proposals, as set out in the consultation, did not have any direct resource implications for the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Business Rates write off totalling £36, 798.60 for Outsourced Fulfilment Services Limited be approved.

50. A NEW TRIBUNAL SYSTEM FOR WALES

Councillor Mullin introduced the report and explained that Welsh Government (WG) had published a white paper on proposed reforms to the devolved tribunals to create a unified tribunal system comprising of the First-tier Tribunal for Wales and the Appeal Tribunal for Wales.

The devolved tribunals in Wales had developed piecemeal over the years spanning the pre and post devolution periods. The consultation sought views on reforms to devolved tribunals in Wales to create a unified system.

The Chief Officer (Governance) explained that the proposal to create a free route to school admission appeals placed a risk on the organisation at a time when significant budget pressures were already being faced and the response to that would be strong and say that unless Welsh Government (WG) funded the handling of appeals in relation to education then that part of the proposal should not proceed.

RESOLVED:

That the draft response to the consultation be approved.

51. REVIEW OF WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY

Councillor Hughes introduced the report which provided an overview of the winter maintenance service over the last season and responsibilities of the Council, as well as seeking approval for a review of the winter maintenance policy.

Winter service operations played a fundamental role in ensuring that highway networks were safe and available during adverse weather conditions from around October through to April each year. The winter maintenance service was recognised as one of the most important functions that the highway authority provided. Maintaining access to the network was crucial for emergency services, businesses, social services, education, and the public.

The report outlined the current winter maintenance policy, the legislative requirements for providing such a service, and the actions taken by the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio to support winter service operations. In addition, the report outlined the County's response to other adverse weather events, such as heavy rainfall and high winds.

A commitment had been given to review the winter maintenance policy every two years and the report explained winter maintenance operations and sought approval of the proposed winter service plan and winter maintenance policy for the next two years 2023-2025.

The Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) added that the review had highlighted that there was an opportunity to reconsider the structure for winter maintenance decision making, as well as the format for the weather forecast, which was currently based on two weather stations located in Hendre and Brynford. Officers had been exploring the use of route-based forecasting or domain-based forecasting instead of the current approach. Work would be undertaken during 2023-2024 with MetDesk to analyse the results collected over the forthcoming winter season, to determine whether this weather forecasting modelling may offer any savings and could be adopted by Flintshire in the future. It was proposed that a further report would be presented to Cabinet in the summer of 2024 once the work had been completed.

At the meeting of Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 12th September 2023, the Winter Maintenance Policy 2023-25 was considered. Members of the Committee queried the prioritisation of bus routes at section 3.2. Priority 1 routes referred to routes with eight bus services or more an hour and Priority 2 routes referred to four bus services or more an hour. The Committee felt that too many crucial services would not meet either category. Members of the Scrutiny Committee suggested changing Priority 1 and 2 to less prescriptive criteria to reference the '*Core Bus Network*' and '*the remaining routes*' respectively. Those changes were reflected in the document presented to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the refreshed winter maintenance service policy be approved;
- (b) That the portfolio's response to adverse weather events over the Winter season 2022-2023 be noted;
- (c) That the continued need to maintain the revenue budget at present levels along with earmarked reserves of £250k be supported; and
- (d) That a further report be presented to Cabinet in 2024 following a review of the 2023-2024 season by the weather forecasting provider in relation to geographically specific treatment decision making.

52. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

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

Revenues

- **Business Rate Write Off**

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

A Business Rates debt totalling £12,591.20 has been written off for Cytori Ltd, a company formerly trading from Unit 68, Deeside Industrial Estate. Liquidators were appointed to the company in February 2021 and a dividend will not be declared to non-preferential unsecured creditors as no assets were realised. All recovery options have been exhausted and following the liquidation the company has now been dissolved from the Companies House Register.

Streetscene and Transportation

- **Prince of Wales Avenue, Park Avenue, St Catherine's Close and Allt Goch, Flint – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting and Waiting at Any Time Restrictions**

To advise Members of the unresolved matters received following the advertisement of the proposed Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time on the roads listed above.

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

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 14, 15 and 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

53. APPROACH TO HOLIDAY PAY

Councillor Mullin introduced the report which was in response to the case of Harpur Trust v Brazel and followed legal advice given to the council and the options available.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet delegate authority to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development to negotiate a settlement in lieu of back payments of holiday pay for all those in scope to ensure fairness and parity, settle the grievance submitted by UNISON and avoid the inevitable negative impact on long-term relationships between the Council and its employees, and the recognised Trade Unions.

54. CROES ATTI RESIDENTIAL HOME CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Jones introduced the report which provided an update on the work underway at Croes Atti and details of the final contract submission.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet give authority to the Chief Officer (Social Services) and Chief Officer (Governance) to enter into a contact with the supplier names in the report to begin construction of the new development, subject to approval of the full funding amount requested from Welsh Government.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

55. PROCUREMENT OF FLEET CONTRACT EXTENSION

Councillor Hughes introduced the report and explained that a full extension period for an interim period of six months was required, which would allow the full procurement process to be concluded.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the award of an interim six-month extension to the existing Fleet Contract from 2nd October 2023 be approved; and
- (b) That it be noted that a further report would be presented for approval of the full extension terms once the procurement process had concluded.

59. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 11.47 a.m.)

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Chair



Cabinet

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17th October 2023
Report Subject	Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Assurance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

This is the Council’s second year completing the Corporate Self-assessment. For 2022/23, the model was reviewed and adapted slightly to include an additional two questions within Theme A (Vision, Strategy and Performance Reports), to ensure that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA’s) were incorporated.

The Self-assessment Model follows a three-stage process:

Stage One - ‘desk-based’ analysis and evaluation.

Stage Two - opinion sourcing, consultation, and engagement.

Stage Three - final published assessment and improvement plan.

The results of the Corporate Self-assessment identified that overall, the Council is performing well against the assessment; **3%** Very Best Practice, **6%** Very Best Practice / Good Evidence and **74%** Good Evidence. The results of the Corporate Self-assessment also identified opportunities for improvement; **14%** Evidence but Further Action Required and **2%** Some Evidence but Lacking in Key Areas.

Very Best Practice

The Theme / Question scored as 'Very Best Practice' (Score 5) identified in the self-assessment relates to:

- **Theme F – Partnership Working**

Question: Does the Council engage in local, regional, and national partnerships and collaborations (F26).

Opportunities for Improvement 2022/23

Four Themes / five Questions scored as 'Evidence but Further Action Required' related to:

- **Theme B – Resource Planning and Management**

- Question: Are these strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future? (B13)

- **Theme C - Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values**

- Question: How well are these frameworks and codes applied and observed? (C15)

- **Theme D - Organisational Leadership and Structure**

- Question: Does the Council have an adopted organisational structure and a preferred working culture? (D20)
- Question: Is it evident that the preferred working culture is pre-dominant and effective? (D22)

- **Theme G – Customer and Community Engagement**

- Question: Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community engagement in place? (G31)

There was one Theme / Question that scored as 'Some Evidence but Lacking in Key Areas' and this relates to;

- **Theme G - Customer and Community Engagement**

- Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community engagement in place? (G29)

Appendix A, Section 10 provides the details to support these areas of improvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To accept and approve the findings of the Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23
2	To approve the opportunities for improvement identified in Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Explaining the Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23
1.01	The Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 sets out a duty to report on performance and states ‘A council must produce a self-assessment report in respect of each financial year. The report must set out its conclusions on the extent to which it met the performance requirements during that year, and any actions it intends to take, or has already taken, to increase the extent to which it is meeting the performance requirements.’ This document aims to achieve the duty set out above for the Act and for the use by the Council.
1.02	<p>Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Council must put in place a system of Corporate Self-assessment to review the extent to which:</p> <p>a) it is exercising its functions effectively, b) it is using its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively, and c) its governance is effective for securing the matters set out in paragraphs (a) and (b).</p>
1.03	<p>The Self-assessment model focuses on eight themes and considers a set of core questions within each of these themes outlined further in this document. As with all models there will inevitably be overlaps across themes, however, the themes are sufficiently defined and demarked to avoid too much overlapping or duplication.</p> <p>The Self-Assessment Model follows three stages:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stage One - ‘desk-based’ analysis and evaluation Stage Two - opinion sourcing, consultation and Stage Three - final published assessment and improvement plan</p>
1.04	A Project Board was established for the Corporate Self-assessment and comprised of a Project Board Chair, a senior responsible officer, and officers from across Portfolios. Each of the officers who sit on the Project Board are considered to have the ability to conceptualise new models and new ways of working, have an understanding of their service whilst having sufficient seniority within the Council to have taken the Self-assessment forward into its second year.
1.05	<p>Stage One of the self-assessment was an analysis and evaluation against the Themes, listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A - Vision, Strategy and Performance • B - Resource Planning and Management • C - Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values • D - Organisational Leadership and Operating Models • E - Innovation and Change Management • F - Partnership Working • G - Customer and Community Engagement • H - Risk Management and Business Continuity

1.06	<p>We drew upon the Council’s Annual Governance Statement (AGS) model of evaluation and scoring, and evidence capturing, as this model is known to be effective. The model is a useful platform for challenging and moderating variations in opinion through facilitated review. The scoring criteria is listed below:</p> <p>Score 5 – Very best practice Score 4 – Good evidence Score 3 – Evidence but further action required Score 2 – Some evidence but lacking in key areas Score 1 – No evidence</p>																		
1.07	<p>Stage Two of the self-assessment sets out the conclusions from the analysis and evaluation of Stage One. This was carried out by the project board using peers from other portfolios to keep the assessment focused and to give consistency of check and challenge.</p> <p>The results of Stage One were shared at a Senior Leadership Academy where the results were considered, challenged, and evaluated. During Stage Two, consultation was undertaken with Members from both the Governance and Audit Committee and the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to further consider, challenge and evaluate the feedback and scores. The final results of the self-assessment are detailed in the graph below:</p> <div> <table border="1"> <caption>Corporate Self-Assessment Scores 2022/23</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Score</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Score 2</td> <td>2</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Score 3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Score 4</td> <td>26</td> <td>74%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Score 4/5</td> <td>5</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Score 5</td> <td>1</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Score	Count	Percentage	Score 2	2	6%	Score 3	1	3%	Score 4	26	74%	Score 4/5	5	14%	Score 5	1	3%
Score	Count	Percentage																	
Score 2	2	6%																	
Score 3	1	3%																	
Score 4	26	74%																	
Score 4/5	5	14%																	
Score 5	1	3%																	
1.08	<p>Following the pilot of the Corporate Self-assessment 2021/22, there has been improvements to the process for 2022/23. This included not only the Members Workshop but also consultations with the workforce and Trade Union representatives.</p>																		
1.09	<p>Stage Three is being presented here which includes published assessment and an improvement plan, which will be led by the Cabinet and run through the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny</p>																		

	Committee and Governance and Audit Committee for input and assurance in March 2024.
1.10	<p>Overall based on the range of questions asked against the eight Themes it is considered that the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Does exercise its functions effectively. b) Uses its resources economically, efficiently, and effectively; and c) Has effective governance for securing the matters set out in paragraphs (a & b) <p>This is consistent with the findings and areas for improvements within the Council Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Performance Report for the year 2022/23.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications for this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	<p>Chief Executive, Chief Officers, Senior Officers (Senior Leadership Academi), Trade Unions and the Workforce have all been consulted on the Corporate Self-Assessment along with Members from both the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Governance and Audit Committee.</p> <p>Cabinet will also have the opportunity to consider and review the content of the Corporate Self-assessment and the Opportunities for Improvement (detailed within the Corporate Self-assessment).</p> <p>The Corporate Self-assessment report was presented to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny committee on 14th September 2023, where they raised the importance of addressing culture, values, ethics and resilience. This is covered within Appendix A, Section 10 (Opportunities for Improvement in 2022/23).</p> <p>The Corporate Self-assessment report was also presented to Governance and Audit Committee on 27th September 2023.</p>

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

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A: Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Council Plan 2022/23 Council Plan Monitoring Reports 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Emma Heath (Strategic Performance Advisor) Telephone: 01352 702 744 E-mail: emma.heath@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Council Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for organisations to ‘set out any actions to increase the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements.’ Plans for organisations should be robust; be clear on where it wants to go; and how it will get there.</p> <p>Annual Governance Statement: is a public document that reports on the extent to which we as the Council comply with our own code of governance. This is a requirement by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 to prepare a statement on internal control.</p>

2022/23

Flintshire County Council
Corporate Self-Assessment

Draft V6

What is the Purpose of this Document?

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

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1. What is the Corporate Self-Assessment?

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

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

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

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

The Self-assessment Model followed three stages:

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

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

2. Process of Review and Timeframe

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

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

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A Project Board was established in 2021, comprising of a Project Board Chair, a senior responsible officer, and officers from across portfolios that were either currently Performance Leads or officers who were previously part of the Governance Recovery Group during the Council's response phase to the pandemic. Each of the officers who sat on the Project Board were considered to have the ability to conceptualise new models and new ways of working, understand their portfolio services, whilst having sufficient seniority within the Council to take the Self-assessment forward.

We drew upon the Council's AGS model of evaluation, scoring and evidence capturing as this model was known to be effective. The model was a useful platform for challenging and moderating variations in opinion through facilitated review. A report was initially shared at Governance and Audit Committee in July 2021 on the development of the Self-assessment model, the proposed model for the first Corporate Self-assessment was endorsed.

This is the Council's second year completing the Corporate Self-assessment. For 2022/23, the model and approach was reviewed and adapted slightly to include an additional two questions within Theme A (Vision, Strategy and Performance Reports), to ensure that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA's) were incorporated.

The results of Stage One were shared at a Senior Leadership Academy where the results were considered, challenged, and evaluated. During Stage Two, consultation was undertaken with Members from both the Governance and Audit Committee and the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to further consider, challenge and evaluate the feedback and scores to ensure that we as a Council are continuously self-assessing our performance.

3. Scoring Criteria:

The scoring criteria for the Corporate Self-assessment is detailed below;

Score 5 – Very best practice

Score 4 – Good evidence

Score 3 – Evidence but further action required

Score 1 – No evidence

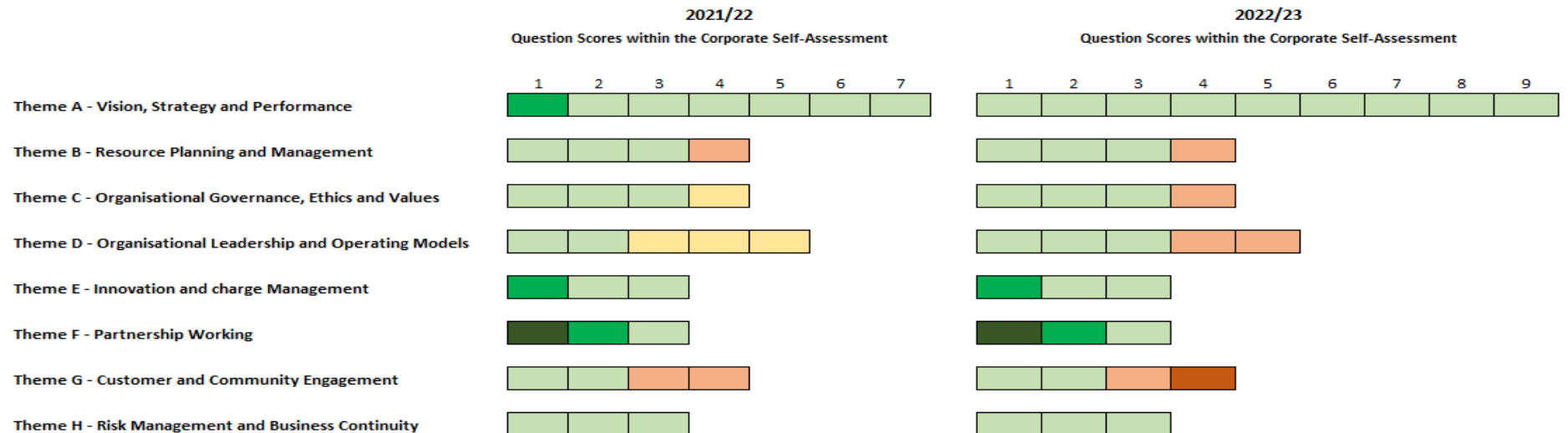
Score 4/5 – Very best practice / Good evidence

Score 3/4 – Good evidence / Action may be required

Score 2 – Some evidence but lacking in key areas

4. Comparison between 2021/22 and 2022/23 (Summary of the Effectiveness of the Council’s Corporate Self-Assessments)

Comparison between 2021/22 and 2022/23 Corporate Self Assessments



Score 5 - Very Best Practice (3%)
 Score 4/5 (6%)
 Score 4 - Good Evidence (74%)
 Score 3/4 (0%)
 Score 3 - Evidence but Further Action Required (14%)
 Score 2 - Some Evidence but Lacking in Key Areas (3%)

Note: Two additional questions were added to the 22/23 Corporate Self Assessment within Theme A

An overall comparison of the scores between 2021/22 and 2022/23 for the 35 questions within Themes A-H (excluding the two new questions in Theme A) between the financial years of 2021-22 and 2022-23, shows that **26** scores have remained the same, **6** have decreased and **1** has increased.

A further breakdown of the scoring within each of the Themes is outlined below;

- **Theme A** – six questions remained with a score of 4 and one question reduced from a score of 4/5 to a 4. The two new questions for 2022-23 scored 4
- **Theme B** – scoring for the four questions remained the same; One question scored 3 and three questions scored 4
- **Theme C** – three of the questions remained at a 4 and one question reduced from a score of 3/4 to 3
- **Theme D** – two questions remained the same with a score of 4, two questions reduced from 3/4 to a 3 and one question increased from a score of 3/4 to a 4
- **Theme E** – scoring for all three questions remained the same, one scoring 4/5 and two scoring a 4
- **Theme F** – scoring for all three questions scoring remained the same, one score of 5, one a 4/5 and one question scoring a 4
- **Theme G** – scores for two questions scoring remained at a 4, one question reduced from a 3 to a 2, and one question reduced from a 3/4 to a 3
- **Theme H** – scoring for all three questions remained a 4

5. External Assurance

A high-level focus of governance, risk, and control arrangements are in place for setting and monitoring actions in response to reports received from external regulators, including Estyn, Care Inspectorate Wales CIW) and Audit Wales. The Annual Audit Summary sets out the audit and regulatory work completed by Audit Wales of Flintshire County Council since the last annual report which was published in January 2022. Overall, the Auditor General for Wales has reached a positive conclusion. "The Auditor General certified that the Council had met its remaining Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 duties for the financial year 2021-22, as saved by an order made under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021." No formal recommendations have been made during the year.

6. Council Performance

The Council Plan is a detailed document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for organisations to 'set out any actions to increase the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements.' The Council Plan 2022/23 was adopted by the Council in July 2022, and the end of year performance monitoring report highlighted that 77% of activities were making good progress and 62% of the performance indicators had met or exceeded their targets for the year.

7. Consultation and Engagement

7a. Engagement with Stakeholders

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It was identified within the Council's Corporate Self-assessment 2021/22 that consultation with key stakeholders was an area that could be improved upon. In March 2023, a questionnaire was compiled and shared with Trade Union representatives to respond to and provide feedback: with them being a key internal stakeholder. Unison, GMB Union and Unite the Union were all consulted with, and Flintshire County Council received responses from Unison and Unite the Union. GMB did not provide a response.

Overall, feedback received was very positive with Trade Unions advising that they have a good industrial relationship with the Council. The opportunities to be involved in discussions at an earlier stage, when problems/issues are first identified rather than commencing once decisions have been made would be preferred, but the Trade Unions do believe that the Council does listen, and regular meetings are undertaken.

7b. Consultation with Employees

A consultation was undertaken with employees of Flintshire County Council during the summer months of 2023. A survey was open to all employees (with the exception of employees based in schools) and the purpose of the consultation was to gain feedback on six key topic areas: Engagement, Performance, Mental Health and Well-being, Communication, Hybrid Working and, Visions and Values. The feedback was positive and will be used to identify what is working well, identify the areas for ongoing improvement and also contribute to the shaping and development of the Council's corporate strategies and frameworks.

As part of the consultation employees were asked for their views and opinions on a new set of proposed core values, to sit at the heart of everything we as the Council do and will define the relationship between the Council and our citizens of Flintshire.

8. Key Themes of the Corporate Self-Assessment

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

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

Against these themes, the Council reviewed whether:

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

Theme A – Vision, Strategy and Performance

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Questions		How we do this / How we achieve this?
A1	Does the Council have a set of corporate and service strategies in place which set out vision and ambition?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan 2022-23 which sets out the Council's vision and ambition for the year. • A set of corporate and service strategies were in place which set out the Council's vision and ambition e.g., the Digital Strategy, Mid-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the Learning and Development Strategy etc.
A2	Are these strategies locked-in to national and regional Government strategy, and collaborative planning with key partners?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan priorities were clearly defined and locked into national and regional priorities and strategies. • The Council Plan 2022-23 identified clear linkages to national and regional policies/strategies which were captured in the document. • School Modernisation Strategy and Strategic outline Programme for 21st Century school investment, North Wales Construction Partnership; Welsh Government, Sustainable Learning Communities
A3	Are these strategies being followed and are they achieving their aims and objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan 2022-23 progress and performance is monitored through the new Business Planning, Performance and Risk Management System. • The MTFS was updated annually alongside the Council's budget process. • Service Strategies were reviewed within their set timeframes (set timeframes varied between each of the strategies and the services). • Annual reporting on relevant strategies and plans ensures reviews of aims and objectives are being achieved.
A4	Are these strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan had an annual refresh in 2022/23 to ensure appropriateness. Engagement was conducted with stakeholders including Chief Officer Team, senior officers, employees, members of the Council and key partners in various ways which included committee meetings and management meetings to support the development of the plan.
A5	Are these strategies supported by portfolio service business plans which are consistent with the overall aims and objectives of the Council?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the year each Portfolio had a business plan in place which supported the Council Priorities that align with the Council Plan 2022-23, including Capital Programme and Assets plans are aligned with the aims and objectives of the Council and some priorities are reflected in the Council Plan, where appropriate. • Portfolio Business Plans are in development to become standardised and monitored through the new Business Planning, Performance and Risk Management System.
A6	Are these strategies compliant with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory guidance for Public Service Boards (PSBs) adhered to, for Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan production. This includes demonstrable alignment to the well-being goals for Wales and five ways of working. • A requirement of Committee reports is to demonstrate how strategies are compliant with the Act.

Questions		How we do this / How we achieve this?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Digital Strategy aims and objectives are well mandated under the Act and the five ways of working.
A7	Are strategies and decisions made following the undertaking of Integrated Impact Assessments (where applicable)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) are carried out on all new strategies that assess against the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including summary IIAs for Committee reporting on strategic reports.
A8	Are these portfolio service plans being followed and are they achieving their aims, objectives, and performance targets? (new to 22/23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular reviewing of Portfolio service plans, including monitoring and an escalation process in place Annual Performance Report 2022/23. End of year reporting against the priorities and measures within the Council Plan 2022/23. Risks are monitored and updated, and Risk Registers are being developed within the new Business Planning, Performance and Risk Management System.
A9	Is there effective democratic oversight of portfolio service direction and performance? (new to 22/23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance reporting cycles that we had in place ensured that we had robust assurance and scrutiny in place. Performance reporting cycles have a thorough process for executive responsibility, scrutiny, and assurance. Portfolio performance has been reported through relevant Programme Boards.

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Score 4 – Good Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Portfolio ensures that their business plans align closely with the Council Plan 2022-23 Digital Strategy aims and objectives are well mandated under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the five ways of working

Theme B – Resource Planning and Management

Questions		How we do this/how we achieve this?
B10	Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained strategies for workforce, finance, procurement, and assets in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council had a number of comprehensive and maintained strategies in place which included; the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Market Stability Report, Dementia Strategy, Code of Corporate Governance, Procurement Strategy, a Capital Asset Strategy, Workforce Strategy and Digital Strategy.
B11	Are these strategies achieving their aims and objectives at a corporate level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These strategies act as a framework within the Council and underpin all activities operated. Updates were provided to Cabinet and/or Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the progress of the strategies.
B12	Are these strategies achieving their aims and objectives at a portfolio level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These strategies act as a framework within the Council and underpin all activities operated. Updates were provided to Cabinet and/or Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the progress of the strategies.
B13	Are these strategies sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These strategies act as a framework within the Council and underpin all activities operated. The Council's strategies were reviewed and updated annually. Reports were provided to the relevant Committees on the progress of these strategies. However, there were some areas between Portfolios and Corporate that could be improved. This included the timeliness of reviewing and monitoring key strategies and plans which sit below the Council Plan.

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Score 4 – Good Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Market Stability Report produced in June 2022 is informed by the Population Needs Assessment and will guide commissioning of regulated services for the next 5 years
Score 3 - Evidence but Further Action Required
<p>1) B13 - There were some areas between Portfolios and Corporate that could be improved upon. This included the timeliness of reviewing and monitoring key strategies and plans which sit below the Council Plan, ensuring corporate oversight of all policies and strategies and determining the effectiveness of such policies and strategies</p>

Theme C – Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values

Questions	How we do this/how we achieve this
C14 Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained frameworks and codes in place for governance, ethics and values?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed and updated by the Corporate Governance Working Group which comprised of senior officers from the relevant portfolios. Their assessments were subject to challenge by statutory officers. • IA Report (ethics) - We ensured that the seven principles of public life were central to decision making. • Code of Conduct - Good conduct was of paramount importance and adherence to the code was ensured by the Council having a robust Standards Committee, the membership of which was refreshed through stringent recruitment of new lay members. • Suite of Policies and Procedures – The Council's policies and procedures must be kept relevant and focused, and they were updated as required. • We upheld Principle A of our Corporate Governance Framework, which requires us to behave with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law. Our Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was subject to Member challenge.
C15 How well are these frameworks and codes applied and observed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AGS is a self-assessment of our Code of Corporate Governance based on the evidence and knowledge we have within the organisation and was reviewed by Audit Wales.
C16 Is the application of ethics and values evident in the way the Council appraises options and makes decisions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong corporate values are evidenced in the continued delivery of discretionary services/decisions made for the benefit of our residents despite financial pressures to cut such services.
C17 Does the Council work productively with its external regulators and demonstrate sound compliance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust ethical framework was in place - mapped through to monitoring and reporting structures. • The ethical framework was visible in the Constitution and supporting policies and protocols. • The Council had all policies and protocols expected of a forward-thinking council.

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Score 4 – Good Evidence

- Strong corporate values which are evidence in the continued delivery of services, especially those that are discretionary

Score 3 - Evidence but Further Action Required

- 1) C15 - Develop a clear set of values which are clearly defined and to ensure consistency across the Council, engaging with the workforce and to ensure all policies, strategies, and process to align with the Council's ethics and values (this is also related to Theme B, question B13)

Theme D – Organisational Leadership and Operating Models

Question	How we do this/how we achieve this
D18 Is there strong and effective political leadership?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AGS, Principle A evidence identified a number of documents which set out Codes of Conduct along with the Code of Corporate Governance and also set out a standard to achieve. Regular Group leaders' meetings were held between the leaders of each of the Council's political groups and attended by the statutory officers (Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, Chief Officer (Governance)/Monitoring Officer, Corporate Finance Manager/Section 151 Officer and Head of Democratic Services).
D19 Is there strong and effective professional leadership?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AGS Principle A evidence identified a number of documents which set out Codes of Conduct along with the Code of Corporate Governance which also sets out a standard to achieve. Strong and professional leadership was provided through the Chief Officer Team (COT) and the portfolio Department Management Teams, supported by the senior Leadership Academy, comprising of Chief Officers and their portfolio Service Managers.
D20 Does the Council have an adopted organisational operating model and a preferred working culture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's 'flat structure' operating model was adapted in 2014, following an extensive review. The original structure of Chief Executive and nine Chief Officers moved to one of a Chief Executive and six Chief Officers as a result of adapting to change within the Council.
D21 How effective is the operating model?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The structure was effective, and this was demonstrated by the performance of the organisation at corporate performance level and the performance across a number of various projects in which the different areas worked in a collaborative way.
D22 Is it evident that the preferred working culture is pre-dominant and effective?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The working culture was collegiate with officers from different portfolios working together on projects.

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<p>Score 4 – Good Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong collaborative working across portfolios and continuously looking at ways to improve delivery
<p>Score 3 - Evidence but Further Action Required</p>
<p>1) D20 and D22 Resilience amongst the workforce is an emerging issue and therefore, to address this work underway on a compliant and sustainable pay model and the completion of the Workforce Planning Framework (this is also related to Theme B, question B13). Preferred working culture needs to be defined through consultation and review of policy</p>

Theme E – Innovation and Change Management

Question		How we do this/how we achieve this
E23	Does the Council have a proven appetite for innovation and change management?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council Plan 2022-23 was an ambitious document and has been for a number of years. Target dates, measures and actions were stretched/ambitious but realistic in nature. Within the Council Plan 2022-23 there were a number of examples that demonstrated innovation and change management with a number of additional actions and measures than previous years. Given a one-year Council Plan has been in place, more often milestones that were due at the year-end were rolled over into the new Council Plan. To address this a 5year Council Plan will be used from 2023 until 2028.
E24	How well has the Council implemented its chosen innovation and change programmes and projects against time, budget, transition and performance objectives and targets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance of the Joint Social Value Procurement Strategy demonstrated progress made against the strategy. 21st Century Schools Modernisation Strategy identifies changes needed to modernise school provision.
E25	How well does the Council compare to its peers in being an innovator?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead authority on Wales Government Mutual Investment Model (MIM) on school capital projects Engage with a number of networks to share ideas and identify best and work practice.

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Score 4 / 5 – Very Best Practice / Good Evidence

- Digital Strategy 2021-26 sets a clear vision demonstrating the Council's appetite for innovation and change in a modern digital world

Score 4 – Good Evidence

- Social Services Annual Report 2022-23 provides evidence of innovation in service delivery, including Micro Care, Progress for Providers
- Recent Estyn report on Adult Community Living demonstrated and praised for the positive work taking place with the community.

Theme F – Partnership Working

Question		How we do this/how we achieve this
F26	Does the council engage well in local, regional, and national partnerships and collaborations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a wide amount of evidence throughout a number of documents which demonstrated engagement locally, regionally, and nationally. Examples of these documents included the Public Services Board – Well-being Plan, Joint Public Service Board Plan, Council Plan 2022/23, AGS - Principle B, Code of Corporate Governance and Regional Emergency Planning.
F27	Do the partnerships and collaborations for which the council is (co) responsible/relies upon have sound and effective governance arrangements in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear terms of reference were agreed where necessary to ensure clarity of the governance arrangements. For example, the Public Service Board Terms of Reference set out the Governance arrangements for the Board.
F28	How well do the key partnerships and collaborations for which the council is responsible/relies upon perform against their aims and objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance of key partnerships and collaboration was strong, an example of this was the performance of Aura Leisure and Libraries against the business plan it set. Establishments of new groups to manage emerging issues. Success in achieving a number of grant funding.

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Score 5 – Very Best Practice

- Engagement in local, regional, and national partnerships and collaborations

Score 4 / 5 – Very Best Practice / Good Evidence

- Portfolios representing the Council on a number of boards, locally, regionally and nationally including Youth Justice Service Executive Management Board

Score 4 – Good Evidence

- Regional Integration Funding clearly identifies the success achieved against its aims and objectives

Theme G – Customer and Community Engagement

Question		How we do this/how we achieve this
G29	Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community engagement in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council had a corporate strategy for delivery of Customer Services for, Face to Face, Telephone and Online. Core principles for public engagement and consultation were adopted in 2012 to underpin the Welsh National Principles for Public Engagement.
G30	Does the Council use customer and community feedback effectively in reviewing performance and shaping services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services engaged with customers and communities to gain feedback on performance and drive improvements to help shape services.
G31	How well does the Council perform in meeting its customer services standards and targets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance against Corporate Complaints was monitored and reported to Cabinet, Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Governance and Audit Committee as well as annually to the PSOW annual letter and half yearly update. The Chief Officers Team received monthly performance reports.
G32	How well does the Council engage with stakeholders in framing policy and in the making of key service policy decisions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with key stakeholders such as partners had been identified in the AGS as working well. There was strong evidence of partnership working, relationship management and formal and informal partnerships.

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<p>Score 4 – Good Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st Century Schools Consultation Strategy and how the Council engages with Young People Engagement with key stakeholders (Trade Unions)
<p>Score 3 – Evidence but Further Action Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G31 - Customers engagement and involvement as part of the reviewing process; Develop a single system for oversight of customer engagement which will allow the enhancement of service delivery through data collection, feedback and benchmarking.
<p>Score 2 – Some Evidence but Lacking in Key Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G29 -To develop a corporate Consultation and Engagement Strategy and review the Customer Service Strategy, including the establishment and increased use of social media, managing customer expectations and a review of customer standards.

Theme H – Risk Management and Business Continuity

Question	How we do this/how we achieve this
H31 Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained strategies for risk management and business continuity in place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Framework is reviewed annually, updated accordingly, and was last reviewed in September 2022. • Risk Registers for each portfolio were produced and reviewed on a monthly basis.
H32 Have these strategies proved effective in real-time and/or test scenario settings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery risk registers are no longer a requirement since coming out of the pandemic, but portfolio risk registers continued to be managed and maintained throughout 2022/23.
H33 Are these strategies dynamic in adapting to change and ensuring resilience for the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Risk Management User Guide was reviewed and shared with Governance and Audit Committee for review and agreement of the framework. Development takes place yearly to ensure the latest trends and best practice is being upheld. • An E-learning Risk Management module is in development.

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Score 4 – Good Evidence

- All portfolio risk registers have undergone a rigorous audit
- Risk Management Framework was approved by Governance and Audit Committee
- Risk Management module is being developed within the Performance Internal System

9. Progress on Opportunities for Improvement from 2021/22

Opportunity for Improvement 2021/22	Target Completion Date	Theme it Contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Review of Progress 2022/23
<p>1) Look at workforce strategies to allow for more flexibility in resource planning and responding to recruitment challenges (B13)</p>	<p>January 2023 - October 2023</p>	<p>B - Resource Planning and Management</p>	<p>Chief Officer Team</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>The vacancy management approval process continues to be in place to ensure that critical posts are prioritised for recruitment</p> <p>Within the Council Plan 2023-28, recruitment and retention is a key area of focus as part of the priority 'People'. The Workforce Planning Framework is in progress and due to be finalised in December 2023.</p> <p>The implementation of a compliant and sustainable new pay model is due to commence October 2023 and will continue into 2024. It will form part of the Opportunities for Improvement 2022/23 also (see below Section 8 for further information).</p>

Opportunity for Improvement 2021/22	Target Completion Date	Theme it Contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Review of Progress 2022/23
<p>1) The creation of a consultation and engagement database to be used by all services to register their consultation and engagement activity (G29)</p> <p>2) The development of a consultation and engagement portal on Flintshire’s website to provide a central resource for closed, current and future consultations/engagements undertaken by the Council (G29)</p> <p>3) The creation of a consultation and engagement stakeholder database to hold the details of a wide range of network information to ensure that when engaging we are reaching as far and as wide as possible including with the protected characteristic groups (G29) (G30)</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	<p>G - Customer and Community Engagement</p>	<p>Customer Contact Service Manager / Communications Officer (Internal)</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>The Digital Strategy Board rejected a business case to develop a local solution owing to competing priorities and capacity within IT. A third-party solution was due to be procured but a shift in budget priorities resulted in a pressure bid being withdrawn as non-essential spend. The opportunities are long term ambitions subject to funding and/or capacity to develop our own solution.</p>
<p>Forward work programme of consultation/engagement activity across all portfolios to be generated and shared on the web (G27)</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>G - Customer and Community Engagement</p>	<p>Rebecca Jones Customer Contact Service Manager / Communications Officer (Internal)</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>A programme of consultation and engagement activity across the Council is to be developed based on the input from all portfolios. This will continue until March 2024 and the outcome of this will be published on our website.</p>

Opportunity for Improvement 2021/22	Target Completion Date	Theme it Contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Review of Progress 2022/23
1) Review the national position in relation to the National Principles and their standing across Wales – review and reaffirm our commitment depending on outcome of research (G29)	COMPLETED	G - Customer and Community Engagement	Customer Contact Service Manager	Green	This opportunity for improvement has been completed and the refreshed National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales was launched. https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Your-Council/National-Principles-for-Public-Engagement-in-Wales.pdf

10. Opportunities for Improvement in 2022/23

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

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

This is consistent with the Council’s Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Performance Report for the year 2022/23. There are always areas where we strive for improvement and the following list of opportunities were identified for improvement in 2022/23.

During 2022/23, consultation was undertaken with the Senior Management Team and members of both the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Governance and Audit Committee. This enabled each of the Themes to be critically reviewed and as a result the Council have identified six areas for improvement. Some of these areas were also Opportunities for Improvement 2021/22 with them being more medium and/or longer-term goals.

Opportunity for Improvement 2022/23	Target Completion Date	Theme and Question it Contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Progress Comment
1) Look at workforce strategies to allow for more flexibility in resource planning and responding to recruitment challenges 2) Corporate oversight of all policies and strategies for each Portfolio, creating a structured work programme that details the reviewing period of the policies and strategies.	March 2024 September 2024	B) Planning and Resource Management - <i>Are these strategies and supporting action plans sustainable, and dynamic, in adapting to change and the future? (B13)</i>	Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager / Strategic Performance Advisor	Amber	1) As advised in Section 7, within the Council Plan 2023-28, recruitment and retention is a key area of focus as part of the priority 'People'. The Workforce Planning Framework is in progress and due to be finalised in December 2023. The implementation of a compliant and sustainable new pay model is due to commence October 2023 and will continue into 2024.

Opportunity for Improvement 2022/23	Target Completion Date	Theme and Question it Contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Progress Comment
3) Determining the effectiveness of policies and strategies by aligning them with the 'Theme' question (B13)	September 2024		Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager / Strategic Performance Advisor		2) A forward work programme is to be developed to ensure input from all Portfolios. 3) Within the development stages a key aspect will be aligning any tasks / actions with the Themes question
1) Establish clear ethics and values for the organisation 2) Engage with the workforce to determine the Council's ethics and values 3) All policies, strategies, and process to align with the Council's ethics and values (this is also related to Theme B, question B13)	December 2023 December 2023 September 2024	C) Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values - <i>How well are these frameworks and codes applied and observed? (C15)</i>	Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager / Strategic Performance Advisor	Amber	1) The Council's ethics and values have been developed and now require final approval and adoption 2) Engagement with the workforce commenced during the summer months of 2023 3) A forward work programme is to be developed to ensure input from all Portfolios.
1) Embedding the ethics and values within the organisational and working structure 2) The implementation of a compliant and sustainable new pay model (this	September 2024 March 2024	D) Organisational Leadership and Structure - <i>Does the Council have an adopted organisational structure and a</i>	Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development Corporate Manager, People and	Amber	1) Review of relevant policies including Hybrid Working policy. 2) Work is due to commence October 2023 and will continue into 2024.

Opportunity for Improvement 2022/23	Target Completion Date	Theme and Question it Contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Progress Comment
<p>is also related to Theme B, question B13)</p> <p>3) Finalisation of the Workforce Planning Framework (this is also related to Theme B, question B13)</p> <p>4) Preferred working culture needs to be defined through consultation and review of policy</p>	<p>December 2023</p> <p>December 2024</p>	<p><i>preferred working culture? (D20)</i></p>	<p>Organisational Development Corporate Manager, People and Organisational Development</p>	<p>Yellow</p>	<p>3) The Workforce Planning Framework is due to be finalised in December 2023</p> <p>4) Engagement with the workforce commenced during the summer months of 2023 and feedback will support in the reviewing of relevant policies, including the Hybrid Working Policy</p>
<p>1) Improve and embed a performance culture through the development of a Performance Management Framework</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>D) Organisational Leadership and Structure - <i>Is it evident that the preferred working culture is pre-dominant and effective? (D22)</i></p>	<p>Internal Audit, Performance and Risk Manager / Strategic Performance Advisor</p>	<p>Red</p>	<p>1) A Performance Management Framework to be drafted and gain approval and adoption</p>
<p>1) Establish a corporate Facebook page and develop use of social media as a means of communication</p> <p>2) A Charter for communication detailing customer expectations of the Council and vice versa. Establish realistic and manageable response times as well as standard of civility.</p> <p>3) Create corporate policy on consultation and engagement with</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>G) Customer and Community Engagement - <i>Does the Council have comprehensive and maintained plans and policies for customer and community</i></p>	<p>Customer Contact Service Manager / Customer Service and Communications Manager</p>	<p>Red</p>	<p>1) Background work has commenced on creating a corporate Facebook account and developing the use of social media. This work is in progress.</p> <p>2) A Charter for communication to be drafted and approved for adoption.</p> <p>3) A corporate policy on consultation and engagement to be drafted and</p>

Opportunity for Improvement 2022/23	Target Completion Date	Theme and Question it Contributes to	Owner	Progress RAG	Progress Comment
annual plans of intended consultations 4) Review of customer standards guidelines corporately		<i>engagement in place? (G29)</i>			approved for adoption following the appointment of a new Customer Service and Communications Manager. 4) A review of corporate customer standards links to point 4 and is to be drafted and approved for adoption.
1) Customers engagement and involvement as part of the reviewing process 2) Develop a single system for oversight of customer engagement. 3) Enhance service delivery through data collection, feedback and benchmarking	March 2024	G) Customer and Community Engagement - <i>How well does the Council perform in meeting its customer services standards and targets? (G31)</i>	Customer Contact Service Manager / Customer Service and Communications Manager	Red	1) Customers to be consulted as part of the process of drafting a corporate consultation and engagement policy. 2) Capital secured in 2023/24 to procure a third-party solution to host the Council's consultation and engagement. Procurement to be taken forward. 3) Improved complaint performance data shared with portfolios to review trends and learn from complaints.

11. Certification

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

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

Signed on behalf of Flintshire County Council

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Neal Cockerton – Chief Executive

Cllr. Ian B Roberts – Leader of the Council

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th October 2023
Report Subject	Housing Strategy Action Plan Performance Update
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on delivery of the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan 2019-2024 with particular emphasis on financial year 2022/23.

The Housing Strategy has a delivery plan which sets out 3 strategic priorities and related activity to achieve those priorities:

- Priority 1: Increase supply to provide the right type of homes in the right location
- Priority 2: Provide support to ensure people live and remain in the right type of home
- Priority 3: Improve the quality and sustainability of homes

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	Provide feedback and any comments on the Housing Strategy Action Plan 2019 -2024.
2.	Note the changes outlined in the report to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PDP process and the move to an online portal • The removal of the 20% limitation on the budget for acquisitions • The alignment of standards and intervention rate for acquisitions under SHG with those from TACP

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE HOUSING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
1.01	Flintshire's Housing Strategy and Action Plan sets out the vision for how the Council with its partners, will deliver affordable housing, provide the relevant support to its and ensure it creates sustainable homes.
	The Housing Strategy and Action Plan
1.02	The Housing Strategy identifies three priorities with key areas of activity within each priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Increase supply to provide the right type of homes in the right location • Priority 2: Provide support to ensure people live and remain in the right type of home • Priority 3: Improve the quality and sustainability of homes
	Priority 1
1.03	Priority 1 aims to address the lack of supply of affordable housing to meet demand, which is evident on the Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) for social housing and on the Affordable Housing Register - Tai Teg.
1.04	The action plan sets out how we aim to ensure that the right type of homes to meet people's needs are provided in the right locations.
	Priority 2
1.05	Priority 2 aims to ensure we have the right type of housing related support in place to prevent issues that can cause vulnerable people to become homeless.
1.06	The principle of housing related support is to support a person to access, maintain and manage their accommodation by assessing and developing or maintaining the necessary skills and confidence to live as independent a life as possible. The priority will focus on prevention and intervention, and complements the priorities set out in the Regional Homelessness Strategy and local action plan.
1.07	Funding is available to support the prevention of homelessness through Housing Support Grant (HSG) which enables a wide range of additional services and support. HSG does not, however, fund statutory homelessness service delivery.
1.08	It is broader than homelessness and the action plan identifies interventions for different vulnerable groups including people with specialist needs such as those with learning disabilities and older people.
	Priority 3

1.09	<p>Priority 3 aims to improve the quality of existing housing stock and develop innovative, energy efficient new stock to contribute towards target of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases by 3% per year as set out in the Climate Change Strategy for Wales Delivery Plan for Emission Reduction.</p> <p>Decarbonisation is an evolving agenda and Welsh Government has recently revised the Welsh Development Quality Requirements (WDQR 2021) that relates to all new affordable housing, sets out space standards and aims to progress towards homes being carbon zero. A public consultation on proposals for an update to Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) was open from 11th May to 3rd August 2022. The results are still awaited.</p>
	<p>Progress against the action plan for financial year 2022/23</p>
1.10	<p>A previous progress report was presented to Communities and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in December 2022.</p>
1.11	<p>The Action Plan has been updated and responsible officers have provided commentary to explain how the actions are being developed and work is evolving.</p>
	<p>Planned Development/Delivery Programme (PDP)</p>
1.12	<p>As had been forecast in last year's report we continue to see a significant hiatus in development of new housing across the County. This emanates from the impact of the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, rising interest rates together with wage and material inflation and delays in material availability.</p> <p>As part of the LDP adoption process, the Planning Strategy Team have already developed a Phosphate Mitigation Strategy in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council. Work by Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales also continues in relation to a review of Waste Water Treatment Works and whether they have permits to treat phosphorous and are operating within those permits. NRW have recently confirmed permits for Mold and Buckley treatment works and will release their review for Hope works shortly, where the outcome has confirmed that headroom capacity exists at each works to treat further phosphorous from new development, thereby removing the need to mitigate for any phosphate impact.</p> <p>The report advises that completions remain below target in the current year but demonstrates how this will increase in future years as the Planned Development Programme (PDP) approved by Welsh Government gears up to deliver around 730 new homes over the next three years.</p>
1.13	<p>Progress against established measures:</p> <p>Council Stock - Nil</p> <p>It was expected to be able to report an additional 36 homes had been provided by FCC including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 units at Ffordd Hiraethog and Ffordd Pandarus in Mostyn

- 16 x 1 bed flats
- 6 x 2 bed flats
- 8 x 2 bed houses

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the delivery of the units was delayed. The properties have now been completed and are in the process of being allocated to customers.

- 6 homeless units
 - 4 x 1 bed units at Park Lane, Holywell
 - 2 x 1 bed units at Duke Street, Flint

Duke Street properties are now completed and have been allocated and Park Lane was completed in August 2023.

All these schemes secured SHG funding.

Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) Stock = 44

RSLs provided 44 additional new homes including 5 units to meet specialist provision.

RSL	Site	LHMA	Property type	Funding Stream	Funds all as per PDP	No
W&W	Bryn Awel, Mold	Mold & Buckley	18 x 1 bed 2 person flats	SHG	PDP tranches over 2018/2019 = £453,050 and 2020/21 = £1,315 835.	18
W&W	Bryn Awel, Mold	Mold & Buckley	5 x 2 bed 4 person flats		As above	5
W&W	Northop United Reform Church	Mold & Buckley	4 x P2B houses	SHG & RCG	PDP tranches 2019/20 = £88,400 (SHG) PDP tranche 2020/2021 (SHG) £402,015. And 2020/21 £3,1000 (RCG)	4
W&W	Northop United Reform Church	Mold & Buckley	2 x 2P1B walk up flats		As above	2
Adra	Pen y Coed, Drury Buckley	Mold & Buckley	7 x 3B houses	SHG	PDP 20/2021 £92, 2285	7
Adra	Pen y Coed Drury, Buckley	Mold & Buckley	1 x 4B house	SHG	As above	1

	FCHA	Longacre Drive, Bagillt	Flint & Coast	Specialist housing provision 2 bed bungalow	SHG	PDP 2021/22 £250,974	1
	FCHA	Fairfield, Holywell	Flint & Coast	4 bed specialist LD	SHG	PDP 2021/22 £472,633	4
	Grwp Cynefin	Homebuy - 27 Deans Close, Bagillt	Flint & Coast	1 x 3B house	RCG	PDP 2022/23 £60,030	1
	Grwp Cynefin	23 Llys Brenig, Ewloe	Mold & Buckley	1 x 3 B house	RCG	PDP 2022/23 £81,530	1
	Total						44
1.14	Despite the delays experienced the Action Plan demonstrates there has been progress and the Council has continued to successfully adapt to new ways of working and achieved continuation of services for Flintshire residents.						
1.15	As previously the Action Plan will be presented annually to Cabinet, Communities and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Housing Association partners via the RSL Strategic Housing Group.						
1.16	Welsh Government has recently moved the PDP process to an online portal allowing RSL's to add schemes directly onto the system for consideration by the Local Authority Flintshire Housing strategy team.						
1.17	Local authorities have previously been allowed to use up to 20% of their SHG budget for acquisitions. WG now recognises that local authorities might continue to experience difficulties in achieving full spend, so to maximise the number of homes brought forward they are now removing this limitation.						
1.18	Welsh Government is also aligning the standards and intervention rate for acquisitions (existing dwellings & off the shelf purchases) under SHG with those from the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP), allowing a greater choice of accommodation options to be delivered at pace.						
1.19	TACP funding for 2023/24 was announced in July 2023 with updated criteria and eligibility published. FCC has submitted an 'expression of wish form' in August 2023 for schemes that Flintshire County Council would like to bring forward for consideration for TACP funding in relation to acquisitions, voids and large-scale acquisitions for conversion.						
1.20	RENEWAL OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN						
1.21	Flintshire's Housing Strategy and draft Action Plan sets out the vision the Council with its partners, will deliver its affordable housing needs, provide the relevant support to its residents and ensure it creates						

	<p>sustainable homes. The period of the strategy ran from 2019 until 2024. This section suggests a timetable for actions to review and refresh to Strategy from 2025 until 2030.</p>
1.22	<p>The current Housing Strategy built on previous achievements but was developed within the context of the then current challenges such as welfare reform, the increase in ‘hidden’ homeless and limited resources. Much has altered since 2019 notable amongst which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK has left the EU • War in Europe • House prices have risen across Wales £160k in 2019>£219k in 2022 • Impact Covid first reported in Wuhan China in December 2019 • Inflation/CPI 1.4% in 2019 currently 6.8% • The Pound to the Dollar 2019 £1.22> £0.79 2023 • Full implementation of the Rented Homes Wales Act • Rise in homelessness • LDP adopted for FCC
1.23	<p>The Local Housing Market Assessment is a key tool in assessing demand for housing locally to inform planning policy and the local housing strategy and is due for renewal or refresh.</p> <p>New guidance has been introduced by Welsh Government on the development and formatting of these assessments. Planning and Housing are commissioning Arc4 to undertake this study in the Autumn in readiness for submission to Welsh Government in early 2024.</p>
1.24	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>The Housing Strategy is a collaborative document and will involve extensive consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders. Following the template of previous iterations of the strategy, the below sets out an outline framework for renewal of the strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Workshop to outline issues on completion of the draft LHMA February 24 • Internal Council/Officer workshop March/April 2024 • PRS partners workshop March/APRIL 2024 • RSL partners workshop March/April 2024 • A draft Strategy Document as a basis for formal external consultation over the Summer of 2024 for consideration of Scrutiny and Cabinet May/June 2024 • Formal Consultation July/August 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Review inclusive of comments received during the consultation period by Scrutiny and Cabinet October/November 2024 • New plan published December 2024
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: The Housing Strategy Action Plan is a strategic document, there are no implications for the approved revenue budget for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p>Capital: The Housing Strategy Action Plan is a strategic document, there are no implications for the approved Capital programme relating to the Strategy or Action Plan other than already approved borrowing by NEW Homes and through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing capacity.</p> <p>Human resources: The Housing Strategy team is operating with limited resources. There were some actions within the Action Plan in 2022 that referred to the potential for new posts to be recruited to assist in delivering additional services.</p> <p>An additional Occupational Therapist to work across the DFG Adaptations and Housing Register Teams to work to improve opportunities for applicants on the Specialist Housing register and build links with other departments is now in post as is an additional Bond Officer.</p> <p>A project post for property acquisitions has been identified and options are being explored as to how best to recruit to this post.</p> <p>Challenges relating to the recruitment and retention of staff remain.</p> <p><u>Agency Staff</u> Two Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme Delivery Managers commenced in February and March and are now embedded into the Team. A Senior Maintenance Surveyor placement continues.</p> <p><u>Apprentices</u> Two Apprentices, subject to their achieving the required grades to access University places have been recruited and are due to commence September 2023. The graduate trainee will also work across the Housing Asset team.</p> <p>The Housing Team is currently exploring options to recruit for a Project post in relation to “Buy Back” properties.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The reporting of the Housing Strategy Action Plan is a progress report rather than a new policy therefore an impact assessment is not deemed as necessary.
3.02	<p>General / background</p> <p>An internal Audit was undertaken in 2022/23 – Right Type of Home in the Right Location - Housing and Communities. The Final report dated March 2022/23 was rated amber/green; key controls generally operating effectively but with recommendations in relation to some fine tuning which we have implemented including the creation of a risk register.</p> <p>Schemes are appraised on a regular basis to ensure that where possible, risks are identified at an early stage and mitigating actions are taken to ensure the timely delivery of Schemes within the PDP.</p> <p>For 2023/24 WG has advised that the Flintshire County Council (FCC) SHG allocation is £13,352,142. WG has set budgets for the next three years. The allocation for years two and three is also £13,352,142.</p> <p>Over this three-year period Flintshire will be allocated circa £40m, however, it has received applications for SHG schemes currently totalling £64m. We currently have around 28 “Main” Schemes listed in the PDP with SHG Grant funding allocated.</p> <p>In attempting to try and ensure that all viable Schemes are included within the PDP it is possible that some allocated grant funding may fall outside the year three funding window.</p> <p>Some RSLs who have previously had all their grant allocations over 3 years may be disappointed and there may also be some impact in relation to their cash flows.</p> <p>In addition, increasing costs has led to some RSLs requiring additional funding to ensure the viability of their schemes. Materials, labour shortages of skilled labour and wider economic pressures on contractor mean some have gone into liquidation.</p> <p>Mitigating action</p> <p>The intention is to be in a position, if later in the year WG offers access to ‘slippage’ funding, to apply to take up this funding and allocate additional funding to viable schemes this financial year.</p> <p>Key risks have been identified as follows;</p> <p><u>Delays to delivery and additional funding requirements</u></p> <p>There are some RSLs whom have received considerable sums of Grant money but have yet to commence building. This includes the following schemes; Northern Gateway (100 units), 66a Mold Road, Mynydd Isa (56 units) and New Inn, Station Road (8 units). WG has agreed to provide additional funding for two schemes, 66a Mold Road, Mynydd Isa, (56 units) and New Inn, Station Road (8 units). We are closely monitoring these schemes to ensure delivery of 64 units.</p> <p>We also anticipate that additional funding will also be required in relation to Northern Gateway.</p>

Mitigating action

The schemes are being closely monitored to ensure delivery.

- 66a Mold Road - Contractor is now on site undertaking enabling works. This Scheme has been allocated additional SHG funding of £3,562.887 in this financial year
- Northern Gateway – new contractor on site, Castle Green, enabling works expected to commence Autumn 2023.
- New Inn, Station Road – additional funding of £821,000 has been allocated in this financial year

Concentration of allocated funding to one RSL.

Mitigating action

We are closely monitoring this situation. Concerns have been aired with both the WG and the RSL. There is also an over subscription of alternative Schemes circa £24m if any of these Schemes should falter. In addition, we are encouraging Partners to put forward viable schemes for inclusion in the PDP.

Other identified risks

Utilising the Risk register we have identified that there are an additional 6 Schemes (pre construction) rated Red around 18% of Schemes. Of these four relate to RSL Schemes and two relate to FCC Schemes. RSL Schemes

Three RSL Schemes (Older Persons/Elderly care provision Buckley, LD bungalows Buckley and Well Street, Buckley) have been delayed due to the environmental impacts of phosphates on drainage systems.

Mitigating action

As part of the LDP adoption process, the Planning Strategy Team have already developed a Phosphate Mitigation Strategy in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council. Work by Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales also continues in relation to a review of Waste Water Treatment Works and whether they have permits to treat phosphorous and are operating within those permits. NRW have recently confirmed permits for Mold and Buckley treatment works and will release their review for Hope works shortly, where the outcome has confirmed that headroom capacity exists at each works to treat further phosphorous from new development, thereby removing the need to mitigate for any phosphate impact.

Included in the four RSL schemes is (Northern Gateway) which has been delayed as the original Contractor went into Administration.

Mitigating action

New contractor now on site, Castle Green, enabling works expected to commence Autumn 2023.

Flintshire County Schemes

Two FCC Schemes (Canton Depot, Bagillt & High Steet, Connahs Quay (Old Music Shop) are impacted by the risk of flooding (Tan 15 designation flooding).

Mitigating action

We understand that Planning has spoken with consultants and indications are that further clarity on Tan15 will be received around Christmas time.

	We do not currently have any Schemes on the PDP where they are deemed to be unviable.
3.03	Cost of living pressures, the economic impacts of global shipping disruption and the impacts of the War in Ukraine are continuing to place significant cost and availability pressures placed on labour and materials.
3.04	Environmental impacts of phosphate on drainage systems. As part of the LDP adoption process, the Planning Strategy Team have already developed a Phosphate Mitigation Strategy in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council. Work by Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales also continues in relation to a review of Waste Water Treatment Works and whether they have permits to treat phosphorous and are operating within those permits. NRW have recently confirmed permits for Mold and Buckley treatment works and will release their review for Hope works shortly, where the outcome has confirmed that headroom capacity exists at each works to treat further phosphorous from new development, thereby removing the need to mitigate for any phosphate impact.
3.05	There is a continued risk of increased demand on homeless prevention services as termination notices have risen. As of 31 st March 2023 there were 169 households accommodated in homeless accommodation in Flintshire compared to 55 households in February 2021. As a result of rising interest rates and the potential for rates to rise further or stay at this level for longer there is a potential risk of increased demand on homeless prevention services if repossessions start to grow which may also result in increased demand for social and affordable homes.
3.06	The ability to ensure that planned developments meet the standard viability models as required to access funding from the Welsh Government may be compromised.
3.07	The challenging economic situation and the additional costs of borrowing and servicing debt repayments may impact on RSL's ability to borrow.
3.08	Scheme viability may be impacted by rising costs.
3.09	Reduction in funding to LAs following more than a decade of austerity pre pandemic together with increases in pay and utility bills along with other existing and emerging cost pressures means Flintshire County Council is potentially facing a significant forecasted budget gap in 2023/24.
3.10	The private rented sector continues to be adversely affected by the Renting Homes Wales Act 2016 in addition to the above issues leading landlords to exit the market.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly FCC Development Team meetings • Quarterly meetings with Welsh Government and RSL colleagues • Quarterly and ad hoc meetings with individual RSLs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation takes place with Members and site visits arranged when appropriate. • The report was presented to the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 13th September, 2023.
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Housing Strategy Action Plan Progress Report 31 st March 2023.
5.02	Appendix 2 - Risk Matrix.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Flintshire Housing Strategy & Action Plan 2019 - 2024 https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Housing/Flintshire-Housing-Strategy-and-Action-plan-2019-2024.pdf</p> <p>Local Development Plan – Flintshire https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Flintshire-Local-Development-Plan.aspx</p> <p>Flintshire County Council Prospectus Local Authority prospectus</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Marj Cooper, Housing Strategy Manager Telephone: 01352 70 3721 E-mail: marj.cooper@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Budget: a statement expressing the Council’s policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p>Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April</p> <p>Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) Policy – the regional common policy for all major social landlords allocating social housing properties across Flintshire.</p> <p>Social Housing Grant – Welsh Government funding that may be available to housing associations and developing Local Authorities. It is to help fund new affordable housing e.g. for social rent. To qualify for grant homes must comply with Welsh Government Development Quality Requirements (WDQR) and standard viability models.</p>

<p>Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) - Funding will be available to support Social Landlords on a range of schemes. In summary, the Programme will continue to fund voids and remodelling, demolition and newbuild, and conversion. These scheme types apply to LA/RSL existing stock. TACP will also support MMC, including for 'meanwhile use', acquisitions i.e. Existing Dwellings and Off the Shelf purchases as well as 'acquire to convert'. In some cases, TACP can support the acquisition of tenanted properties from Private Sector Landlords where the tenant will be made homeless.</p>

Appendix 1 Local Housing Strategy Action Plan Progress Report March 2023

Priority 1: Increase supply to provide the right type of homes in the right location

Output	Timescale	Lead organisation/s	Progress
<p>To meet the annual shortfall of 238 affordable housing as identified in the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) 2019 by delivering the following tenures:</p> <p>(i) To increase the number of new social rent properties (RSL or Council) by 86 per annum</p> <p>(ii) To increase the number of intermediate rent properties (NEW</p>	Annual	Flintshire County Council and RSL Partners	<p>Target not achieved.</p> <p>The number of properties completed was 44</p> <p>As had been forecast in last year's report we continue to see a significant hiatus in development of new housing across the County. This emanates from the aftermath of the impact of COVID; the cost of living crisis rising interest rates together with wage and material inflation and delays in material availability.</p> <p>We anticipate that the above issues will continue to impact completions in the current year.</p> <p>However As part of the LDP adoption process, the Planning Strategy Team have already developed a Phosphate Mitigation Strategy in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council. Work by Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales also continues in relation to a review of Waste Water Treatment Works and whether they have permits to treat phosphorous and are operating within those permits. NRW have recently confirmed permits for Mold and Buckley treatment works and will release their review for Hope works shortly, where the outcome has confirmed that headroom capacity exists at each works to treat further phosphorous from new development, thereby removing the need to mitigate for any phosphate impact.</p> <p>compounded by the impact of phosphates on the Planning process which is delaying significant schemes in that part of the County which drain into the Alyn. We anticipate that confirmation in relation to the capacity of Water Treatment works and associated Licences will be received by Planning this Autumn.</p>

<p>Homes or RSLs) by 57 per annum</p> <p>(iii) To increase the number of intermediate ownership properties (through s106 provision or RSLs) by 95 per annum</p>			<p>We were expecting to have been able to report that an additional 36 homes had been provided by FCC.</p> <p>This includes 30 units at Ffordd Hiraethog and Ffordd Pandarus which unfortunately, due to inclement weather were delayed. They have now been completed and handed over August 2023 are in the process of being allocated.</p> <p>6 homeless units at Park Lane (4) and Duke Street (2) were also delayed. Duke Street is now occupied and Park Lane is expected to be completed August 2023.</p> <p>The above figures are broken down as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new social rent properties (RSL or Council) - 44 • Number of intermediate rent properties (NEW Homes or RSL's) - nil • The number of intermediate ownership properties (through s106 provision or RSLs) - nil <p>This year's Programme should see the following completed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New social rent properties (RSL or Council) - 80 • Currently on site or due on site but due for completion next year -156 • Nant y Gro (41) should have been on site but is currently under review due to cost increases and scheme viability. <p>The Programme Development/Delivery Plan (PDP) aims to deliver circa 730 units over the next 3 years or so. This includes some of the proposed SHARP programme which are appended below respectively.</p> <p>A summary of the PDP is available at appendix (i)</p>
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			Members should note that the above schemes are subject to Cabinet / New Homes Board approval subject to planning and local Ward Member discussion and Welsh Government (WG) Grant approvals.
Deliver 5% (10) new build properties per annum to meet demand specialist provision	Annual	Flintshire County Council and RSL Partners	<p>Number of new build units to meet specialist provision 2022/2023</p> <p>Target is 10.</p> <p>We had anticipated that 10 units would have been provided in 2022/2023 5 units were developed leaving a shortfall of 5 units against target.</p> <p><u>Completed April 2022 to March 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longacre Drive (completed July 2022) - 1 property • Fairfield, Holywell (completed October 2022) - 4 units <p><u>Anticipated to complete April 2023 to March 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 Elm Road, Queensferry 1 property - did not complete as the family initially nominated withdrew and minor amendments to the plan / property layout were amended to suit another family's needs. • Westhaven, Holywell Rd, Ewloe 4 units - did not complete due to delays in acquisition. <p>Due to the complexity and variety of needs of those on the Specialist Housing register the Housing Strategy team is exploring other options including the potential redevelopment of Flintshire County Councils' (FCC) garage sites for specialist accommodation for those with LD. In addition, regular meetings have been convened with the Specialist Housing Register team in order to develop a brief for this cohort. Potential Development site visits have been arranged with the Learning Disabilities Team in conjunction with the Programme Manager, North Wales Together, Seamless Services for People with Learning Disabilities.</p>
Deliver 20 major adaptations on existing properties per annum (all tenures)	Annual	Flintshire County Council and RSL Partners	<p>Not achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 22/23 DFG LA properties completed 2 large adaptations and DFG Private completed 4 large adaptations.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSL's have not reported any completed major adaptations.
Increase the percentage of one-bedroom social rented properties by 20% (16) per year of all new build social rented properties	Annual	Flintshire County Council and RSL Partners	Achieved - 20 delivered and anticipated to meet the target next year.
Reduce the number of empty properties by 10% (50) over the lifetime of the strategy	March 2025	Flintshire County Council	<p>With the help of Houses into Home loans, tracking down existing owners and assisting in any way possible we have brought back 58 units into use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019/20 – 19 properties 2020/21 – 10 properties 2021/22 – 18 Properties 2022/23 – 11 properties

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Priority 1.1 To increase the supply of all types and tenures of affordable housing through new build developments

Action	Task	Progress
<p>The RSL Welsh Government Social Housing Grant programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing development capacity in Flintshire through zoning additional Housing Associations. <li>• Ensuring maximum number of properties delivered using the available funding <li>• Ensuring a robust reserve list of schemes. 	<p>The FCC Social Housing Grant has increased significantly from the allocation of £5.2 million in 2020/21. The amount allocated for 2021/22 increased to £10.2 million. The allocation for 2022/23 was £13.3 million. This was fully allocated to schemes in the PDP. Over 94% (£12.6 million) of the allocated funding was paid out by the Welsh Government in 2022/2023.</p> <p>WG has changed the PDP process for 2023/2024 to an online portal named “Manage Homes and Places”. RSL’s may now add schemes directly onto the PDP for consideration by FCC for inclusion.</p> <p>We anticipate that our professional, productive relationships will continue with our partner RSL’s and that just as now that they will feel confident in discussing their Schemes prior to adding them to the PDP online Portal.</p> <p>Should any schemes receive negative pre-planning application advice or be refused planning they will be updated on the Portal and withdrawn.</p> <p>Over the next 3 years (2023/2024 – 2025/2026) WG have allocated Flintshire circa £40m, however, it has received applications for SHG schemes currently totalling £64m. We currently have around 28 “Main” Schemes listed in the PDP with SHG Grant funding allocated.</p> <p>In attempting to try and ensure that all viable Schemes are included within the PDP it is possible that some allocated grant funding may fall outside the year three funding window.</p> <p>The PDP aims to deliver circa 730 units (subject to financial appraisals, planning and technical approvals and consultation etc.). Please refer to Appendix (i).</p> <p>WG is also going to be allocating funding via the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP).</p> <p>TACP funding for 2023/24 was announced in July 2023 with updated criteria and eligibility published. FCC has submitted an ‘expression of wish form’ in August 2023 for schemes that Flintshire County Council would like to bring forward for consideration for TACP funding in relation to acquisitions, voids and large-scale acquisitions for conversion.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the type and tenure meets local housing needs, primarily social rent properties, informed by the Council's Housing Strategy Team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council maintain a list of potential schemes. No reserve schemes were included as they had not met the relevant criteria to be in a position to be included at that point. These potential schemes were in the very early stages of development and may have been prior to planning application submissions or consultation with local members. In 2021 WG opened up zoning so all RSLs that operate across the North Wales region can work in every Local Authority area and request support for Social Housing Grant. Therefore, there are now 7 RSL's who can access Grant in Flintshire. Over a 3-year period the PDP aims to provide circa 730 properties, the majority, 81% made up of social rent with around 5% affordable rent properties. This balance may differ as schemes progress. <p>Welsh Government (WG) have previously requested that all Local Authorities produce a Local Authority Prospectus that sets out housing need and priorities for the area. This is to help to inform future Social Housing Grant allocation. Flintshire has produced a draft Local Authority prospectus for formal Council approval.</p>
<p>The Council's new build programme: SHARP / HRA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting the HRA Business Plan's ambition to deliver 50 new social rent homes per annum up to 2030 in order to meet the demand of the social housing register. Ensuring the delivery of new builds adds value through 	<p>From 2021 - 2026 WG have an ambitious target to deliver 20,000 new low carbon social homes and have opened up the Social Housing Grant programme to developing Local Authorities. FCC has reviewed its Housing Programmes Team to secure additional resources who will work to deliver new-build housing schemes. Two additional Agency Development Managers were appointed to the Housing Programme team in March 2023.</p> <p>The Housing strategy team has also secured two Apprentices who are due to start September 2023. One Graduate Apprentice will also be working across / shared with the Housing Assets team.</p> <p>We are looking to develop circa 299 units over the next 3 years.</p> <p>For the Year 2023/2024 the aim is to commence build of 102 new social rent homes of which 36 are now complete having slipped into this year.</p>

	<p>addressing the pressures for certain housing types by basing development plans on intelligence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising Welsh Government's Affordable Housing Grant to support delivery. Securing a lift in the borrowing cap to enable additional financial resources to meet the Council's delivery ambitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2024/2025 108 of which all are included on the "main" PDP Year 2025/2026 89 of which 4 Schemes (76 units) are not yet included on the "main" PDP <p>Future schemes are subject to Cabinet approval, Planning etc. and WG Grant approvals.</p> <p>Through the Local Authority Prospectus the aim is to ensure that we are meeting recognised need and demand. For example, around 80% of our housing register require 1 or 2 bed accommodation and our PDP programme aims to deliver smaller 1 and 2 bedroom homes.</p> <p>FCC and NEW Homes continue to work proactively to increase the number of Social and Affordable rent properties available to meet identified housing demand across Flintshire. In accordance with WG strategic housing policy, the Council continues to work with an increased focus upon working collaboratively with partner Housing associations to jointly deliver new housing schemes.</p> <p>New development schemes continue to be procured via the Welsh Procurement Alliance (WPA) selection process. However, this framework is due to expire in April 2024 so an alternative framework/procurement route will be required.</p>
NEW Homes investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the delivery of affordable rented properties through SHARP for NEW Homes. Ensuring NEW 	<p>NEW Homes currently owns and manages 173 units. NEW Homes are in discussion to acquire a further 13 properties (6 at Maes Gwern and 7 at Penyffordd) this year.</p> <p>The Business plan allows for future schemes, as below subject to Cabinet/NEW Homes Board approval, consultation, planning and technical approvals and WG grant approvals.</p>

	<p>Homes maximises its ability to invest in the delivery of affordable rented properties through using their existing assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 – circa 72 including 6 at Maes Gwern and 7 at Penyffordd. <p>NEW Homes is currently under strategic review</p>
<p>Maximising the provision of affordable housing on market led sites through S106 requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the new LDP affordable housing planning policy requirements maximises appropriate on-site provision. Supporting and encourage our delivery partners to utilise private finance and Rent to Own Grant to acquire units from developers for affordable rent and rent to own / shared ownership, in addition to the planning requirement. Working with 	<p>The Local development Plan (LDP) was formally adopted on the 24th January 2023. HN3: Affordable Housing now requires that affordable housing contributions will be sought on developments of 10 or more units in accordance with quotas for each of the 6 submarket areas. These should be taken as a target for negotiation on a site-by-site basis subject to detailed viability considerations.</p> <p>Affordable housing will be expected to be delivered on site in the first instance and only in exceptional circumstances will off site or commuted sum contributions be accepted in lieu of on-site provision.</p> <p>The percentage of affordable housing varies from 15% to 40% depending on which of the 6 submarket areas the Development falls under.</p> <p>Arc 4 Consultants are in the process of updating the LHMA which is expected Q4 this year Housing Strategy is a consultee for new planning applications and negotiations occur with developers and RSL partners based on housing need and Local Authority priorities. This is reinforced via the Local Authority prospectus.</p>

	<p>developers to ensure delivery of affordable ownership models, such as shared equity, where there is demand.</p>	
<p>Exploring innovation and social value across the sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with partners to use off site manufacturing / Modern Methods of Manufacturing • Explore opportunities through the regional growth deal partnership • Considering investing in designs for multi-generational / flexible homes • Increasing the use of social value in service planning and procurement in order to maximise opportunities and support vulnerable residents. 	<p>All new FCC schemes will incorporate Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) to achieve enhanced sustainability and be in line with the Welsh Development Quality Requirements 2021 (WDQR 2021) “Creating Beautiful Homes and Places”, this sets out the minimum functional quality standards for new and rehabilitated general needs affordable homes. Consultation for WHQS 2023 is now closed and once the outcome is known/ and the report becomes available FCC and partners will review the findings/recommendations. FCC is taking part in an all-Wales pilot project which aims to develop a good practice framework by sharing knowledge about zero carbon housing among Local Authorities and RSL</p> <p>The Welsh Procurement Alliance (WPA) selection process currently provides a delivery route for procurement of schemes and ensures that social value is embedded within procurement. However, this framework is due to expire in April 2024 so an alternative framework will be required and is currently under review.</p>

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Priority 1.2 To increase the supply through better use of existing social housing stock		
Action	Task	Progress
The Council's housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking a review of the stock and tenancies to determine where there is under occupation or where there is capacity to realign the use of the stock • Reviewing the existing use of stock to assess best use • Developing an incentive scheme to encourage movement in the stock where it can be proven to meet a need from the housing register and address under occupation / overcrowding. 	<p>There is an established working group to review all sheltered housing schemes to assess suitability as older persons housing in the future. Flintshire has a relatively large amount of older persons stock and therefore this review is taking longer than anticipated.</p> <p>The review has widened in scope to consider what the Flintshire 'Offer' of sheltered housing should be. A definition of an "Offer has been formulated and is awaiting final agreement. A matrix has been developed and will be used to assess sheltered schemes which require substantial investment or have housing management challenges.</p> <p>The Council utilise this scoring matrix to evaluate each sheltered scheme before any options are considered further. Areas of consideration consist of, but are not limited to, desirability, amenities, access & egress, allocation waiting lists, rent loss and asset compliance</p> <p>The Council has finalised the detailed option appraisals for each identified sheltered scheme/site.</p> <p>FCC is still working with the North Wales housing providers in a 'rightsizing' project looking at whether people are in a property that is suitably sized for their needs. This will include under occupancy/overcrowding and incentives and aims to achieve a consistent approach across the North Wales region. This will assist with the rapid rehousing initiative. This is still ongoing and is to be reviewed/ revised once the sheltered housing review and assess condition surveys have been completed.</p> <p>Ongoing to be devised</p>
Partner Housing Association stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing use of stock to assess best use in line with strategic priorities. 	<p>FCC continues to work with partner housing associations through the strategic and operational SARTH groups to identify challenges and develop ways of maximising allocations within existing stock.</p> <p>All the RSLs are involved in the rightsizing project as outlined above. This is linked to the ongoing sheltered housing review and assess condition surveys</p>

Action	Task	Progress
<p>Accessible Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an Accessible Housing Register for all social housing stock to enable better use of adapted stock. Assess the register to identify where there are homes with adaptations that could be utilised. Engage with Housing Occupational Health and Social Services as early as possible on all developments to ensure all accessible needs are met. 	<p>The Council and partners continue to operate 50% direct lets to homeless households to ease pressure on statutory homeless services and emergency accommodation.</p> <p>There is an ongoing review of existing adaptations and specialist housing within the housing stock. This is linked to the ongoing sheltered housing review and condition surveys and is therefore dependent on the completion of these workstreams. Once the above is completed this will be explored further</p> <p>The Specialist housing register is considered when looking at housing need for new build affordable housing schemes and planning applications. NEW Homes and FCC new build housing schemes include consultation at inception stage (with Housing occupational health and Social Services) to ensure housing requirements for people with accessible needs can be met. FCC and NEW Homes developments with ground floor flats/ bungalows will be developed using wheelchair space standards where the site is deemed as suitable. The Local Authority Prospectus emphasises specialist and supported housing provision being included within Grant funded developments.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy team attend regular meetings to discuss the needs of those on the Specialist Housing register. They are currently exploring the possibility of repurposing / utilising existing HRA garage sites for the development of suitable accommodation for this cohort. The Housing Strategy team also hold regular meetings with the Programme Manager North Wales Together: Seamless Services for People with Learning Disabilities and their Team.</p> <p>FCC recruited an Occupational Therapist (OT) in January 2023. The OT works within the Housing register team and across the DFG Adaptations team to work to improve opportunities for applicants on the Specialist Housing register and build links with other departments.</p> <p>The OT is now embedded into the housing and preventions service, housing management, DFG and Social services teams</p>

<p>Developing relevant policies to maximise legal powers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a policy for Flintshire to maximise legal powers including the potential to compulsory purchase or take ownership on a temporary basis. • Explore potential resources with Welsh Government for compulsory purchase orders • Developing an initiative, in partnership with our Housing Associations, to bring back empty properties into use to meet specific needs such as for larger families. 	<p>Working closely with Council tax and utilising land registry information we are targeting long term empty properties by tracking down the owners and communicating more and offering financial assistance.</p> <p>There is the possibility of FCC and RSLs accessing TACP funding to bring empty/void properties back into use. We have discussed the opportunities with our RSL Partners.</p> <p>FCC Asset Management team accessed Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) funding to bring void properties back into use.</p> <p>A TACP Grant of £548,186 was claimed by FCC for 2022/2023.</p> <p>FCC has also purchased 2 larger properties at Ash Grove via TACP funding.</p> <p>An application for TACP funding has been made by FCC for 2023/24 for around £2.4m to bring circa 50 void properties back into use. As well as around £3.5M to fund circa 24 acquisitions to ease the number of homeless households accommodated in temporary accommodation.</p>
<p>Reducing empty properties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working closely with partner Housing Associations and the Council Tax Team to identify those properties which are long term empty and are causing issues to the local community. 	<p>It was agreed with Council Tax to advertise the houses into home loan scheme by including a leaflet in the council tax bills 2023/24 which are sent to every property in the authority</p>
<p>The provision of financial support to bring empty properties back into use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting 'Houses to Homes' loans, which aims to bring empty properties back into use through providing affordable loans up to £25k in the private sector. <p><i>Amounts have been increased from</i></p>	<p>Provision of Financial Support</p> <p>Use of the loan scheme has delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19/20 – 8 Properties creating 18 Units of accommodation • 20/21 – 7 Properties creating 9 Units of accommodation • 21/22 – 5 Properties creating 10 Units of accommodation • 22/23 – 2 Properties creating 2 units of accommodation

	<i>£25,000 to £35,000 for each property and up to £250,000 per application.</i>	
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Priority 1.4 To increase the supply through the private rented sector (PRS)		
Action	Task	Progress
<p>A dedicated PRS team / Officer in the Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realign existing staffing resources and expertise to develop an improved PRS offer across Flintshire. 	<p>FCC is still exploring the option of joining the WG Private Sector Leasing Pathfinder scheme which leases private sector properties and makes them available for homeless households.</p> <p>FCC is still aiming to recruit a Landlord Liaison officer and Private Rented Sector (PRS) access officer funded through the Housing Support Grant. These new posts would develop the PRS offer and build relationship with private landlords.</p> <p>The Bond scheme has been reviewed. WG has agreed to continue funding the Bond scheme and there is now flexibility in how the funding is used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having commissioned ARC4 Consultants to complete a piece of research into the PRS in Flintshire regarding its availability, affordability and demand the report has now evidenced 50% fewer homes advertised on the market since 2018. • The finding of the report will be considered as part of our ongoing response to a challenging PRS.
<p>The delivery of a bespoke landlord offer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting with private sector landlords through the Landlord Forum to establish a better understanding of the barriers and what the critical success factors would be to provide a successful offer. • Providing a range of offers for Landlords to incentivise their engagement and commitment to the Council including the BOND. 	<p>Successful Landlord Forums have taken place in June 2022, November 2022 and May 2023.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the offer is flexible as well as robust and cost effective. 	
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Priority 1.5 To provide the right type of homes to meet the increased demand for single person accommodation and larger properties for families		
Action	Task	Progress
The RSL's and Council's new build programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring higher numbers of single person accommodation and larger properties as part of all new build developments. Continuous assessment of priorities and regular updates 	<p>The Local Authority Prospectus will continue to prioritise the need for single person accommodation and highlights the growing need for smaller and some larger properties. Through the Local Authority Prospectus the aim is to ensure that we are meeting recognised need and demand. For example, around 80% of applicants on the housing register require 1 or 2 bed accommodation and our PDP programme aims to deliver around 70% smaller 1 and 2 bedroom homes</p> <p>Evidence of housing need is obtained via the Social and Affordable housing registers and is sought for all new development opportunities and informs the property mix that is to be built. Reference is also made to the LDP in relation to affordable housing. Quarterly meetings are held with RSL development partners to keep them advised about strategic priorities. This is in addition to quarterly meetings held with the WG and RSL partners and Regional Strategic Lead meetings.</p>
Developing innovative approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing best practice elsewhere and identifying a range of options that could meet our emerging demands for single person and larger units in a cost-effective way. Identifying innovative delivery models which can provide smaller units which are flexible and can be altered to meet changes in demand in the future. 	<p>New approaches to house building are considered where the site is suitable and to comply with WDQR 2021 which promotes enhanced environmental sustainability.</p> <p>FCC is working with the Active Building Centre to develop a scheme that strives towards carbon zero. Quick build developments using MMC and flexible modular construction is being explored on sites that are suitable and viable.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering the appropriateness of different delivery methods such as self-build/custom build and co-operative approaches to meet the need. 	<p>FCC is exploring off site construction viability with a view to improving cost and or programme.</p>
<p>Strategic acquisitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a strategic acquisition fund for properties which would meet a very specific need and for small numbers of properties. Requesting partner Housing Associations to utilise Social Housing Grant to acquire individual properties where there is a specific need which is either urgent or cannot be met through current stock. 	<p>2023/24 Social Housing Grant funding has been allocated via this year's PDP to fund an additional property acquisition in partnership with First Choice Housing Association. This property will help people who need specialist adapted accommodation and whom cannot be easily housed within the existing housing stock.</p> <p>In addition, FCC are looking to utilise SHG/TACP funding to acquire circa 20 properties via the Open market and Buy backs.</p> <p>We are also exploring bidding for Strategic Capital Projects funding in line with the North Wales Strategic Capital Plan in relation to HCF and IRCF Capital Funding to develop FCC Garage and other sites for specialist homes for those with learning disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners are encouraged via the PDP Partners meetings to utilise Social Housing Grant and TACP, where appropriate to acquire individual properties. In addition, the Local Authority Prospectus and Specialist Housing register identifies where there is a specific need which is either urgent or cannot be met through current stock. Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) funding has been made available by the WG for 20223/2024 and Partners are encouraged to submit eligible schemes for consideration.

Priority 1.6 To provide the right type of homes to improve the offer and scope of specialist housing provision		
Action	Task	Progress
<p>An overarching / strategic framework for determining the most cost-effective delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the options for delivery i.e., adaptations; acquisition or new build and develop a universal assessment mechanism to determine the most cost-effective delivery option within an equality framework. • Reviewing and mapping resources available to meet the increasing demand for adaptations. • Exploring a partnership approach to funding and delivery including Council Housing / DFG teams, HAs Housing teams, Supporting People, Social Services, Occupational Health, Health and ICF partnership. • Lobbying Welsh Government to simplify funding for adaptations across all delivery partners. 	<p>An Occupational Therapist has been recruited which has provided a more effective coordinated approach across the different service areas in Flintshire that provide adaptations and support for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Linked to stock review and assessment</p>
<p>Meeting the housing needs of people with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to deliver as a partnership to meet the needs of people on the specialist housing register. • Maximising the use of adaptations to help sustain tenancies and reduce increased pressure on the housing register. • Considering potential strategic acquisitions to meet the needs of particular complex cases. 	<p><u>Specialist Housing Register (SHR)</u> 15 applicants were rehoused from the SHR during 2022/2023</p> <p>The Homeless team review identified the need for a Specialist Housing Support Officer to work with people whose needs cannot be easily met within the existing social housing supply.</p> <p>This is still pending and significant strain on homeless services means housing support capacity is being direct to the homeless area. An Occupational Therapist has been appointed and they are now embedded into the Team.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring adapted properties are included on all Housing Association new build developments to meet the needs of the specialist register. • Exploring the delivery of adapted properties on market led schemes. 	<p>There are regular meetings with Phil Forbes, Development Manager Supported Housing (Mental Health), Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG). Phil is now an active member within the SARTH Operational panel</p> <p>The Local Authority Prospectus prioritises the need for Specialist housing provision on Social Housing Grant funded schemes. Funding will be allocated via the PDP to an additional Specialist housing scheme.</p>
<p>Meeting the needs of people with complex health needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a proactive relationship with the health sector to improve communication with Housing Strategy around housing needs of those in their care. • Delivering affordable transitional accommodation to reduce delayed transfer of care – Glan y Morfa – through securing funding and undertaking the necessary works. • Working with the Homeless Prevention team to inform provision and identify best practice 	<p>The Accommodation and Support Group meets regularly to identify opportunities to address priority groups. The Local Authority Prospectus prioritises the need for accommodation for specific client groups.</p> <p>Phil Forbes, Development Manager Supported Housing (Mental Health) Health, Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG) and the Housing Support planning group also meet regularly.</p> <p>Glan Y Morfa scheme is completed.</p> <p>The Accommodation and Support Group meets regularly to identify opportunities to address priority groups. The Local Authority Prospectus prioritises the need for accommodation for specific client groups.</p> <p>The Development Manager, Supported Housing (Mental Health) Health, Regional Housing Support Collaborative Group (RHSCG) & Housing support planning group also meet regularly.</p> <p>Emerging risks are increasing presentations of homelessness. As a result of mortgage repossessions and landlords selling homes we are identifying possible properties for purchase. This course of action can not only increase the supply of social housing but also prevent homelessness.</p>

<p>Providing the right type of housing to meet the needs older people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the housing needs of the older people. • Exploring alternative and innovative housing models for older people such as intergenerational properties or co-operative models, which help to keep older people active and healthier for longer. • Providing specialist provision such as extra care and supported housing for those older people with care needs including dementia. • Reviewing existing specific older person's social housing stock to ensure they can sustain tenancies. • Exploring potential to include age-friendly properties as part of new build market developments. 	<p>This will be considered as part of the ongoing Sheltered housing review and stock assessment condition surveys</p> <p>There are currently four Extra Care schemes in Flintshire providing 239 units of accommodation.</p> <p>Housing Strategy team provide comment on demand as per the Local Authority prospectus, LDP and housing waiting lists.</p> <p>As above</p>
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Priority 1.7 To provide the right type of accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community		
Action	Task	Progress
<p>Meet the need for residential pitches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of pitches in line with Flintshire's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) through market led schemes and the refurbishment of the Council owned site. 	<p>Market led schemes have increased capacity by two pitches and two planning applications were submitted that could provide an additional seven pitches (pending Local Development Plan Planning Inspector review).</p> <p>Both applications to extend private sites were approved and are progressing. There is also work being undertaken around the future extension of Riverside the Councils gypsy and traveler site.</p> <p>The LDP was formally adopted in January 2023.</p>

<p>Provision of a transit site within the County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and assessing potential sites to deliver a transit site in Flintshire. Applying for planning permission for transit site and secure Welsh Government Grant to deliver provision. 	<p>Preferred location for a transit site formed part of the LDP submission.</p> <p>The LDP was formally adopted in January 2023.</p> <p>An updated GTAA has been prepared but has yet to be submitted to WG, however, the assessment has confirmed the necessity for a small-scale transit site as per the approved GTAA, and site provision is made for this in the adopted LDP. There is also a requirement for additional pitches and officers in Planning, Environment and Economy have mapped all changes since the date of the refreshed assessment (April 2022) in terms of planning permissions and applications or appeals pending which could address the additional need identified. This will be published as an addendum update and sent to WG for approval. The updated GTAA will inform a future paper to Informal Cabinet.</p>
<p>Management of the Council owned site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review different management models for the Council owned site. Redesigning and delivering the refurbishment of the site to provide modern pitches. Developing an allocation policy for the site. 	<p>In relation to management of Riverside and transit site this will be developed once we have secured planning permission for the transit provision. As an interim measure we have engaged with Care and Repair who provide onsite support at Riverside around repairs.</p>

Priority 2: Provide support to ensure people live and remain in the right type of home

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Output	Timescale	Lead organisation/s	Progress
Deliver the actions identified in the Flintshire Homelessness Local Action Plan	March 2024	Flintshire County Council	<p>A new Housing Support Programme Strategy plan 2022-2026 has been developed which merges the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan and local Homelessness Strategy as per the Welsh Government to create an overarching 4-year strategy for housing support and homelessness agendas from April 2022 onward.</p> <p>The development of the Housing Support Programme Strategy plan provides an opportunity to recruit a Project Manager and a Strategic</p>

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			<p>coordinator.</p> <p>As part of reviewing Flintshire's Housing offer priority no 5 of the Housing support programme strategy, opportunities to deliver a homeless hub and dispersed temporary accommodation model continues.</p>
Develop a Youth Homeless 'hub'	March 2024	Flintshire County Council	<p>A youth homeless hub is featured as a priority within the Local Authority prospectus. Identifying a potential location and partner agencies for delivery of this activity will be key to having a shared vision and appropriate setting for this accommodation and service delivery model.</p> <p>Internal Social care and Housing accommodation needs mapping exercises. There is potential for Social Housing Grant to be used for delivery of the accommodation.</p> <p>These hubs are still under consideration by the Housing strategy team. Further feasibility work continues but no specific sites have been identified.</p>
Reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation by 50% (33) over the period of the plan	March 2024	Flintshire County Council and RSL Partners	<p>This has not been feasible due to the increases in homelessness coupled with significant barriers to successfully moving people on which has resulted in more people requiring homeless accommodation.</p> <p>Emergency and temporary accommodation is limited in Flintshire and a lot of positive work is undertaken to help people sustain their housing to avoid the need to access emergency and temporary housing through prevention. However, in recent months, the increases in homelessness and significant barriers to successfully moving people on has resulted in more people requiring homeless accommodation.</p> <p>At the end of year 21/22 101 households were accommodated, the number now stand at 184 households.</p>
Deliver a transit site for the Gypsy and Traveller Community	March 2022	Flintshire County Council	<p>The LDP was formally adopted in January 2023.</p> <p>An updated GTAA has been prepared but has yet to be submitted to WG, however, the assessment has confirmed the necessity for a small-scale transit site as per the approved GTAA, and site provision is made for this in the adopted LDP. There is also a requirement for additional pitches and</p>

			officers in Planning, Environment and Economy have mapped all changes since the date of the refreshed assessment (April 2022) in terms of planning permissions and applications or appeals pending which could address the additional need identified. This will be published as an addendum update and sent to WG for approval. The updated GTAA will inform a future paper to Informal Cabinet.
Deliver one Extra Care during the period of the Strategy	March 2024	Flintshire County Council and RSL Partners	There is an ongoing review of older persons /supported housing stock.

Priority 2.1 To reduce homelessness through prevention		
Action	Task	Progress
Work across the region with partners to prevent homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working across the region to develop a cross Local Authority Regional Homelessness Strategy, pulling together resources to deliver shared interventions where appropriate and cost effective. Developing a better understanding of the causes of homelessness to inform the development of the right interventions through collective, regional intelligence gathering. 	<p>The local private sector housing market is seeing significant challenges with fewer properties available each year and many landlords leaving the market. This creates homelessness as properties are sold, residents asked to leave and the availability of fewer properties resulting in them being increasingly unaffordable.</p> <p>Changes to the Housing Wales Act 2014 (HWA 2014) and specifically the introduction of an eleventh category of Priority Need for rough sleeping and those at risk of sleeping rough, sees a sustainment of the “no one left out” approach adopted during the Covid pandemic and now firmly establishes the principle on a legal footing and as standard practice in Wales.</p> <p>As a result, more people, and particularly single people, will be owed accommodation duties, significantly increasing demands and cost on already stretched homeless accommodation.</p> <p>External factors associated with the cost-of-living crisis and housing market conditions are increasing the levels of homelessness and place more burden operationally and financially on the Council</p>

		<p>Homelessness Presentations</p> <p>Numbers of homeless presentations continues to increase at the end of 2022/23, 1,598 presentations to the homeless service a significant increase from the previous year.</p> <p>There are ongoing concerns around Homeless presentations because of landlords serving notice due to them ceasing their landlord functions and selling their assets. Some landlords advise that they no longer wish to rent as a result of Renting Homes (Wales) Act (RHW) implications, rising interest rates and uncertainty about property values.</p> <p>Flintshire's Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022 -2026 is now in place.</p> <p>Regional Housing Support Grant (RHSG) meetings are held quarterly. Homeless leads meetings are also held across North Wales. This allows for joint working including Rapid rehousing, each local Authority (LA) has developed a Rapid Rehousing plan. FCC has recently received feedback from WG in relation to their Rapid Rehousing plan.</p>
<p>Work with partners in Flintshire to prevent homelessness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Local Action Plan for homelessness to ensure local issues are addressed. • Develop preventative measures by providing tenancy support and crisis management to enable the people to sustain their tenancies. 	<p>A Local Action Plan has been developed on the back of the robust needs assessment as part of the Housing Support Programme Strategy development and rapid rehousing transitional action plan work is ongoing</p> <p>The housing market and peoples support needs changed significantly due to the pandemic and resources were targeted at the most urgent and necessary intervention at the local level.</p> <p>RHW Act has also impacted on the ability to develop preventative measures.</p> <p>Additional Housing Support Grant allocation was received to develop more prevention activities, whilst also managing the high caseloads and numbers of people who were at risk of homelessness, and in homeless accommodation throughout the course of the pandemic. Various other funding has also been allocated from the WG to assist B&B placements & discretionary funding to ensure sustainability of tenancies for e.g., rent arrears top up of DHP funding etc.</p>

		During quarters 1& 2, 2023/24 Wales Audit office will be undertaking a review the Councils corporate approach to homeless prevention
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Priority 2.2 To reduce the demand for temporary accommodation		
Action	Task	Progress
Provide suitable accommodation to meet the needs of homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop different models of delivery such as Housing First. Develop a 'hub' to provide a range of services for the homeless including emergency beds and support services. Working closely with Housing Strategy and development partners to inform the delivery of flexible and suitable accommodation. 	<p>We have developed Housing First with Denbighshire County Council and Conway funding via the Housing support Grant. This supports up to 20 people at any one time with complex needs.</p> <p>We are still utilising the Glanrafon emergency homeless hub. The Housing strategy team are exploring suitable sites for the provision of a new homeless hub/homeless accommodation. Reliance on B&B and hotels continues to be necessary</p> <p>Significant challenges remain including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortage of 1 bed accommodation as demand remains high Renting Homes Wales Act 2016 (negative impacts in PRS) Landlords exiting the PRS "No one left out" scheme Challenges in ensuring tenancies are sustained Challenges relating to recruitment and retention of staff <p>Further feasibility work remains underway but no further specific sites have been identified.</p>
Increase availability of move on accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of the existing stock and explore options for increasing supply of move on accommodation. Ensure commissioning priorities incorporate the necessary support required to sustain tenancies. 	<p>The Council are still in the process of completing internal and external stock condition surveys for all HRA properties. This will inform our investment programmes and will also identify any properties/assets that require further option appraisals based upon their condition, suitability, and investment requirements same</p> <p>Welsh Government developed a high-level action plan designed to end homelessness. A key pillar within the plan was for Wales to move to a Rapid Rehousing approach. This model has been adopted and will lead to a</p>

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Priority 2.3 To provide the right type of support for the most vulnerable people

Action	Task	Progress
Strategic commissioning of support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Local Commissioning Plan incorporating the Regional Homelessness Strategy priorities to ensure a joined-up approach. Support the work of the Regional Collaborative Committee. 	<p>As referred to above, a significant shift and change with support programmes and strategies has been developed which merges the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan and local Homelessness Strategy in committed strategy. Regional Housing principles and members of the Council Housing Committee strategy plan of financial support to WG. Government supported high level priorities and strategy plan of financial support to WG. Plans to address the issue of 2022 onwards. The national support commissioning now priorities will continue to be addressed through this plan and the Housing Support Programme Strategy.</p> <p>Opportunities for regional working and collaboration have been identified and referenced within localised plans with delivery of shared activities for North Wales delivered through the Housing Support Regional Delivery Group.</p>
Page 86	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission support for priority groups: Youth homeless; Prison Leavers; Rough Sleepers; and Complex Needs. 	<p>The Programme Manager, North Wales Together, Seamless Services for People with Learning Disabilities has ascertained that because of the increasing numbers of people requiring care, support and accommodation, people with Learning Disabilities are often unable to be accommodated within their own communities close to family and friends. This leads to delays in seeking appropriate long-term housing for individuals and causes increased emergency admissions to residential care homes or inappropriate placements often some distance away from home. This increases the number of Residential Care placements overall, many of which are located out of area. The cost of these placements is increasing.</p> <p>In total, Flintshire has 1,002 people with Learning Disabilities (LD) living within the county. That is the highest number across the North Wales region. Flintshire currently has 81 individuals who are at risk of needing supported living</p>

		<p>accommodation within the next 4 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 adults noted as having priority accommodation needs. • Flintshire have 49 out of county residential placements, 7 of whom wish to move closer to home. This number is comparatively higher than neighboring counties. • Flintshire have 37 people with LD living at home with elderly carers and likely to need supported accommodation in future years. • 20 young people identified as needing accommodation or at high risk of breakdown between now and 2027
<p>Working with partners and other teams in the Council to ensure available support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with key stakeholders e.g. health to provide support packages at an early stage through joint protocols. • Working with Social Services and health colleagues to ensure supported living. • Working with strategic delivery partners to ensure capacity and scale of support is available to avoid unacceptable delays in provision for the individual. 	<p>There are significant challenges in delivering support packages with Health due to capacity and demand issues. Positive joint working with partners internally, through commissioned services and across public services has developed in pockets and the opportunity to co-ordinate and capture this and build on such momentum will be channeled through the Housing Support Programme Strategy. This includes LD services</p> <p>The ability to further develop services via the Housing Support Programme Strategy continues to be impaired by challenges in recruiting and retaining skilled staff. This presents obstacles and challenges for both Local Authorities and the Welsh Government whilst the sector seeks to find solutions to overcome and mitigate these challenges.</p>

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Priority 2.4 To provide a range of financial and social support		
Action	Task	Progress
<p>Ensuring a range of financial products to support people to access and remain in their home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and develop affordable ownership products including Shared Equity; Homebuy and Rent to Own. • Promote private rent support 	<p>Affordable ownership products are provided via Section 106 planning contributions and in partnership with RSL's on suitable developments. Affordable ownership properties are marketed via Tai Teg when available for application.</p> <p>As previously referenced above a range of prevention activities have been developed and will continue to be explored to help people to avoid homelessness. If</p>

	<p>through the BOND.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop access to affordable starter furnishing packages. • Provide financial management advice and access to financial products with the aim of reducing the risk of rent arrears / eviction. 	<p>despite intervention homelessness does occur support is available to help secure new homes within the private sector. However, this is increasingly challenging as fewer homes are on the market and significant costs make PRS rent unaffordable for many households.</p> <p>WG continues to fund the Bond scheme and there is now flexibility in how this funding is used.</p> <p>Funding is available and enhanced pots have been identified for Bonds, Rent In Advance and Deposits through the Homeless Service. This is in addition to funding such as Discretionary Housing payments.</p> <p>Various Welsh Government funding has enabled the Homeless Service to provide assistance such as Homestarter packs.</p> <p>Generic and Financial Housing Support services can be accessed via the Housing Support Gateway. Referrals to the Service may be made by Social Workers, Health Professionals, or any other professional from agencies (with permission of the individual/s) in addition to self-referrals.</p> <p>Specialist debt advice is available via the Housing support gateway and provides additional capacity and fast track entry for those of imminent risk of homelessness.</p>
Develop a range of innovative support to address key barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore a range of initiatives, based on best practice, which will provide cost benefits in the medium term to the public finances. For example, a furniture rental social enterprise. 	<p>Ongoing work through Housing support programme /strategy and operational delivery continues to focus on principles of prevention and earlier intervention, Move on from homelessness and makes best use of spend to save principles</p>

Priority 2.5 To provide support for older people to either remain in their own home or move to more suitable accommodation

Action	Task	Progress
Review the SARTH to understand the housing needs of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan with our Housing Association partners to address the needs of older people on 	Further work is required with partners to develop localised plans and strategies to meet the needs of older people within social housing across Flintshire.

older people in social housing	SARTH.	FCC's sheltered housing review will be a significant piece of work. The Council are in the process of completing internal and external stock condition surveys for all HRA properties. This will inform our investment programmes and		
Output Reduce the number of households in the private sector in Flintshire who are in fuel poverty from 10.1% to 8% during the period of the strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an understanding of demand for adaptations to enable future planning of resources. Links with Social Services; Residential Care homes; Extra Care and supported housing to scope out move on options. 	Timescale March 2024	Lead organisation/s Flintshire County Council	Progress Improvements are being made to fuel poor homes, including tariff switching advice, the installation of fuel efficient heating systems and improvements to Household EPC ratings. Households are provided with energy efficiency advice and referrals to other support agencies as needed. 1,198 households have received support since 01/10/2021.
Develop an understanding of the wider housing requirements for older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with interest groups to identify key issues, barriers and potential opportunities for an action plan. Review tenancy support and the potential of incentives to encourage downsizing where appropriate. 	Further work required with partners linked with review of stock assessment. The Ageing Well team is working closely with colleagues in Housing to establish clear actions that will enable older people to make informed choices about where they live to ensure they maintain their independence and to age well costs.		
		FCC is working with the North Wales housing providers in a 'rightsizing' project looking at whether people are in a property that is suitably sized for their needs. This will include under occupancy and downsizing incentives and aim to achieve a consistent approach across the North Wales region.		
		As referenced earlier the Council are in the process of completing internal and external stock condition surveys for all HRA properties. Once the internal and external stock condition surveys for all HRA properties have been undertaken and a full analysis of the stock has been undertaken then further consultations will take place with interest groups to identify key issues, barriers, and potential opportunities for an action plan.		
		This may include a review of tenancy support and the potential use of incentives to encourage downsizing where appropriate.		

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<p>Complete the Welsh Housing Quality Standard programme by 100%</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<p>Flintshire County Council and RSL Partners</p>	<p>The Council achieved WHQS compliance in December 2021 and are now in the maintenance phase of this investment programme.</p> <p>Clwyd Alyn achieved WHQS compliance in March 2017.</p> <p>Wales and West have maintained WHQS. However there were 12 units with an Acceptable Fail as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Properties where the EPC is lower than 65 (Physical Constraints) • 3 Properties level access to Garden (Physical constraints) • 2 Bathroom extractor fans (Physical Constraints) • 1 Property where no grip assisted floor in Kitchen and no extractor Fan (Residents choice) • 1 Property has level access Garden and rear garden safe suitable (Physical Constraints) • 1 LGSR (Residents Choice) • 1 EICR (Timing) <p>Grwp Cynefin (GC) state 100% of homes have passed the WHQS subject to acceptable fails (latest Annual report 2021/2022). As per GC Corporate Plan 2019/24 GC have an investment programme which aims to reduce its number of acceptable fails to ensure tenants live in good quality affordable homes.</p>
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Priority 3.1 Maximising energy efficiency standards and delivery methods

Action	Task	Progress
Private sector renewal energy loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the use of the loan products aimed at owner occupiers to bring properties up to a good standard by making them energy efficient and removing hazards. 	<p>Private sector loans are available for owner occupiers to support schemes that provide funding for new central heating and property improvements. This is a Welsh Government loan which is available at a zero percent interest rate. 15 loans have been arranged since October 2021, there is an expectation that the use of the loans will increase as new funding streams are starting to commence, such as Eco4 which started July 2022 and the next phase of Warm Homes funding which is expected to start before the end of December.</p>
Gas infill programme for social housing properties that are off-gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Wales and West Utilities to extend the gas network to bring more convenient and cost-effective heating to residents across all tenures. Niall 	<p>The Domestic Energy Efficiency Team currently provides the Housing Asset Service with various support services including, but not limited to, Project Management, Solar PV installations, Planned Heating and Renewable installations, and EPC surveys for all HRA properties.</p> <p>The Domestic Energy Efficiency Project Team no longer supports a gas infill programme; however, Flintshire Council does have a contract with Wales and West Utilities to administer the distribution of gas connection vouchers, aimed at supporting households without a gas mains connection. Between April 2021 and</p>

		October 2022, the scheme has provided 250 gas vouchers to individual households.
Retro fit of energy efficiency measures for vulnerable residents in all tenures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the strategic sites within communities that need redevelopment. Niall 	<p>As referenced above the Domestic Energy Efficiency Team currently provides the Housing Asset Service with various support services including but not limited to, Project Management, Solar PV installations, Planned Heating and Renewable installations, and EPC surveys for all HRA properties.</p> <p>The Domestic Energy Efficiency Project Teamwork in partnership with the Housing department to deliver the Optimised Retrofit Programme, utilise Flintshire Council energy crisis fund, and work in partnership with utility companies to maximise household benefits from the installation of new, efficient heating systems, insulation and the use of renewable energy. New funding streams, such as Eco4 which started July 2022 and the next phase of Warm Homes funding, will help ensure that Flintshire Council is contributing towards a reduction in fuel poverty and the carbon footprint across the county.</p>
Deliver the Warm Homes Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has secured £3m to tackle fuel poverty in Flintshire by improving efficiency through for example: fitting new heating systems or accessing the gas network. 	As referenced above The Domestic Energy Efficiency Team currently provides the Housing Asset Service with various support services including but not limited to, Project Management, Solar PV installations, Planned Heating and

		<p>Renewable installations, and EPC surveys for all HRA properties.</p> <p>The Warm Homes Fund programme was drawn to a successful conclusion in 2021 having supported 658 households. The Council has applied for further funding, particularly targeting the installation of air source heats pumps and awaits final approval.</p> <p>Although the Warm Homes project finished at the end of December 2021. Warm Wales are still providing support to Flintshire residents but not via funding from the Warm Homes Fund. This project is now part of the Healthy Homes Healthy People project. Partnerships and Development Director, Warm Wales has advised that they received 1,874 referrals between 1.4.22 to 31.3.23 of which 742 were for residents living in Flintshire.</p>
Arbed for Wales programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A spatially targeted WG programme focusing on windows and doors and external wall insulation, to address fuel poverty in the private sector. 	The ARBED programme concluded in 2021

Priority 3.2 Improving the quality and standard of accommodation in the private sector

Action	Task	Progress
Healthy Homes and Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage different teams to think more broadly when 	The HSG funds a Healthy Homes and

<p>People – 2025 project bringing together a voluntary group of concerned people and organisations working with a shared purpose of ending avoidable health inequality in North Wales</p>	<p>undertaking their daily roles to improve the homes of people in the private sector.</p>	<p>Healthy People project to provide support to improve the homes of all people. It is tenure neutral, so it is open to all.</p>
<p>Rent Smart Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Landlords to promote Rent Smart Wales and improve the standards of the private rented stock. 	<p>PRS access services includes the Bond schemes, Private LL forum and engagement links with RSW, NRLA and WG. The private rented team is now in place. Landlord forums took place last year in February and November. Simon White, Head of Housing Strategy, Welsh Government was in attendance at both and was available to answer questions.</p> <p>A further Landlord forum was held in May 2023 in partnership with the National Residential Landlord Association (NRLA). This includes hosting a Financial Support Special featuring guest speakers from Warm Wales and Cambrian Credit Union.</p>

Priority 3.3 Completing the WHQS programme by 2020 across all social housing stock		
Action	Task	Progress
<p>The Council Stock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete environmental improvements by 2020 and identify funding to undertake the external works. 	<p>The Council achieved WHQS compliance in December 2021 following Welsh Governments extension to the original 2020 deadline. We are now in the maintenance phase of this investment programme.</p>

		<p>The Council completed a high percentage of external stock condition surveys which will prioritise any immediate works accordingly. Future funding requirements are also being identified and these will be captured through our Business Planning arrangements.</p>
<p>Housing Association partners' stock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete environmental improvements by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clwyd Alyn achieved WHQS compliance in March 2017. However, following the addition of the Polish Housing Society stock which was not WHQS compliant Clwyd Alyn advised Welsh Government that those properties would be logged as acceptable fails. Clwyd Alyn has taken the decision alongside Welsh Government and Gwynedd Council to re-develop the Polish Housing Society scheme a planning application for the re development has been submitted but waiting determination, once redeveloped homes will comply with WDQR • Wales and West Housing (WWH) provided the following overview: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major Works started between 1/4/22 & 31/3/23 2. Cambria work based on Original Estimate <p>Decarbonisation Major Works – ORP Funding</p>

1. Window Replacement, EWI installation & PIV system – to 9 flats (222k Majority of works completed within this time scale)

Major Works

- Total value of work (including PAG's) - £489k
 - Number of kitchens replaced – 32
 - Number of bathrooms replaced – 2
 - Number of external doors replaced – 2
 - Number of roofs replaced – 1
9. Number of PAG's delivered- 15 (£54k)

WHQS

12 Acceptable Fails in the Flintshire area:

- 3 Properties where the EPC is lower than 65 (Physical Constraints)
- 3 Properties level access to Garden (Physical constraints)
- 2 Bathroom extractor fans (Physical Constraints)
- 1 Property where no grip assisted floor in Kitchen and no extractor Fan (Residents choice)
- 1 Property has level access Garden and rear garden safe suitable (Physical Constraints)
- 1 LGSR (Residents Choice)
- 1 EICR (Timing)

Priority 3.4 Adopt a collaborative approach to preparing for the increase in demand for adaptations in properties to allow residents to remain in their home.

Action	Task	Progress
Set appropriate strategic objectives for adaptations that focus on wellbeing and independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a partnership which incorporates all partners with funding for adaptations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council's HRA budget (ii) Private sector Disabilities Funding Grant; (iii) Care and Repair, ENABLE for minor and major adaptations for those in the private sector; (iv) Housing Associations can access Physical Adaptation Grants for existing tenants. Jen Griffiths 	This work will be progressed as part of the adaptations and specialist housing review work, outlined earlier as it is dependent on stock survey outcomes.
Improve the intelligence on the demand for adaptations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pull together a range of data from all partners to establish a better understanding of future demand. 	
Link the systems for managing and delivering adaptations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboratively develop adapted housing policies for all partners as part of the Specialist Housing Group. Review service standards for adaptations in line with Welsh Government. Consider how the EHRC toolkit can be utilised in Flintshire. 	

Priority 3.5 Improve the standard of new build properties built by the Council and Housing Associations

Action	Task	Progress
Utilising the Flintshire House Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually review and evaluate the standards to ensure they are relevant and contribute to the wider energy efficiency agenda. Consider introducing further requirements such as solar panels / PVs, electric car charging points. 	Flintshire Housing Standards have been superseded by the Welsh Development Quality Requirements 2021 (WDQR). All future affordable housing schemes must meet this standard. The standards have set space requirements and include higher energy efficiency measures moving towards carbon zero.
Welsh Government's Design Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a consistent standard of quality of internal layout is achieved across a range of standard house types that are as 	See above

Requirements (DQR)	flexible as possible to cater for most resident's needs.	
Deliver different construction methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver new builds using sustainable materials including timber frame / SIPs and improve SAP ratings as part of SHARP. • Develop procurement opportunities through collaboration with Housing Association partners to deliver new construction methods. • Develop using off site manufacturing to reduce waste and quicker construction methods. 	<p>Modern Methods of Construction is a priority and featured within WDQR 2021. Therefore, all new affordable housing schemes will be built using MMC and utilising construction methods that minimise environmental impact.</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Homelessness Phase 2 Capital funding will deliver 6 units for Homeless households. These have been built using MMC (Park Lane x 4 units and Duke Street x 2 units). Duke Street have been completed and are occupied; Park Lane is due to complete August 2023.</p>

Provider	site	To be determined	1 bed Apt	2 bed Apt	1 bed bungalow	2 bed bungalow	2 bed bungalow adapted	3 bed bungalow	3 bed adapted House	3 bed bungalow adapted	2 bed house	3 bed house	4 bed house	Supported housing	Total Units
Clwyd Alyn	66a Mold Road, Mynydd Isa		4			2				1	24	25			56
Clwyd Alyn	Older persons/sheltered Buckley													60	60
Clwyd Alyn	LD bungalows Buckley				13										13
Clwyd Alyn	Northern Gateway Strategic Site Deeside	21	6	18		3	2				20	24	6		100
Clwyd Alyn	Princess Avenue, Buckley		8	2									2		12
Clwyd Alyn	Well Street, Buckley	56													56
Clwyd Alyn	Wrexham Road, Abermorddu		18								24	22	6		70
Clwyd Alyn	Hlghmere Drive, CQ		10								18	17	4		49
First Choice HA	17 Elm Road, Queensferry								1						1
First Choice HA	Specialist Housing Provision allocated														1
First Choice HA	Westhaven, Holywell Rd, Ewloe														4
Flintshire	Alltami Road, Buckley			4							6	4			14
Flintshire	Alyn Road, Buckley										4				4
Flintshire	Borough Grove, Flint										4				4
Flintshire	Canton Depot, Bagillt		14	14							6	17			51
Flintshire	Duke Street, Homeless provision													2	2
Flintshire	Ffordd Hiraethog, Mostyn		4	6											10
Flintshire	Ffordd Llanarth, Connahs Quay		4	4							7	2	3		20
Flintshire	Hebron, Mostyn										4				4
Flintshire	High Steet, Connahs Quay (Old Music Shop)			6											6
Flintshire	Park Lane Homeless Provision													4	4
Flintshire	Penyffordd School										12	8			20
Flintshire	School Lane, Greenfield										2	1			3
Flintshire	Station Road, Queensferry		4												4
Flintshire	Ty Mair, Mold		10	10	1	2					6	7			36
Flintshire	Wirral View, Hawarden										4				4
Flintshire	Bryn Tirion Shotton		13												13
Flintshire	4 Buy Backs	4													4
Grwp Cynefin	Mortgage Rescue (2-addresses to be advised)	2													2
Grwp Cynefin	Rhewl Fawr, Penyffordd Holywell (phase 3)										6	2			8
Grwp Cynefin	homebuy Details to be confirmed	2													2
Grwp Cynefin	Homebuy 4 Bramley Way, Flintshire, CH5 3LG	1													1
North Wales Housing	Former Spectrum Garden Centre, Mold Road, Cefn y Bedd, Flintshire LL12 9UR		20								3	4	3		30
Wales & West	New Inn, Sandycroft					8									8
Wales & West	Land at Brunswick Road, Buckley		7	2											9
Wales & West	Wern Farm Bagillt		8		4	2					25	4	2		45
	Totals	86	130	66	18	17	2	0	1	1	175	139	24	71	730

Appendix 2 - Risk Matrix

Provider	Site/programme	Established	Risk	Total Units	Last reviewed	PD	Desk top Feasibility	Viability	LDP	Still viable? SVM?	Within Budget	Funding Stream	Phosphates?	Pre App	SAs	Planning	Tender	Estimated start	Contractor Appointed	Estimated completion date	Managing Actions as per notes	Timescales for remediation of risks	Risk Action owners	Link to Comp risk register NRO/SN/R06				
Clywd Alyn	56a Mold Road, Mynydd Iba	Y	Amber	Mold	56	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	SHG	N	Y	Y	Y	N	10/08/2023	N	30/03/2024	Planning App	Oct-23	Clywd Alyn and	RHC12				
Clywd Alyn	Older Persons/Elderly care provision, Buckley	Y	Red	Mold	63	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	TBC	SHG	Y	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	Meeting with	Sep-23	Clywd Alyn/Flint	RHC11		
Clywd Alyn	LD Hunglows Buckley (Older Persons/Elderly care)	Y	Red	Mold	13	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	TBC	SHG	Y	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	Andy Roberts	Sep-23	Clywd Alyn/Flint	RHC11		
Clywd Alyn	Northern Gateway Strategic Site Deeside	Y	Red	Gardle	100	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	TBC	SHG	N	Y	Y	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	Looking for	Oct-23	Clywd Alyn	RHC11		
Clywd Alyn	Princess Avenue, Buckley	Y	Green	Mold	32	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	31/03/2022	Y	31/03/2024				RHC12		
Clywd Alyn	Well Street, Buckley	Y	Red	Mold	56	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	TBC	SHG	Y	Y	Y	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	starting the	Oct-23	Clywd Alyn/Flint	RHC11		
Clywd Alyn	Wrexham road, Abermorddu	Y	Amber	South	70		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	Y	TBC	Y	TBC				RHC11		
First Choice HA	17 Elm Road, Queensferry	Y	Green	Conna	1	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	25/03/2022	Y	13/08/2023			FCHA	RHC12		
First Choice HA	Westhaven, Holywell Rd, Ewloe	Y	Amber	Mold	4	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	N	Y	N	N	15/09/2022	N	30/01/2024	pre plan & T	Oct-23	FCHA	RHC12			
Flintshire	Altarni Road, Buckley	Y	Amber	Mold	14	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	Y	N	N	N	N	Mar-24	N	Mar-25	Assess Capax	Oct-23	Andy Roberts	RHC11			
Flintshire	Alyn Road, Buckley	Y	Amber	Mold	4	03/08/2023	Y	N	N	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	N	N	N	Mar-24	N	Mar-25	Assess Capax	Oct-23	Andy Roberts	RHC11			
Flintshire	Borough Grove, Flint	Y	Green	Flint	8	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	N	N	N	N	Mar-24	N	Nov-24				Housing Strategy	RHC11		
Flintshire	Canton Depot, Bagillt	Y	Red	Flint	51	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	TBC	SHG	N	N	N	N	N	None	N	TBC	N	TBC	Andy Roberts	Oct-23	Andy Roberts/Flint	RHC11	
Flintshire	Duke Street, Homeless provision	Y	Green	Flint	2	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	SHG/p/N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Actual start	Y	Jun-23				Housing Strategy	RHC12		
Flintshire	Flordd Hiraeathog, Mostyn	Y	Green	Flint	10	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SHG	N	n	Y	Y	Y	Y	Actual start	Y	Oct-21	Y	Dec-22			Housing Strategy	RHC12	
Flintshire	Flordd Llanarth, Connahs Quay	Y	Amber	Conna	20	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	N	N	N	N	Apr-24	N	Oct-25				Oct-23	Hous strategy	RHC11	
Flintshire	Hebron, Mostyn	Y	Green	Flint	4	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	N	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	N				Oct-23	Hous strategy	RHC11
Flintshire	High Street, Connahs Quay (Old Music Shop)	Y	Red	Conna	6	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	N	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	Housing Str	Oct-23	Planning	RHC11	
Flintshire	Park Lane Homeless Provision Holywell	Y	Green	Flint	4	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N/A	Y	N	Y	Y	Actual start	Y	Jul-23				Aug-23	Hous strategy	RHC12	
Flintshire	Penyffordd School	Y	Amber	Mold	20	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	TBC	N	N	2024/2025	N	TBC	Excavation re	Sep-23	Hous strategy	RHC11			
Flintshire	School Lane, Greenfield	Y	Amber	Flint	3	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	TBC	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	Resolve Holi	Oct-23	Hous strategy	RHC11			
Flintshire	Station Road, Queensferry	Y	Amber	Conna	4	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	N	TBC	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	Car parking i	Oct-23	Housing Strategy	RHC11			
Flintshire	Ty Mair, Mold	Y	Amber	Mold	36	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	TBC	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	meeting to	Nov-23	Housing Strategy	RHC11	
Flintshire	Wirral View, Hawarden	Y	Green	Mold	4	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	TBC	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	Technical re	Oct-23	Housing Strategy	RHC11	
Grwp Cymefin	Mortgage Rescue (2-addresses to be advised)	Y	Amber	N/A	2	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	N	N	N	N	TBC	N/A	TBC	N	TBC	Each request	N/A	Tai Teg	N/A	
Grwp Cymefin	Rhewl Fawr, Penyffordd Holywell (phase 3)	Y	Green	Flint	8	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	01/11/2022	Y	31/08/2023					Grwp Cymefin	RHC12	
Wales & West	Land at Brunswydd Road, Buckley	Y	Green	Mold	9	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	01/06/2022	Y	30/09/2023					Wales & West	RHC12	
Wales & West	New Inn, Sandycroft	Y	Green	Gardle	8	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SHG	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	01/10/2023	Y	01/07/2024					Wales & West	RHC11	
Wales & West	Wern Farm, Bagillt	Y	Amber	Flint	45	03/08/2023	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	Y	N	N	N	30/06/2024	N	N	N	TBC	Ned to sort c	Nov-23	Wales & West/Flint	RHC11	
Clywd Alyn	Highmere Drive, Connahs' Quay	Y	Amber	Conna	50	03/08/2023	N	Y	TBC	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	TBC	Y	Y	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	will have to	Oct-23	Clywd Alyn	RHC11	
First Choice HA	FCHA 2289 1 bed LD scheme property to be sou	Y	Amber	N/A	1	03/08/2023	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	SHG	N	N	N/A	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC	To go onto P	Aug-23	FCHA	RHC11	
NWHA	Former Spectrum Garden Centre, Mold Road, Cefn y Bala	Y	Amber	South	30		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	TBC	TBC	SHG	TBC	N	N	N	TBC	N	TBC	N	TBC				RHC11	

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th October 2023
Report Subject	Flintshire Housing Need Prospectus
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government (WG) requires that each Local Authority (LA) develop a Housing Needs Prospectus to be updated on an annual basis.

The current prospectus has been reviewed and an updated draft developed for approval. The format and content have not changed significantly to alter the direction of travel set out in last year's prospectus. The changes identified in the report reflect the increasing demand for social housing from the housing register and homelessness duties including significantly increased demand for temporary accommodation which is impacting on the homeless prevention team and the Councils revenue budget.

The Local Development Plan (LDP) was formally adopted on the 24th January 2023 and covers the period 2015 to 2030. It forms part of the statutory development plan alongside Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.

This report provides the annual update on the Council Housing Needs prospectus in order to ensure, that as part of the WG Grant framework, the LA identifies their priorities for Social Housing Grant, in addition to providing a clear and concise summary of housing need and demand.

The Prospectus will be used by WG to approve the Programme Delivery/Development Plan (PDP) and to ensure that schemes are meeting the identified need and priorities including progress towards meeting the priorities set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2019-24.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	Cabinet to approve the content of the draft Flintshire Housing Need Prospectus.

2.	Cabinet note the Local Housing Strategy 2019-24 is due for review next year.
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REPORT DETAILS

2.00	EXPLAINING THE HOUSING NEED PROSPECTUS
2.01	Welsh Government (WG) requires that each Local Authority (LA) updates their Housing Need Prospectus on an annual basis.
2.02	The aim of the prospectus is to inform affordable housing delivery and shape the Social Housing Grant (SHG) programme by setting out what the LA priorities are and to provide a guide about what type of housing is needed and in what locations.
2.03	<p>For 2023/24 WG has advised that the Flintshire County Council (FCC) SHG allocation is £13,352,142. WG has set budgets for the next three years. The allocation for years two and three is also £13,352,142.</p> <p>Over this three-year period Flintshire will be allocated circa £40m, however, it has received applications for SHG schemes currently totalling £64m. We currently have around 28 “Main” Schemes listed in the PDP with SHG Grant funding allocated.</p> <p>In attempting to try and ensure that all viable Schemes are included within the PDP it is possible that some allocated grant funding may fall outside the year three funding window.</p>
2.04	<p>The Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) has been re-opened and the WG has invited applications for funding directly from LAs and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). The aim of this funding is to support people with move on from temporary accommodation into longer term accommodation.</p> <p>TACP funding may be used for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition and newbuild of existing stock. • Voids (bringing longer term voids back into use). • Using available sites awaiting re-development for long term use or meanwhile use. • Converting existing (non-residential) buildings owned by Social Landlords. • Property acquisitions (off the market including long term empty properties). • Property acquisitions from Private Developers (i.e., Off the shelf acquisitions). • Property acquisitions from Private Rented Sector (including the purchase of tenanted properties). • Purchasing of HMOs to convert into family accommodation or self-contained flats at point of purchase. • Buying buildings to convert into housing.

2.05	Strategic Capital Programme funding has also been announced. The Council has provided a list of potential Capital projects for the 7-10 year North Wales Strategy. The Schemes proposed by the Council relate to the development of specialist Learning Disability accommodation.
2.06	To access SHG, housing providers (e.g., Registered Social Landlords / FCC) now apply to FCC's Housing Strategy team and WG via an online portal named Manage Homes and Places to request support for funding.
2.07	It is intended that housing providers will refer to the prospectus when they are progressing new affordable housing development sites so they can plan to deliver schemes that better meet the Councils priorities and the housing need for the area.
2.08	WG will refer to the prospectus when they are scrutinising SHG applications.
2.09	The draft Flintshire Housing Need Prospectus has been written in collaboration with Social Services, the Homelessness team and Planning Service and reflects the Council's current demands on services and the ambitions set out in the Flintshire Housing Strategy 2019-24.
2.10	It is intended that the prospectus will be refreshed annually and will be an evolving document that can flex as the Council's housing priorities and needs change. This includes reflecting the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) when it is updated later this year.
2.11	The Local Development plan (LDP) was formally adopted on the 24 th January 2023.
2.12	The FCC Housing Needs Prospectus (appendix 1) has been updated to explain how the LA's priorities have been determined.
2.13	The Prospectus will be presented annually to Cabinet and Housing Association partners via the RSL Strategic Housing Group. Although WG has not requested that the prospectus be updated this year, due to the LDP now being adopted, it has been refreshed to reflect the increasing pressures on homeless services and temporary accommodation.

3.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
3.01	<p>Revenue: the Housing Prospectus is a strategic guidance document. There are implications for the approved revenue budget for both the current financial year and for future financial years. This includes significant additional temporary accommodation costs for accommodating homeless households and Social Services costs for care.</p> <p>Capital: the FCC Housing Needs Prospectus is a strategic document, there are no implications for the approved capital programme relating to the Strategy or Action Plan.</p>

	<p>Human Resources: The Housing Strategy team is operating with limited resources. Two Apprentices, subject to their achieving the required grades to access University places have been recruited and are due to commence September 2023.</p> <p>The Housing Team is currently exploring options to recruit for a Project post in relation to “Buy Back” properties.</p>
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4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The requirement for LAs to develop a Housing Need Prospectus has been instigated by WG. If the LA fails to submit an updated Housing Need Prospectus when requested by WG then future affordable housing schemes that receive SHG support may not meet LA priorities or housing need.
4.02	Cost of living pressures and the impacts of the War in Ukraine are continuing to place significant cost and availability pressures placed on labour and materials.
4.03	<p>Environmental impacts of phosphates on drainage systems.</p> <p>As part of the LDP adoption process, the Planning Strategy Team have already developed a Phosphate Mitigation Strategy in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council. Work by Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales also continues in relation to a review of Waste Water Treatment Works and whether they have permits to treat phosphorous and are operating within those permits. NRW have recently confirmed permits for Mold and Buckley treatment works and will release their review for Hope works shortly, where the outcome has confirmed that headroom capacity exists at each works to treat further phosphorous from new development, thereby removing the need to mitigate for any phosphate impact.</p>
4.04	The challenging economic situation and the additional costs of borrowing and servicing debt repayments may impact on RSL’s ability to borrow.
4.05	As a result of raising interest rates and the likely trajectory of rates to rise there is a potential risk of increased demand on homeless prevention services if repossessions should start to grow which may also result in increased demand for social and affordable homes.
4.06	Scheme viability may be impacted by rising costs. This may be mitigated by use of fluctuation clauses within build contracts. In addition, WG has recognised the challenges and has increased the amount of Grant funding that may be available for each property type. This has been achieved by the WG increasing the Acceptable Cost Guidance (ACG’s) for each property type being developed and adjusting the formula.
4.07	There are challenges relating to recruitment and retention of staff. Partnership options will be explored to manage development processes.

4.08	<p>An internal Audit was undertaken in 2022/23 – Right Type of Home in the Right Location - Housing and Communities. The Final report dated March 2022/23 was rated amber/green; key controls generally operating effectively but with recommendations in relation to some fine tuning which we have implemented including the creation of a risk register.</p> <p>Schemes are appraised on a regular basis to ensure that where possible, risks are identified at an early stage and mitigating actions are taken to ensure the timely delivery of Schemes within the PDP.</p>																		
4.9	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive - more affordable homes will be provided in the right location.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Preventing - preventing people becoming homeless by developing accommodation to meet Local Authority priorities.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>Positive – the delivery of a range of affordable homes will contribute to integration within communities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive – the SHG programme is delivered in partnership with RSLs and WG.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>Positive - the SHG programme involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Well-being Goals Impact</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>Positive - ensuring the right homes are built and in the right places.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>Positive - new homes are built to a good quality and built to high environmental standards as required by WG as part of the SHG process.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healthier Wales</td> <td>Positive - ensuring homes meet the needs of all people in our society including those who are most vulnerable supporting their well-being.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More equal Wales</td> <td>Positive - providing good quality and decent homes for vulnerable people including homeless accommodation, single household, specially adapted homes etc.</td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	Positive - more affordable homes will be provided in the right location.	Prevention	Preventing - preventing people becoming homeless by developing accommodation to meet Local Authority priorities.	Integration	Positive – the delivery of a range of affordable homes will contribute to integration within communities	Collaboration	Positive – the SHG programme is delivered in partnership with RSLs and WG.	Involvement	Positive - the SHG programme involves a range of stakeholders to enable its delivery.	Prosperous Wales	Positive - ensuring the right homes are built and in the right places.	Resilient Wales	Positive - new homes are built to a good quality and built to high environmental standards as required by WG as part of the SHG process.	Healthier Wales	Positive - ensuring homes meet the needs of all people in our society including those who are most vulnerable supporting their well-being.	More equal Wales	Positive - providing good quality and decent homes for vulnerable people including homeless accommodation, single household, specially adapted homes etc.
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	Cohesive Wales	Positive - contributing to attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities through promoting good design and collaborative delivery.
	Vibrant Wales	Positive - ensuring our communities are diverse by developing a range of property types and tenures based on housing need and LA priorities.
	Globally responsible Wales	Positive – the prospectus will inform new-build developments that will contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

5.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
5.01	The prospectus has been written in collaboration with Social Services, the Homelessness team and the Planning Service.
5.02	The report was presented to the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 13 th September 2023.

6.00	APPENDICES
6.01	Appendix 1 – Proposed Flintshire Housing Need Prospectus

7.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
7.01	Local Development Plan (LDP) https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Flintshire-Local-Development-Plan.aspx

8.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
8.01	Contact Officer: Marj Cooper, Housing Strategy Manager Telephone: 01352 70 3721 E-mail: : marj.cooper@flintshire.gov.uk

9.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
9.01	<p>Social Housing Grant (SHG)– Welsh Government funding that may be available to Housing associations and developing Local Authorities. It is to help fund new affordable housing e.g. for social rent. To qualify for grant homes must comply with Welsh Government Development Quality Requirements (WDQR) and complete the current Grant application form and ensure that any scheme meets the WG standard viability tests.</p> <p>Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) - TACP funding may be used for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition and newbuild of existing stock. • Voids (bringing longer term voids back into use). • Using available sites awaiting re-development for long term use or meanwhile use. • Converting existing (non-residential) buildings owned by Social Landlords. • Property acquisitions (off the market including long term empty properties). • Property acquisitions from Private Developers i.e., Off the shelf acquisitions). • Property acquisitions from Private Rented Sector (including the purchase of tenanted properties). • Purchasing of HMOs to convert into family accommodation or self-contained flats at point of purchase. • Buying buildings to convert into housing.

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Flintshire County Council Prospectus
Draft August 2023

Summary of Local Authority Priorities for Social Housing Grant

- General needs for social rent and intermediate affordable housing based on the local areas need as demonstrated via SARTH and Tai Teg
- 1 bedroom accommodation
- Specialist housing provision (wheelchair adapted/ larger properties/ special needs) to be included within all housing schemes where the development site is deemed as suitable and appropriate subject to feasibility and financial viability
- Older persons/elderly scheme in Buckley subject to budget provisions within Social Services funding
- Supported housing for specific client groups (e.g. learning/ physical disabilities/ complex needs/ mental health) and suitable model, progressed in partnership with Social Services and Housing Strategy
- 16 - 24yrs supported housing and hub
- Homeless temporary accommodation hub

The Welsh Government requires that each Local Authority develop a Housing Needs prospectus to be updated on an annual basis. A review of the Prospectus has been completed and a draft has been developed for approval.

The content and priorities have not changed significantly to alter the direction of travel set out in out in the first iteration.

The most significant changes noted are the significant increase in Homeless Households accommodated to 169 as at 31.3.23 up from 115 as at the 25.10.22. This includes a significant number of single person households, circa 83%. Presentation data for 2021/22 and 2022/23 up to week 48 reporting period shows

1,134 homeless presentations in 2022/23 compared to 1,076 for the same period in 2021/22, a slight increase on the previous year.

The loss of Private Rented Accommodation appears to be the main driver.

Section 1 – Strategic Housing Priorities

The Flintshire Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024 sets out the Council's ambition to provide affordable housing across Flintshire. The Strategy identifies three strategic priorities:

Priority 1: Increase supply to provide the right type of homes in the right location.

Priority 2: Provide support to ensure people live and remain in the right type of home; and

Priority 3: Improve the quality and sustainability of our homes

The Housing Strategy (2019-2024) has an accompanying action plan and provides the following outputs:

- To meet the annual shortfall of 238 affordable housing as identified in the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) 2019 (Addendum February 2020) by delivering the following tenures:
 - (i) To increase the number of new social rent properties (RSL or Council) by 86 per annum
 - (ii) To increase the number of intermediate rent properties (NEW Homes or RSLs) by 57 per annum
 - (iii) To increase the number of intermediate ownership properties (through s.106 provision or RSLs) by 95 per annum.
- Deliver 5% (10) new build properties per annum to meet demand for specialist provision.
- Deliver 20 major adaptations on existing properties per annum (all tenures).
- Increase the percentage of one bedroom social rented properties by 20% (16) per year of all new build social rented properties.

In addition, the Local Development Plan (LDP) was formally adopted on the 24.1.23.

HN3: Affordable Housing advises that:

Affordable housing contributions will be sought on developments of 10 or more units in accordance with the following quotas which should be taken as a target for negotiation on a site by site basis subject to detailed viability considerations:

- 40% in the Central sub market area;
- 35% in the Connahs Quay, Queensferry and Broughton sub market area;

- 15% in the Flint and Coast sub market area;
- 20% in the Garden City sub market area;
- 40% in the Mold and Buckley sub market area;
- 30% in the South Border sub market area.

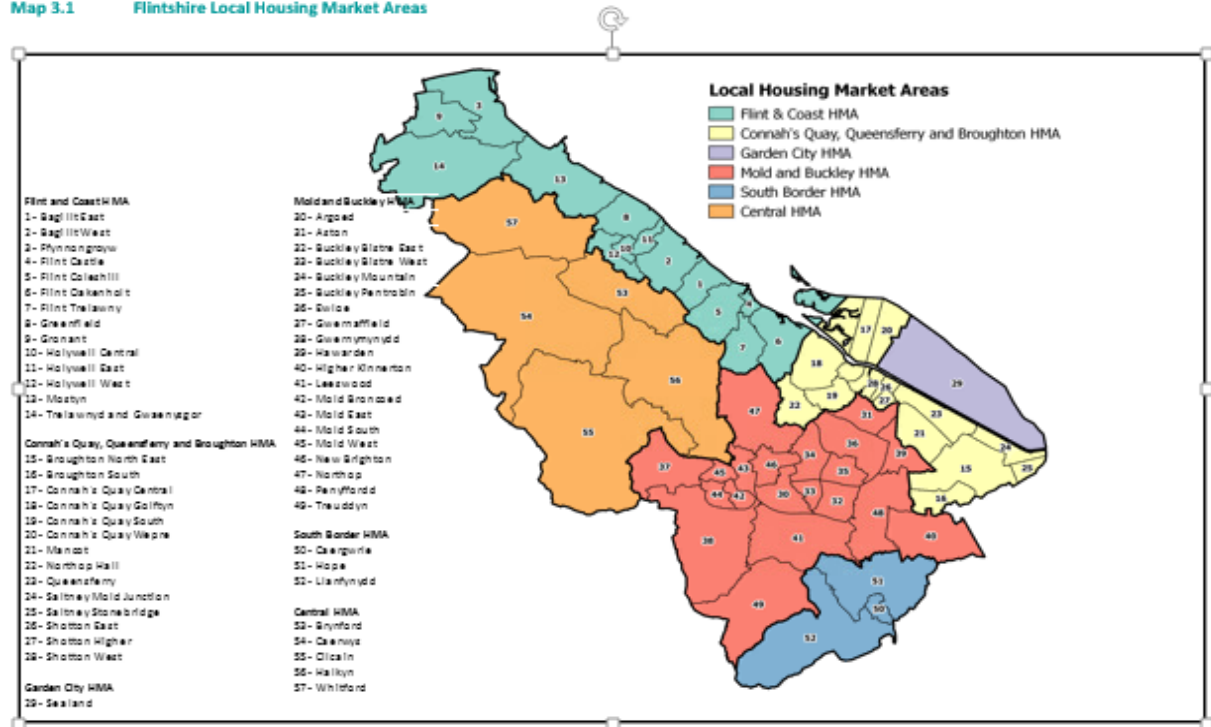
Affordable housing will be expected to be delivered on site in the first instance and only in exceptional circumstances will off site or commuted sum contributions be accepted in lieu of on-site provision. Overall the LDP sets a target for 2,265 of its overall housing requirement (6,950) to be provided as affordable housing via the planning system.

In addition the Welsh Government Standard Viability Model (SVM) has been reviewed to take into account cost increases in materials and labour costs.

Section 2 – Housing Need, Demand and Priorities

The Local Housing Market Assessment (February 2020) defines six Housing Market Areas, shown in the map below and detailing Council Wards.

Map 3.1 Flintshire Local Housing Market Areas



The current LHMA identifies an annual shortfall of 238 affordable units. The assessment recommends a need for the following property types:

- 1 / 2 bedroom, general needs (45.6%)
- 3 bedroom general needs (28.3%)
- 4+ bedroom general needs (12%)

- Older persons' stock (14.1%)

And suggests the tenure split as below.

- Social rented (30%),
- Intermediate rent (30%) – where rent levels are usually based on a Local Housing Allowance or 80% of the open market rents
- Affordable ownership (40%)

This tenure split is sought on private developments and secured as planning obligations. However, a different tenure mix will be developed on RSL or Local Authority led schemes where a higher number of social rented homes can be achieved. Instead, tenure mix will be determined on a site specific basis taking into account housing need, size of development, local area, and overall scheme viability.

The current LHMA is due to be updated circa Q4 of this financial year and will inform next year's Prospectus and the review of the Housing Strategy 2024-2029

Summary of social housing stock including RSL stock

There are 9,919 social rent dwellings in Flintshire. The table below shows the property types for the social housing stock (figures include FCC and RSL stock, May 2021 data).

Property Types	Stock numbers	Approx. Percentage
Studio	23	0.2%
1 bed flat	640	6.4%
2 bed flat	538	5.4%
3 bed flat	21	0.2%
1 bed bungalow	332	3.3%
2 bed bungalow	159	1.6%
3 bed bungalow	12	0.1%
4 bed bungalow	2	0.02%
1 bed house	25	0.2%
2 bed house	1435	14.4%
3 bed house	4028	40.6%
4 bed house	183	1.8%
5+ bed house	12	0.1%
Over 55/ sheltered studio	90	0.9%
Over 55/ sheltered 1 bed	1422	14.3%
Over 55/ sheltered 2 bed	969	9.7%
Over 55/ sheltered 3 bed	28	0.2%
Total	9919	

Three bedroom houses make up the highest proportion of housing stock at nearly 41% and 25% of all social housing is designated for the over 55's or sheltered housing.

There are very few larger homes with 4 or more bedrooms or larger bungalows with 3 or more bedrooms. The number of 1 bedroom flats for general needs is low in comparison to the number of people who need this size of home.

Housing Need and Demand

Flintshire is uniquely placed as the gateway to Wales. The county of Flintshire is situated in North East Wales. Cheshire lies to the east, Denbighshire to the West and Wrexham to the south. Flint and Mold are the main town areas.

The main population centres are in the towns of Flint, Buckley, Deeside and Mold. The remainder of the population are located in, either a westward linear pattern extending along the Flintshire coast, within more rural and dispersed communities to the central and western areas of the County or in more commuter-based villages to the south and east.

As at 1st March 2023 there were 2445 live applications, a slight reduction compared with 2519 live applicants as at 26th October 2022. Demand on SARTH and the affordable register (Tai Teg) fluctuates as applicants are added and deleted as a result of changes in circumstances, data updates and data cleanse exercises etc.

In addition, applications are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that applications still meet the SARTH eligibility criteria and that applicants are able to demonstrate that they still have a "Recognised Housing Need".

At a more detailed level, housing need is identified through the 'social' housing register, known as SARTH (Single Access Route to Housing) and through the Tai Teg register which holds details of applicants who wish to apply for 'affordable'/ intermediate rental and / or purchase properties via the 'affordable' route.

According to the 'social' housing register data (1st March 2023) Mold & Mynydd Isa, Flint, Connahs Quay, Buckley and Shotton remain areas most in demand and by and large align with the current distribution of the population.

Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Flintshire increased by 1.6%, from just over 152,500 in 2011 to around 155,000 in 2021.

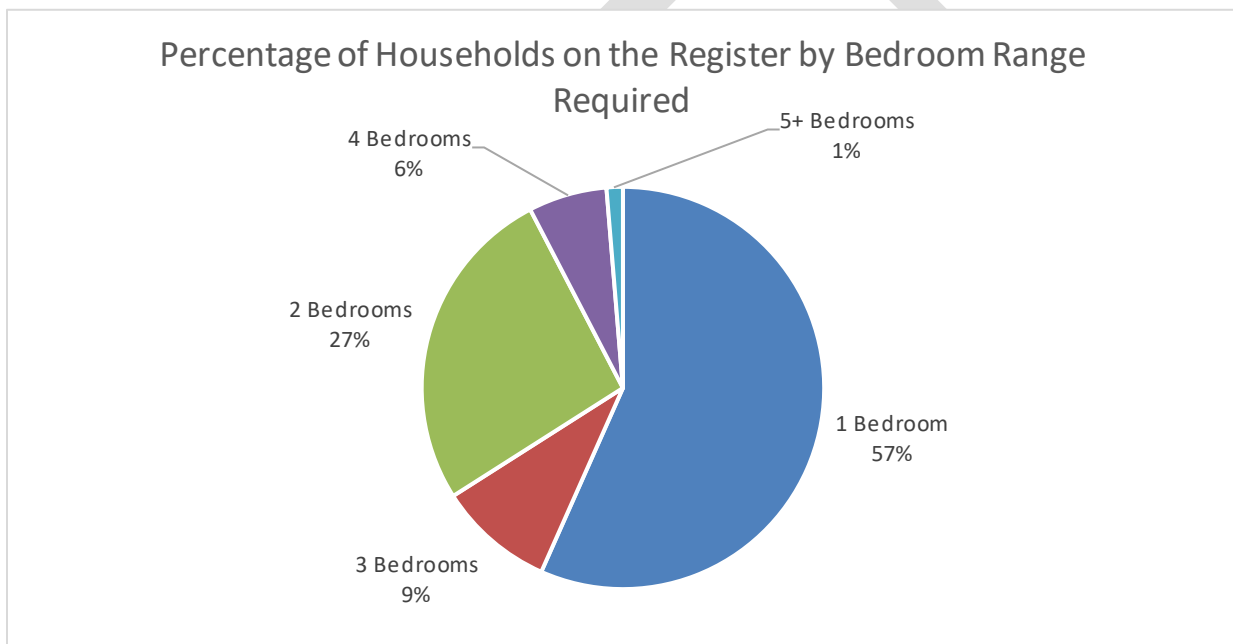
There has also been a significant increase over of 23.7% in people aged 65 living in Flintshire and a decrease of 3.0% in people aged 15 to 64 years.

Property Types

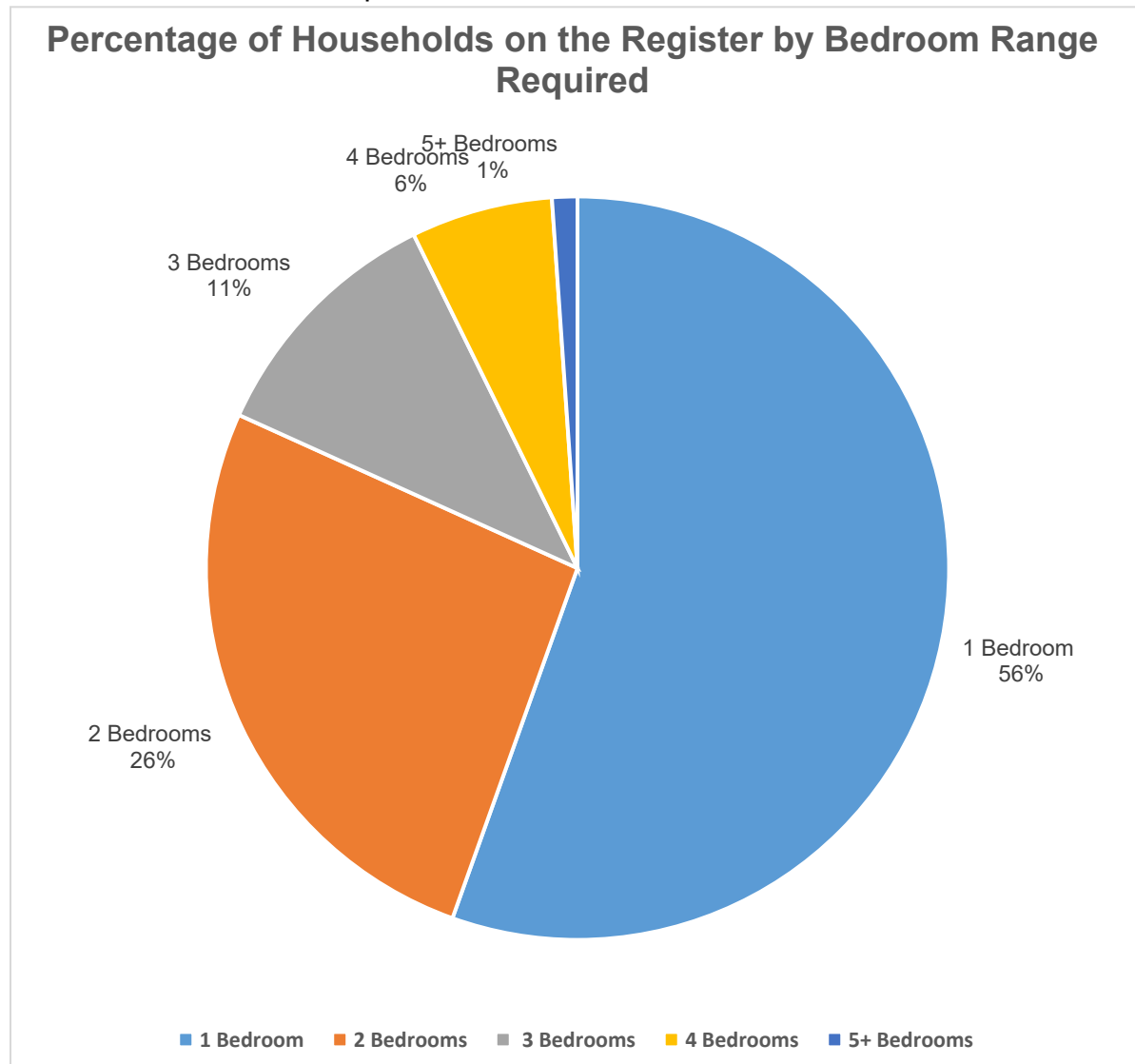
According to the Social Housing register the majority of these households require 1 bedroom accommodation. The next highest demand property type is 2 bedroom houses and there is also a need for larger property types 4+ bedrooms.

For all Applicants as of 1st March 2023 Mold & Mynydd Isa had the highest number of Applicants for all property types (882) followed by Connahs Quay (831) and Buckley (816). As demonstrated by the charts below there has been little change in the percentage of households on the register by bedroom range between October 2022 and the first quarter of 2023/2024.

Information as at October 2022



Information as at the first quarter of 2023/23024



Demand Areas

The five areas with the most significant demand as at 1st March 2023 remain similar Mold / Mynydd Isa (882), Connah’s Quay (831), Buckley (816), Shotton (786) and Flint (771). A breakdown of demand for each property type is available by SARTH housing area and can be provided on request.

Specialist Housing Register

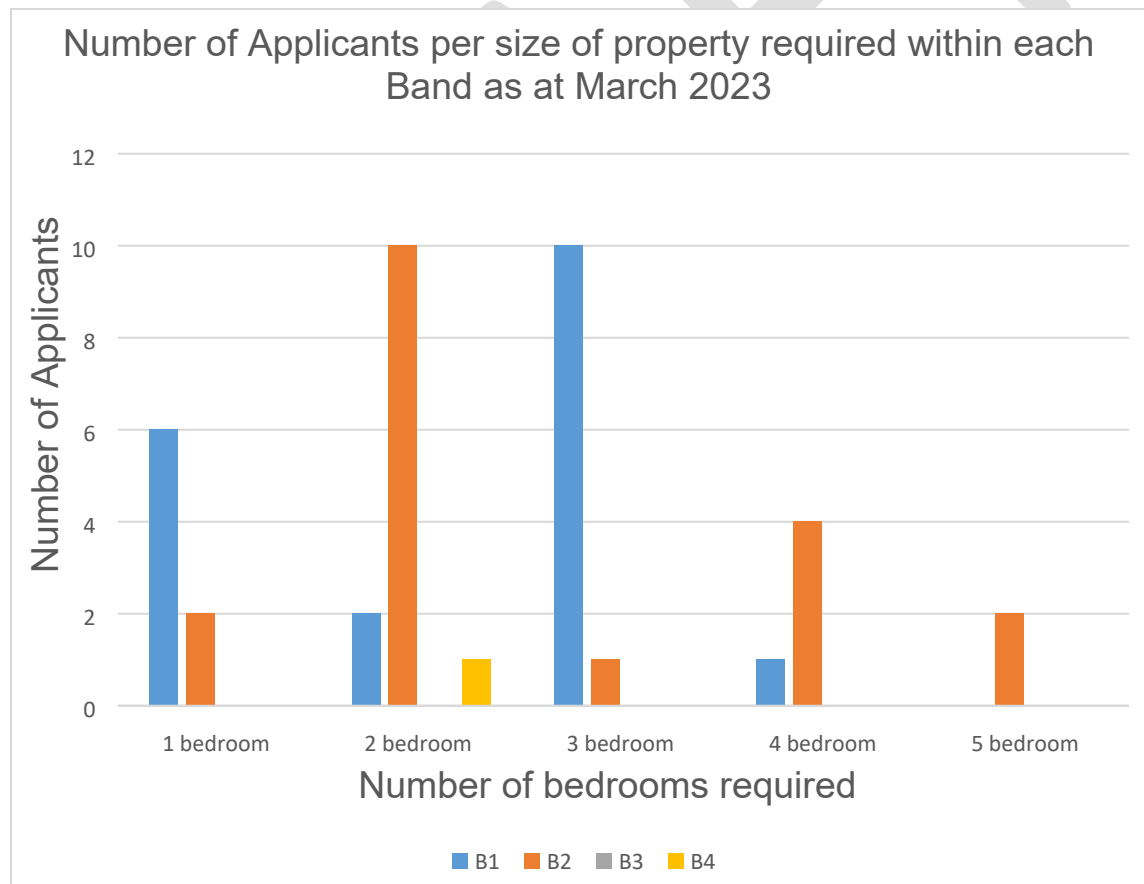
The Specialist Housing Register (SHR) consists of households who have applied to the social housing register via SARTH and whom cannot be easily rehoused within the existing housing stock.

As at March 2023 there were 39 applicants (46 as at October 2022). Apart from one applicant who was in Band 4 the other applicants were placed in Band 1 and 2. Of these 19 applicants were in Band 1 which includes those with an urgent medical, welfare or disability related need whilst Band 2 includes People who need to move on medical or welfare grounds (including grounds relating to disability).

Around a third of all applicants (13) required a 2 bed property closely followed by 26% (10) who required a 3 bed property, 6 Applicants required a 4+ bed property.

For Band 1 applicants 9 required a 3 bed property - this equates to circa 23% (40% October 2023).

There is demand in most areas of Flintshire and the greatest need remains for 1 and 3 bedroom adaptable properties. The preferred property type remains a bungalow



Homelessness

Numbers of homeless presentations continues to be high. Presentation data for 2021/22 and 2022/23 up to week 48 reporting period shows 1,134 homeless presentations in

2022/23 compared to 1,076 for the same period in 2021/22, a slight increase on the previous year.

Prior to the Covid pandemic there were 11 households placed in homeless accommodation in Flintshire. In February 2021 the numbers had increased to 55 households. As at March 2023 there were 169 households.

Of these a significant number 141, circa 83%, were single person households.

In March 2016, 75 FCC households were in emergency/temporary accommodation. As at 31/3/22 there were 101 increasing to 115 households by the 25/10/22.

Due to the shortage of suitable homes, the move on from temporary accommodation is challenging and can take a long time. The Council aims to ensure that everyone who has been provided with temporary accommodation will be supported into long-term sustainable housing that is suitable for their needs.

The council is working on a revised strategy and policy framework to incorporate Welsh Government's aspiration to introduce the Rapid Rehousing model for future allocations across Wales.

In addition, Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) funding has been announced for 2023 / 2024. FCC and Partners are able to submit an expression of interest form to access this funding.

Tai Teg Register

Tai Teg manages the 'affordable / intermediate' housing register which includes homes to rent at intermediate rent and homes to purchase. Various purchase options are available including Rent to Own, Homebuy, shared equity, discounted s.106 properties, shared ownership and self-build. Applicants may register to apply for homes to rent and / or to purchase.

In Flintshire, as at April 2023 Tai Teg reported that for the period October 2022 – March 2023 (with ready to apply status) there were 769 applicants who wished to be considered for intermediate rental properties, 249 for intermediate rent and purchase and 445 for home ownership.

The highest demand areas for intermediate rent based on combined choices was similar to that in July 2022. As at 21st March 2023 Flint, Mold and Mynydd Isa, Connah's Quay,

Buckley Broughton, Ewloe Penyffordd (Chester) and Treffynnon, were the highest demand areas. Two and three bed houses are most in demand.

The highest demand areas for intermediate purchase based on combined choices were Mold and Mynydd Isa, Buckley, Connah's Quay, Flint, Broughton and Penyffordd (Chester).

For intermediate purchase, houses are still the preferred option, with most demand being for either a two or three bedroom house.

A breakdown of demand for each property type / tenure is available for individual housing areas and can be provided on request

Older persons/Elderly Care provision

There are currently Extra Care schemes in Flint, Mold, Holywell and Shotton. The Flintshire model of Extra Care provides high quality units, in-house home care provision and 24 hour support.

The existing Extra Care schemes are detailed in the table below. Each scheme holds a waiting list of people who have expressed an interest for this type of accommodation and provides an indication of demand levels (information as at the end of the Financial year).

Extra Care Scheme	No. of Properties at Scheme	Number of Applicants on Waiting List
Llys Raddington, Flint	73	10
Llys Jasmine, Mold	61	28
Plas Yr Ywen, Holywell	55	9
Llys Eleanor, Shotton	50	8

Supported Housing – Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and Complex Needs

As a result of the increasing numbers of people requiring care, support and accommodation, people with Learning Disabilities are often unable to be accommodated within their own communities close to family and friends. This leads to delays in seeking appropriate long-term housing for individuals and causes increased emergency admissions to residential care homes or inappropriate placements often some distance away from home.

In 2018 all six Local Authorities and BCUHB developed a North Wales Learning Disability Strategy which includes the aim to reduce the number of people placed out of their area because of a lack of suitable placements locally and for more people with learning disabilities to have choice and control over where they live.

The North Wales Together programme has been working for some years to scope, promote and, where appropriate, support the development of sufficient tenancy based supported living resources to meet the growing need. As part of this work, NWT has identified the need for supported housing in the Flintshire area.

North Wales Together has collated numbers (January 2023) of individuals in need of accommodation between now and 2026 across each North Wales County.

Current need is made up of several areas of pressure

- Young people coming through transition, many with complex needs.
- Individuals living with older carers whose placements come about suddenly due to a carer's inability to continue caring.
- Individuals living in residential placements out of county who were placed there due to a lack of suitable accommodation at the time of placement.
- Individuals living with families who have reached the point of long-term accommodation planning.

In total, Flintshire has 1039 people with LD living within the county. That is the highest number across the North Wales region.

Flintshire currently has:

- **81** individuals who are at risk of needing supported living accommodation within the next 4 years.
- **17** adults noted as having priority accommodation needs.
- **49** out of county residential placements, **7** of whom wish to move closer to home. This number is comparatively higher than neighbouring counties.
- **37** people with LD living at home with elderly carers and likely to need supported accommodation in future years.
- **20** young people identified as needing accommodation or at high risk of breakdown between now and 2027.

Supported Housing – Young persons (16-24 years) and community hub

The Flintshire Housing Strategy provides an aspiration to develop a youth homeless hub, providing emergency provision and consisting of 6 - 8 self-contained units with onsite staff support. It may provide a facility where advice, education, training facilities and other support services are available for the young people in residence as well as the wider community. It is important that this facility can integrate within the local area, be easily accessible and have shops and amenities close by. Preferred locations are Mold and the Deeside area. Feasibility work remains underway but no specific site has been identified.

Supported Housing –Temporary accommodation for single homeless people

Flintshire County Council currently operates a Homeless Hub providing 23 units of self-contained portacabin style accommodation which was established as part of the emergency Covid response. The Council recognises that this is not a suitable long term option. As an alternative provision, the Council would like to develop approximately 18 self-contained units that can be used as temporary accommodation with on-site staff support. This may be provided as one larger facility or in smaller sized blocks of flats. The preferred location would be the Deeside area.

Six units have been developed at Duke Street and Park Lane.

Further feasibility work remains underway but no further specific sites have been identified. In addition, we have submitted a bid for TACP for additional funding for Buy backs for “meanwhile” use

Regeneration of Town Centres

The Housing Strategy team continue to liaise with the FCC Regeneration Team to explore funding options and agree a cohesive plan. To assist with this and to help identify the relevant town centres the Regeneration team appointed Consultants, Willmott Dixon.

Section 3 – Programme Development Plan (PDP) Schemes

Schemes should be progressed in collaboration with Housing Strategy. Early discussions are welcomed so that schemes can be developed and informed by the housing need demonstrated via SARTH and the Tai Teg register. To achieve mixed communities and to take into account ongoing housing management practicalities it is acknowledged that a flexible approach may be necessary for any given location and some property types / tenures may not be suitable.

RSLs should submit schemes to Housing Strategy using the revised Welsh Government Portal, Manage Homes and Places.

Schemes will be prioritised for inclusion within the main programme PDP that:

- Are in areas with higher housing need (social and intermediate)
- Provide the type and tenure that meets local housing need
- Provide the right type of home in the right location
- Provide smaller homes such as 1/2 bed flats and 2-bed houses
- Provide specialist housing including wheelchair accessible and larger properties
- Provide supported housing for identified client groups
- Planning permission will be in place /submitted and well advanced
- Progressed SAB approval
- Have a realistic likelihood of being able to comply with regulation relating to phosphates
- Are aligned with the LDP and are policy compliant
- Local member and / or Community consultation has taken place where appropriate

Schemes will not be included in the main PDP that have known planning objections which cannot be overcome or significant challenges which cannot be addressed. Pre-application planning advice should be sought for schemes that are intended for inclusion on the main programme PDP and where available a copy of the positive pre-application response included with any submission.

Section 4 – Monitoring and Governance

A summary of the PDP for 2024/2025 is provided at appendix 1 and details the number of homes, circa 730 together with property types and tenures that it is expected to deliver.

The PDP will be monitored by Flintshire Housing Strategy Team in partnership with Welsh Government and RSL partners via:

- Flintshire Strategic Housing Board – quarterly meeting attended by Chief Executives / Senior Officers from partner RSLs, Flintshire Housing Strategy Team and Homelessness Team.
- Flintshire Development Partners Meeting – attended by RSL Development Teams, Flintshire Housing Strategy Team, Welsh Government Funding Team. Meetings will monitor the PDP, encourage open communication, identify challenges and share information. The 2023/24 dates have been set to coincide ahead of PDP quarterly submissions. The next meeting dates are:

29.08.23 10.00 -12.00

31.10.23 10.00 -12.00

09.01.24 10.00 -12.00

- Quarterly individual meetings between Flintshire County Council Housing Strategy and each RSL Development Team are held to discuss new opportunities and schemes in more detail. Additional meetings are held as deemed necessary.
- We aim to create an “open door” environment in order that partners may have confidence in discussing their schemes and any challenges that they may be facing.
- On site meetings with RSL’s at potential development sites are encouraged. This allows for the updating of the PDP in order that those developments with a realistic chance of progressing may be added.

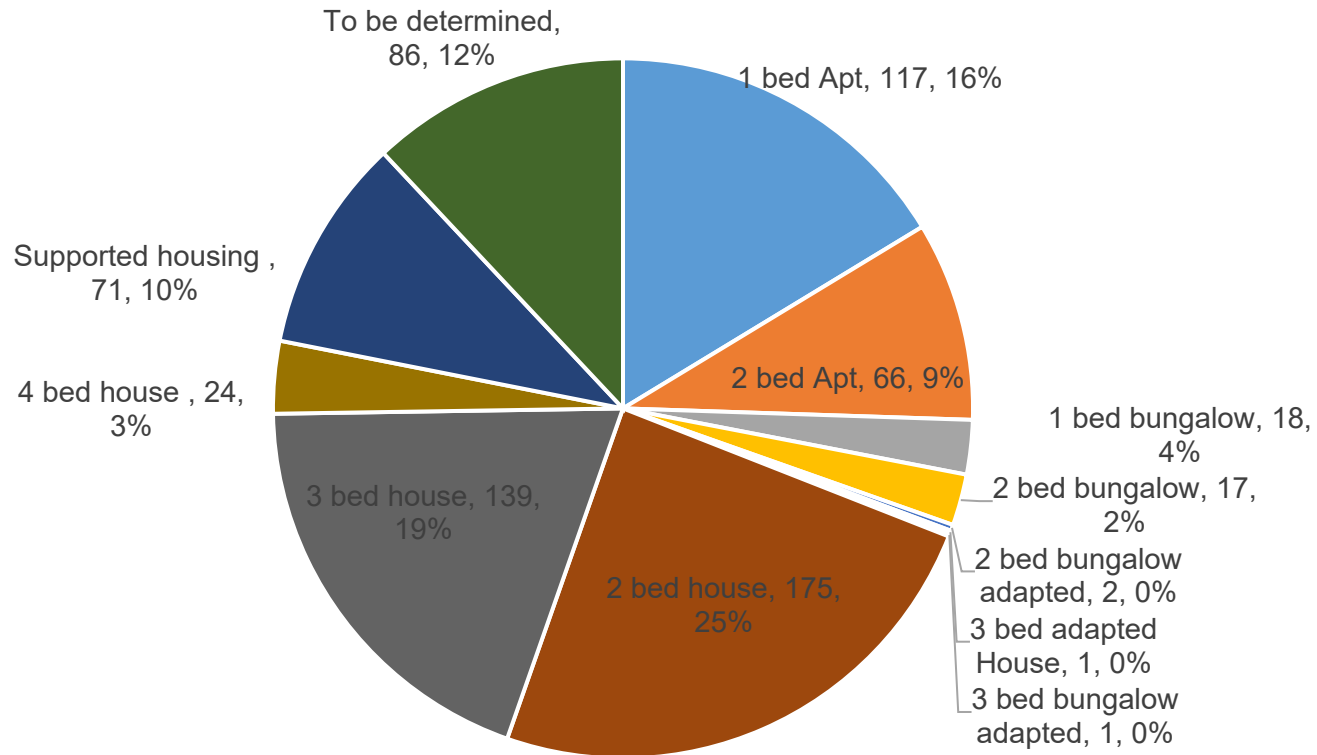
The prospectus will be refreshed on an annual basis.

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Appendix 1 - Summary of expected Programme Development/Delivery Plan 2023/2024, 2024/2025 & 2025/2026

Provider	site	To be determined	1 bed Apt	2 bed Apt	1 bed bungalow	2 bed bungalow	2 bed bungalow adapted	3 bed bungalow	3 bed adapted House	3 bed bungalow adapted	2 bed house	3 bed house	4 bed house	Supported housing	Total Units
Clwyd Alyn	66a Mold Road, Mynydd Isa		4			2				1	24	25			56
Clwyd Alyn	Older persons/sheltered Buckley													60	60
Clwyd Alyn	LD bungalows Buckley				13										13
Clwyd Alyn	Northern Gateway Strategic Site Deeside	21	6	18		3	2				20	24	6		100
Clwyd Alyn	Princess Avenue, Buckley		8	2								2			12
Clwyd Alyn	Well Street, Buckley	56													56
Clwyd Alyn	Wrexham Road, Abermorddu		18								24	22	6		70
Clwyd Alyn	Hlghmere Drive, CQ		10								18	17	4		49
First Choice HA	17 Elm Road, Queensferry								1						1
First Choice HA	Specialist Housing Provision allocated														1
First Choice HA	Westhaven, Holywell Rd, Ewloe													4	4
Flintshire	Alltami Road, Buckley			4							6	4			14
Flintshire	Alyn Road, Buckley										4				4
Flintshire	Borough Grove, Flint										4				4
Flintshire	Canton Depot, Bagillt		14	14							6	17			51
Flintshire	Duke Street, Homeless provision													2	2
Flintshire	Ffordd Hiraethog, Mostyn		4	6											10
Flintshire	Ffordd Llanarth, Connahs Quay		4	4							7	2	3		20
Flintshire	Hebron, Mostyn										4				4
Flintshire	High Steet, Connahs Quay (Old Music Shop)			6											6
Flintshire	Park Lane Homeless Provision													4	4
Flintshire	Penyffordd School										12	8			20
Flintshire	School Lane, Greenfield										2	1			3
Flintshire	Station Road, Queensferry		4												4
Flintshire	Ty Mair, Mold		10	10	1	2					6	7			36
Flintshire	Wirral View, Hawarden										4				4
Flintshire	4 Buy Backs		4												4
Grwp Cynefin	Mortgage Rescue (2-addresses to be advised)		2												2
Grwp Cynefin	Rhewl Fawr, Penyffordd Holywell (phase 3)										6	2			8
Grwp Cynefin	homebuy Details to be confirmed		2												2
Grwp Cynefin	Homebuy 4 Bramley Way, Flintshire, CH5 3LG		1												1
North Wales Housing	Former Spectrum Garden Centre, Mold Road, Cefn y Bedd, Flintshire LL12 9UR		20								3	4	3		30
Wales & West	New Inn, Sandycroft					8									8
Wales & West	Land at Brunswick Road, Buckley		7	2											9
Wales & West	Wern Farm Bagillt		8		4	2					25	4	2		45
	Totals	86	117	66	18	17	2	0	1	1	175	139	24	71	717

Property Types expected to be delivered from Main Programme schemes 2023/2024, 2024/2025 & 2025/26



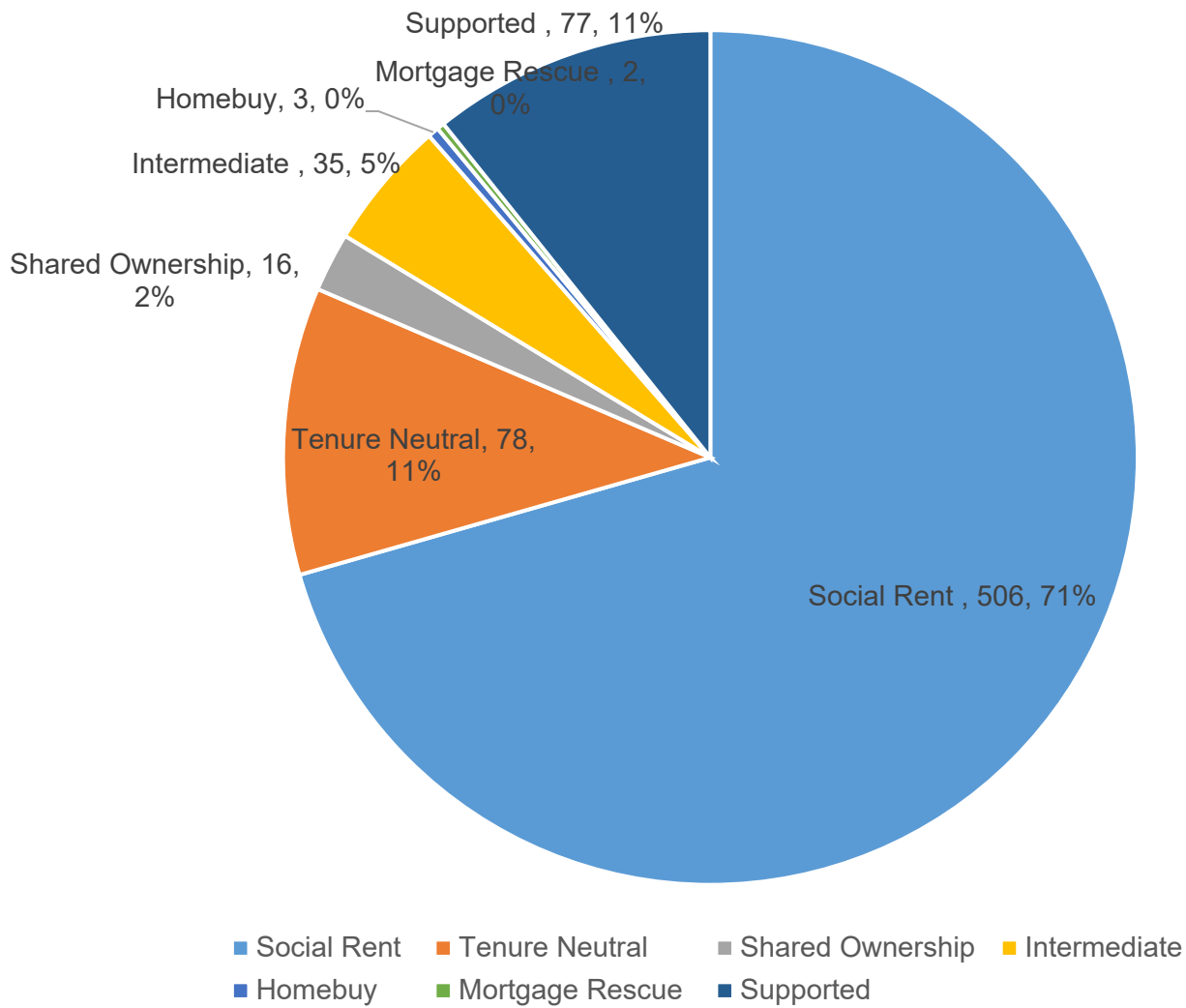
- 1 bed Apt
- 2 bed Apt
- 1 bed bungalow
- 2 bed bungalow
- 2 bed bungalow adapted
- 3 bed adapted House
- 3 bed bungalow adapted
- 2 bed house
- 3 bed house
- 4 bed house
- Supported housing
- To be determined

Breakdown of tenure of expected Programme Development/Delivery Plan Main Programme 2023/2024, 2024/2025 & 2025/2026

Provider	site	Social Rent	Tenure Neutral	Shared Ownership	Homebuy	Intermediate	Mortgage Rescue	Supported	Total Units
Clwyd Alyn	66a Mold Road, Mynydd Isa	17	39						56
Clwyd Alyn	Older persons/sheltered Buckley							60	60
Clwyd Alyn	LD bungalows Buckley							13	13
Clwyd Alyn	Northern Gateway Strategic Site Deeside	84		16					100
Clwyd Alyn	Princess Avenue, Buckley	12							12
Clwyd Alyn	Well Street, Buckley	56							56
Clwyd Alyn	Hghmere Drive, CQ	10	39						49
Clwyd Alyn	Wrexham Road, Abermorddu	50				20			70
First Choice HA	17 Elm Road, Queensferry	1							1
First Choice HA	Specialist Housing Provision allocated	1							1
First Choice HA	Westhaven, Holywell Rd, Ewloe							4	4
Flintshire	Alltami Road, Buckley	14							14
Flintshire	Alyn Road, Buckley	4							4
Flintshire	Borough Grove, Flint	4							4
Flintshire	Canton Depot, Bagillt	51							51
Flintshire	Duke Street, Homeless provision	2							2
Flintshire	Ffordd Hiraethog, Mostyn	10							10

Flintshire	Ffordd Llanarth, Connahs Quay	20							20
Flintshire	Hebron, Mostyn	4							4
Flintshire	High Steet, Connahs Quay (Old Music Shop)	6							6
Flintshire	Park Lane Homeless Provision	4							4
Flintshire	Penyfford School	20							20
Flintshire	School Lane, Greenfield	3							3
Flintshire	Station Road, Queensferry	4							4
Flintshire	Ty Mair, Mold	36							36
Flintshire	Wirral View, Hawarden	4							4
Flintshire	4 Buy Backs	4							4
Grwp Cynefin	Mortgage Rescue (2-addresses to be advised)						2		2
Grwp Cynefin	Rhewl Fawr, Penyffordd Holywell (phase 3)	6				2			8
Grwp Cynefin	Homebuy details to be confirmed				2				2
Grwp Cynefin	Homebuy 4 Bramley Way, Flintshire, CH5 3LG				1				1
North Wales Housing	Former Spectrum Garden Centre, Mold Road, Cefn y Bedd, Flintshire LL12 9UR	17				13			30
Wales & West	New Inn, Station Rd. Sandycroft	8							8
Wales & West	Land at Brunswick Road, Buckley	9							9
Wales & West	Wern Farm Bagillt	45							45
	Totals	506	78	16	3	35	2	77	717

Chart of Expected Tenure of Properties through Main Programme schemes 2023/2024, 2024/2025 & 2025/2026



Potential schemes 2023/2024, 2024/2025 & 2025/2026

Potential RSL Schemes	Provider	Site	Estimated number of unit
	Adra	Land off Ffordd Pedrog, Oakenholt, Flint/Quarry Farm Oakenholt	128
	Wales & West	Ewloe Social Club, Old Mold Road, Ewloe,	27
	North Wales Housing Association	Innisfree, Nant Mawr Road, Buckley	8
		Quay Building Fron Road Connahs Quay	20
Potential FCC Schemes			
	Flintshire County Council	Trelogan Bowling Green site	15
	Flintshire County Council	Croes Atti	21
	Flintshire County Council	Mold Offices	20
	Flintshire County Council	Rhydymwyn, School site, Mold	20
	Flintshire County Council	Bryn Tirion , Shotton	13
Total			272

Schemes in the potential list are in the very early stages of development and may be prior to planning application submissions or consultation with local members. Should any schemes receive negative pre-planning application advice or be refused planning they will be withdrawn from the PDP.



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 17 th October, 2023
Report Subject	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Month 5)
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This monthly report provides the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2023/24 financial year for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account and presents the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5.

The projected year end position is as follows:

Council Fund

- An operating deficit of £3.660 (excluding the impact of the pay award which will need to be met by reserves – currently estimated as £2.727m) which is an adverse movement of £1.016m from the deficit figure reported at Month 4.
- A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2024 of £3.027m (after the estimated impact of pay awards)

Housing Revenue Account

- Net in-year revenue expenditure is forecast to be £0.006m higher than budget which is an adverse movement of £0.071m from the figure reported at Month 4.
- A projected closing balance as at 31 March, 2024 of £3.191m

The economic outlook remains challenging due to inflation levels remaining high.

The impacts of this, together with continued increases in service demand is becoming increasingly hard to deal with as our funding fails to keep up with the scale of these pressures.

To assist with managing these risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, a moratorium through the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2023/24 budget.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24
1.01	<p>The projected year end position is as follows:</p> <p>Council Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An operating deficit of £3.660m (excluding the impact of the pay award which will need to be met by reserves – currently estimated as £2.727m) which is an adverse movement of £1.016m from the deficit figure reported at Month 4. A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March 2024 of £3.027m (after the estimated impact of pay awards) <p>Housing Revenue Account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £0.006m higher than budget which is an adverse movement of £0.071m from the figure reported at Month 4. A projected closing balance as at 31 March, 2024 of £3.191m <p>To assist with managing these risks and mitigating the overall projected overspend, a moratorium through the review of non-essential spend and a vacancy management process continues.</p>
1.02	<p>Hardship Funding from Welsh Government helped secure £16m of direct financial help in 2022/23 for areas such as self-isolation payments, statutory sick pay enhancement, free school meals direct payments and winter fuel payments. However, this funding ceased on 31 March 2023.</p>

1.03 **Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio**

The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:

Portfolio/Service Area	Approved Budget	Projected Outturn	In-Year Over / (Under) spend
	£m	£m	£m
Social Services	86.821	87.333	0.512
Out of County Placements	17.285	18.363	1.078
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	9.902	9.837	(0.065)
Schools	114.081	114.081	0.000
Streetscene & Transportation	40.745	41.927	1.181
Planning Env & Economy	7.057	6.622	(0.435)
People & Resources	4.321	4.254	(0.067)
Governance	11.460	11.463	0.003
Assets	11.045	10.917	(0.128)
Housing & Communities	15.698	18.480	2.782
Chief Executive	1.608	1.607	(0.001)
Central & Corporate Finance	32.096	30.898	(1.198)
Total	352.121	355.781	3.660

The Approved Budget has had one virement since Month 4, this being £0.025m transferred from Central & Corporate Finance to Governance for Business Systems non-standard inflation.

1.04 The reasons for the monthly movements over £0.025m are shown in Appendix 1, overall projected variances over £0.050m are summarised within Appendix 2 together with a summary of minor variances for each portfolio.

Significant Movements from Month 4

1.05 **Social Services £0.199m**

The reasons for the adverse movement are as follows:

Older People

- Localities £0.098m. Additional costs due to a block bed contract for the Residential beds.

Adults of Working Age

- Children to Adult Transition Services (£0.103m) – A reduction in the Council's funding commitment for a college placement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Placements £0.097m – The movement is due to increased payment costs for some service users. <p>Children’s Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Placement £0.121m – An increase in therapist costs and two new adoption orders contribute to the movement, together with costs for a parent/child placement which were transferred from the Legal and Third Party service. Legal & Third Party (£0.109m) – The costs for a parent/child placement were transferred to the Family Placement Service. <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder totalling £0.095m.</p>
1.06	<p>Out of County Placements £0.077m</p> <p>Net impact of new placements, rate changes and placements that have ended.</p>
1.07	<p>Streetscene and Transportation £0.544m</p> <p>The reasons for the adverse movement are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service and Delivery (£0.084m) – reduced costs from the provision of in-house work rather than contracting the work externally Highways Network £0.626m – Fleet Contract extension to April 2024 resulting in additional cost of £0.532m, costs increase to both fuel and Streetlighting energy together with increasing Insurance Premiums £0.090m <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder totalling £0.003m.</p>
1.08	<p>Housing & Communities £0.376m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Solutions £0.356m – Increase is mainly due to the projected cost of emergency accommodation for the remainder of the financial year, this being at a higher rate per night than currently charged in the year to date. The revised costs follow discussions with a number of the main providers who are increasing their rates including those who are block booked for the remaining six months of the year. There is also a lesser impact of a reduction in the projected amount of additional housing benefit income above target. <p>Minor variances across the Portfolio account for the remainder £0.020m.</p>
1.09	<p>Central & Corporate Finance (£0.250m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) is projecting a further positive improvement of (£0.250m) due to the Council not taking out any new short or long-term borrowing and continuing to

	invest a significant amount of short-term cash flow funds gaining an investment return. This pattern has continued from the previous financial year and through 2023/24 to date and is partly due to continued high and increasing bank interest rates.
1.10	Cumulative minor variances across the Council of £0.070m account for the remainder of the total monthly movement.
1.11	<p>Tracking of In-Year Risks and Emerging Issues</p> <p>Members were made aware when setting the budget that there were a number of open risks that would need to be kept under close review. An update on these is provided below.</p>
1.12	<p>Council Tax Income</p> <p>The 'in-year' collection level is 47.4% compared to 47.6% the previous year. The marginal reduction in collections of 0.2% is to be expected as the rising costs-of-living are impacting on the ability of some households to make payment of council tax on time.</p>
1.13	<p>Pay Award (Teacher and Non-Teacher)</p> <p><u>NJC (Green Book)</u></p> <p>The latest pay offer for NJC (Green Book) employees for the current year (2023/24) has been rejected and Trade Union Members are currently being balloted for potential industrial action. The offer made is at a similar level to that awarded in 2022/23 with an increase on each scale point of £1,925. This equates to more than the 5% included in the 2023/24 budget. The amount of the final award in excess of the 5% will need to be funded from reserves in the current financial year. It will also have the impact of increasing the budget requirement for 2024/25.</p> <p>The estimated impact of the current pay offer is an additional £2.727m which is included in the forecast but may be subject to change.</p> <p>The assumptions for the 2024/25 pay award has been increased to 5% from the 3.5% previously included in the forecast.</p> <p><u>Teachers Pay</u></p> <p>Assumptions for teachers' pay calculations are in line with current awards by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. They are an increase of 6.5% from September 2022 and an increase of 5% in September 2023. These have not been accepted by all teaching unions and a formal dispute is ongoing.</p> <p>The 2023/24 budget contained funding for a 5% pay award for Teachers from September 2022. The Minister has increased the pay award to 8%, with 1.5% being a non-consolidated payment, leaving a recurring element of 6.5% which is now included in the forecast.</p> <p>Grant funding has been made available by Welsh Government to fully fund</p>

	<p>the additional September 2022 pay award in financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24 (over and above the 5% originally awarded).</p> <p>Funding from 2024/25 onwards is still uncertain and the additional annual cost to the council for the shortfall of £1.118m has been included in the forecast. However, it is expected that Welsh Government will provide additional funding in the Revenue Support Grant to cover the shortfall in Council's budgets.</p> <p><u>Pay Modelling</u> No figures are currently included for any impact of the pay modelling review which is needed to try and address the difficulties currently being experienced in recruitment and retention. It is due to be completed later this year.</p>
1.14	<p>Waste Recycling Infraction Charge</p> <p>The Council did not meet the statutory minimum target, (64%) in 2021/22, for the percentage of municipal waste which must be recycled, prepared for re-use and composted, as specified in Section 3 of the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010. Welsh Government can therefore take steps to impose a penalty on the Council by way of an infraction fine. A potential penalty of up to £0.663m has been confirmed so presents a significant financial risk to the Council.</p> <p>Discussions took place in March,2023 between Welsh Government (WG) and the Council as to the reasons for not achieving the target. The Council has subsequently been instructed by WG to engage with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Local Partnerships to review our waste strategy and develop a new action plan. A report will go to the Committee cycle in November 2023. Depending on the outcome of the review, the Minister will take a decision at that point whether to levy the fine.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the statutory recycling targets have not been achieved in 2022/23 too (non-verified), which means that a further infraction fine could be levied of around £0.470m should WG choose to do so, and monitoring of the authority's recycling performance for 2023/24 to date shows that the rates of recycling and residual waste tonnages are not improving, which could lead to not achieving the targets in 2023/24 also.</p>
1.15	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>There is a significant and growing demand within the Homelessness service. The Council has a statutory duty to provide suitable temporary accommodation for Homeless persons and families who meet the Welsh Government eligibility criteria which are less stringent than in England. The growth in demand commenced in the second half of 2022/23 and has accelerated markedly since the start of 2023.</p> <p>One of the more significant influences of many is the sparsity of affordable accommodation in the private rented sector which is being influenced by the cost-of-living crisis and also an increase in the numbers of no-fault evictions as many private rented sector landlords are leaving the sector and seeking</p>

	<p>to sell their properties. There is also an acute shortage of suitable available accommodation within the Council's own HRA housing stock and with other Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) within the area. This is particularly the case for single persons below age 55 which make up the highest proportion of those who are currently homeless in Flintshire. The Flintshire position in terms of both demand and supply pressures is known to be consistent on both a regional and national basis within Wales.</p> <p>The Council will continue to lobby Welsh Government via the WLGA in conjunction with other Welsh LA's who are experiencing these pressures to seek additional financial support.</p> <p>WG are currently providing support via the No One Left Out grant for which the 2023/24 allocation is currently £0.382m. One favourable impact of the increase in costs and demand is the ability to recover additional Housing Benefit income over and above the amount budgeted which is currently helping to offset the projected overspend by £0.465m.</p>
1.16	<p>Other Tracked Risks</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of risks being tracked which may be subject to change and these are summarised below.</p>
1.17	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Impact</p> <p>Cabinet considered the latest projection for the MTFS in September which showed an additional budget requirement of £32.386m together with an update on the work completed over the summer on potential cost reduction options. These, together with service cost pressures, will be considered at individual overview and scrutiny meetings over the Autumn.</p> <p>All Portfolios consider their financial position, the risks within their service and the impacts on the Medium Term on a monthly basis as part of their Portfolio Management Team meetings.</p>
1.18	<p>Out of County Placements</p> <p>The risks include continued high demand for placements where children and young people cannot be supported within in-house provision, and market supply limitation factors and inflationary pressures leading to higher costs. An additional amount of £1m was approved in the 2023/24 budget to reflect this.</p> <p>However, there remains a projected overspend for the current cohort of placements of circa £1.078m, although with 7 months of the year remaining this is likely to increase and a contingency of £0.500m is currently built into the outturn position for this, £0.250m for Children's Services and £0.250m for Education placements.</p> <p>The service areas within this pooled budget will continue to do everything possible to manage these risks and additional investment has already been made to further develop in-house provision to help to mitigate against such financial pressures.</p>

1.19	<p>Streetscene & Transportation</p> <p><u>Fleet Contract Renewal</u> The current fleet contract, which has been running for 7 years, is being renewed from October 2023. Due to the current market conditions in re-procurement of contracts of this type, the cost of the new contract is considerably more than what was previously being paid, due to being protected from inflationary increases during the previous contract life. The cost of the contract will further increase from April 2024 and provision is being made within the 2024/25 budget considerations for this.</p> <p><u>Sustainable Waste Management Grant (SWMG)</u> The Minister for Climate Change has confirmed that the SWMG grant will be retained at the same level for this financial year. However, those local authorities that are not yet meeting the statutory recycling target of 70% will be required to use the grant to reach 70% and be required to demonstrate this. It has also been confirmed that the SWMG grant will likely become part of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) funding from 2024/25. The current value of the grant is £0.742m per annum, but it is not yet confirmed whether the proportion that Flintshire will receive within the RSG settlement going forward will be similar to current levels.</p>
1.20	<p>Education & Youth (Non-Schools)</p> <p><u>Inclusion and Progression</u> The services that the Inclusion and Progression teams provide within Education and Youth portfolio are under significant pressure.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic the service had seen increasing numbers of children and young people presenting with an increased level of significant and complex needs, resulting in the council being dependent on non-Flintshire provision.</p> <p>Post pandemic the situation has worsened with increasing numbers of pre-school children needing support and challenging behaviour causing concern across both primary and secondary schools. In addition, there are increased rates of emotionally based school avoidance. As a result, levels of attendance have reduced, whilst all forms of exclusions have increased. All of which contributes to a requirement for more specialist and bespoke intervention.</p> <p>The service is taking steps to actively manage demand, alongside reviewing provision, and seeking to develop and enhance in house provision.</p> <p>The pressures are being experienced across Wales, at a time when schools and central services are implementing the Additional Learning Need (ALN) reforms.</p> <p>Welsh Government have made additional grants available to support schools and councils. However, there are risks over reliance on temporary</p>

	grant funding and its ability to meet demand within existing budgets and available grants.
1.21	<p>Schools</p> <p>Within the schools' line of the budget sits responsibility for the costs of providing free school meals to eligible pupils. The cost implications of recent decisions on the budget are currently being worked through and will be reported in the next monthly report. Recent decisions include the price of a meal increasing by £0.30 due to inflationary pressures from 2nd October, and funding free school meals during the Christmas holidays.</p>
1.22	<p>Harpur Trust vs Brazel Case</p> <p>The potential financial impacts are still being determined in response to the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) decision in the case of Harpur Trust v Brazel. The Supreme Court upheld the EAT judgment in the Brazel case in July 2022 which impacts on the calculation of holiday pay entitlements for staff who work for part of the year (i.e., term time). An approved carry forward from 2022/23 for £0.254m will provide some funding towards these costs.</p>
1.23	<p>Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies</p> <p>The 2023/24 budget contains £9.265m of specific efficiencies which are tracked and monitored throughout the year. The Council aims to achieve a 95% rate in 2023/24 as reflected in the MTFs KPI's and fully achieved all efficiencies in the previous financial year</p> <p>It is projected that 99% of efficiencies will be achieved in 2023/24 and further details can be seen in Appendix 3.</p>
1.24	<p>Unearmarked Reserves</p> <p>The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2023/24 was £9.508m as detailed in the 2022/23 outturn report (subject to Audit).</p> <p>The brought forward balance on the Hardship Reserve was £3.743m. Internal claims for Quarter 1 in 2023/24 totalling £0.139m for Holywell Leisure Centre and Cambrian Aquatics have been approved with some other claims across various services being compiled for consideration in Quarter 2. The current balance is £3.604m.</p> <p>A projected contingency reserve available balance as at 31 March, 2024 is £3.027m (after the estimated impact of final pay awards) and is shown in Appendix 4.</p>
1.25	<p>Earmarked Reserves</p> <p>A detailed review of earmarked reserves has been undertaken over the summer and an amount of £0.648m has been identified for release to the Contingency Reserve which will provide a much needed additional safeguard against some of the financial risks across the Council.</p>

The table below provides a summary of earmarked reserves as at 1 April 2023 and an estimate of projected balances as at the end of the current financial year.

Council Fund Earmarked Reserves 2023/24 – Monitoring Summary Month 5

Reserve Type	Balance as at 01/04/23	Balance as at Month 5	Release to General Reserve	Estimated Balance as at 31/03/24
Service Balances	6,184,486	4,345,293	274,703	1,335,223
Workforce Costs	843,190	843,190	0	819,971
Investment in Organisational Change	1,350,875	1,350,875	0	852,810
County Elections	74,777	74,777	0	74,777
Local Development Plan (LDP)	115,360	115,360	115,360	0
Warm Homes Admin Fee	315,985	315,985	0	315,985
Waste Disposal	48,771	48,771	8,133	40,638
Design Fees	250,000	250,000	0	125,000
Winter Maintenance	250,000	250,000	0	250,000
Severe Weather	250,000	250,000	0	119,550
Car Parking	88,059	88,059	0	88,059
Insurance Reserves	2,201,372	2,201,372	0	2,350,000
School HWB ICT Replacement	526,447	526,447	0	526,447
Free School Meals	30,398	30,398	0	0
Flintshire Trainees	562,948	562,948	0	524,000
Rent Income Shortfall	106,118	106,118	0	0
Plas Derwen Wave 4	3,560	3,560	0	1,780
Customer Service Strategy	22,468	7,468	0	0
Supervision Fees	48,798	48,798	0	48,798
IT COVID Enquiry	142,301	142,301	0	142,301
ICT Servers Reserve	170,000	170,000	0	0
IT Infrastructure HWB	312,442	194,442	0	0
Schools Intervention Reserve	705,836	316,127	0	316,127
Organisational Change/ADM	873,546	1,226,546	0	1,193,046
NWEAB	330,927	330,927	0	330,927
Solar Farms	62,416	62,416	0	62,416
20 MPH Scheme	111,186	111,186	0	0
Employment Claims	109,846	109,846	0	109,846
Community Benefit Fund				
NWRWTP	683,164	683,164	0	229,792
Total B823 Balances	10,590,790	10,421,081	123,493	8,522,270
Schools Balances	6,716,596	6,716,596	0	2,000,000
Grants & Contributions	6,899,323	4,740,964	250,000	2,900,664
TOTAL	30,391,195	26,223,934	648,196	14,758,157

1.26 **Housing Revenue Account**

	The 2022/23 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 18th July 2023 showed an un-earmarked closing balance at the end of 2022/23 of £3.786m and a closing balance of earmarked reserves of £2.690m.
1.27	The 2023/24 budget for the HRA is £39.418m which includes a movement of (£0.589m) from reserves.
1.28	Net in-year revenue expenditure forecast to be £0.006m higher than budget with a projected closing balance as at 31 st March, 2024 of £3.191m. This is an adverse movement of £0.071m since Month 4. A breakdown of the variance is in Appendix 5.
1.29	The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £12.712m.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As set out within the report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The financial impacts as set out in the report are a combination of actual costs and losses to date and estimates of costs and losses for the future. There is the possibility that the estimates will change over time. The budget will be monitored closely, and mitigation actions taken wherever possible.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None specific.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Council Fund – Movement in Variances from Month 4 Appendix 2: Council Fund - Budget Variances Appendix 3: Council Fund – Programme of Efficiencies Appendix 4: Council Fund – Movement on Un-earmarked Reserves Appendix 5: Housing Revenue Account Variances

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Various budget records.
7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Dave Ledsham Strategic Finance Manager

Telephone:	01352 704503
E-mail:	dave.ledsham@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Budget: a statement expressing the Council's policies and service levels in financial terms for a particular financial year. In its broadest sense it includes both the revenue budget and capital programme and any authorised amendments to them.</p> <p>Council Fund: the fund to which all the Council's revenue expenditure is charged.</p> <p>Financial Year: the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account: the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a local authority account showing current income and expenditure on housing services related to its own housing stock. The account is separate from the Council Fund and trading accounts and is funded primarily from rents and government subsidy.</p> <p>Projected Outturn: projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.</p> <p>Regional Integration Fund (RIF): funding provided by Welsh Government to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing.</p> <p>Reserves: these are balances in hand that have accumulated over previous years and are held for defined (earmarked reserves) and general (general reserves) purposes. Councils are required to regularly review the level and purpose of their reserves and to take account of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer.</p> <p>Revenue: a term used to describe the day-to-day costs of running Council services and income deriving from those services. It also includes charges for the repayment of debt, including interest, and may include direct financing of capital expenditure.</p> <p>Variance: difference between latest budget and actual income or expenditure. Can be to date if reflecting the current or most up to date position or projected, for example projected to the end of the month or financial year.</p> <p>Virement: the transfer of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virement decisions apply to both revenue and capital expenditure heads, and between expenditure and income, and may include transfers from contingency provisions. Virements may not however be approved between capital and revenue budget heads.</p>

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
Social Services		
Older People		
Localities	0.098	The variance is due to a block bed contract for residential care beds.
Minor Variances	0.029	
Adults of Working Age		
Children to Adult Transition Services	-0.103	There has been a reduction to the amount Flintshire pay towards a college placement.
Residential Placements	0.097	There was an increase due to increased placement costs for some service users.
Minor Variances	0.007	
Children's Services		
Family Placement	0.121	There have been an increase in therapist bills and two new adoption orders. A parent/child placement costs were transferred from the Legal and Third Party service
Legal & Third Party	-0.109	Costs for a parent/child placement were transferred to the Family Placement service
Minor Variances	0.040	
Safeguarding & Commissioning		
Minor Variances	0.019	
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	0.199	
Out of County		
Children's Services	0.036	Net impact of new placements, ended placements and rate changes
Education & Youth	0.041	Net impact of new placements, ended placements and rate changes
Total Out of County	0.077	
Education & Youth		
Minor Variances	0.005	
Total Education & Youth	0.005	
Schools	-0.000	
Streetscene & Transportation		
Service Delivery	-0.084	Performance of the commercial in-house team delivering traffic schemes more cost effectively
Highways Network	0.626	£0.532m Fleet Contract renewal, £0.090m increases in costs in both fuel and streetlighting energy, together with increased insurance premiums.
Transportation	-0.029	Local Bus Management Fee
Regulatory Services	0.032	Reduced income due to unfavourable market prices for recycling.
Total Streetscene & Transportation	0.545	
Planning, Environment & Economy		
Shared Services	0.036	Revised outturn on fee income shortfall
Management & Strategy	0.046	Successful recruitment to a vacant post
Minor Variances	-0.034	
Total Planning & Environment	0.048	
People & Resources		
HR & OD	0.005	
Corporate Finance	-0.031	Savings from Vacant Posts
Total People & Resources	-0.026	
Governance		
Minor Variances	0.027	
Total Governance	0.027	
Assets		
Minor Variances	0.000	
Total Assets	0.000	
Housing and Community		
Housing Solutions	0.356	The increase in projected overspend is mainly due to the projected cost of emergency accommodation for the remainder of the year being at a higher average rate per night than in the year to date. This is following recent discussions with a number of the main providers who are increasing their rates for the rooms including those which will be block booked for the second half of the year. There is also a lesser impact of a reduction in the projected amount of additional housing benefit income above budget
Minor Variances	0.021	
Total Housing and Community	0.376	
Chief Executive's	-0.007	
Central & Corporate Finance	-0.228	Further benefit from not taking out any new short or long term borrowing and continuing to invest a significant amount of funds.
Grand Total	1.016	

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Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services							
Older People							
Localities	23.196	22.553	-0.643	-0.741		The older people residential care budget is projecting an underspend of £0.422m, due to client income from property recharges and expected reimbursements where we are waiting decisions for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.233m underspent caused by continued recruitment challenges to the care sector. Locality staffing and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.039m, the reason for this is increased legal costs and service level agreement costs. Day care is underspending by £0.027m. A £0.400m budget transfer is also reflected in the overall variance.	
Resources & Regulated Services	9.494	9.592	0.099	0.077		In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.272m due to staff and running costs, the in-house homecare service is estimated to underspend by £0.173m. The Extra Care budget is overspent by £0.094m due to staff costs and Day Care is underspent by £0.055m.	
Minor Variances	1.731	1.728	-0.003	-0.011			
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	33.469	33.315	-0.154	-0.173		The PDSI (Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired) budget is reporting a £0.256m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living Service is £0.118m overspent due to care hours and agency costs, a £0.350m contribution from reserves is offsetting further costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability services is £0.477m underspent. The learning disability day provision budget is £0.060m underspent.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	1.001	0.935	-0.066	0.037		This is the cost of care packages for young adults transferring from Childrens Services to Adult Social Care. Care packages are usually new to this financial year and often estimated in the first instance, meaning costs can change throughout the year as service costs are finalised	
Residential Placements	2.607	3.291	0.684	0.588		This is the overall cost of care packages for service users with mental ill health. This can be a volatile service and additional services can be identified during the year leading to increased costs.	
Minor Variances	3.617	3.554	-0.063	-0.052			
Children's Services							
Family Group Meetings	0.122	0.174	0.053	0.050		Demand for this service is resulting in increased sessional worker hours	
Family Placement	3.175	3.027	-0.148	-0.270		The underspend is due to the number of in-house Foster Carers within the service being less than the number which we have historically had.	
Integrated Working	0.206	0.265	0.059	0.059		Cost pressures are due to contributions towards the Integrated Family Support Service and a shortfall from Supporting People Funding.	
Legal & Third Party	0.262	0.540	0.278	0.387		Legal costs are overspent by £0.139m due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external professionals. Client support and Section 17 costs are overspent by £0.119m. Direct Payments are overspending by £0.020m due to demand.	
Residential Placements	1.595	1.197	-0.398	-0.414		The in-house residential care provision continues to expand with an additional group home planned to open this financial year. Some in-year costs for the service are being offset by a significant Welsh Government grant. The grant has been confirmed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but is not expected to be extended beyond this time.	

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Professional Support	5.824	6.646	0.821	0.813		To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges and demands of the service, the resulting overspend from such arrangements is £0.156m Two managed agency teams are currently being contacted to support the service, reserves are being used to mitigate most of the costs but there is an overspend of £0.428m as a result, costs may change if there is a requirement to extend the contracts further. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who were Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.134m due to increasing numbers of care leavers The cost of some external service contracts are £0.102m overspent due to inflationary pressures	
Minor Variances	0.694	0.720	0.026	0.012			
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.937	1.015	0.078	0.060		A new social service IT system is being implemented which requires additional project management and development costs	
Charging Policy income	-3.309	-3.452	-0.143	-0.138		This is the income from service users who are charged a contribution towards the care they receive	
Minor Variances	2.201	2.234	0.033	0.027			
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	86.821	87.333	0.512	0.313	0.000		
Out of County							
Children's Services	12.281	13.092	0.811	0.775		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 21 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
Education & Youth	5.004	5.271	0.267	0.226		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 17 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
Total Out of County	17.285	18.363	1.078	1.001	0.000		
Education & Youth							
Inclusion & Progression	5.377	5.350	-0.027	-0.023			
Integrated Youth Provision	0.947	0.888	-0.059	-0.070		Mainly due to vacancy savings	
Youth Justice	0.311	0.305	-0.006	-0.015			
School Improvement Systems	1.836	1.753	-0.084	-0.080		There has been a projected reduction in the Early Entitlement service in payments to settings due to demography. Top-up subsidy continuing and other Welsh Government grants, allowing core budget to be released within the service. There is also a reported £0.022m underspend within the School Improvement service. This is an underspend on the £0.028m pressure for the Digital Advisor post. The role has been appointed to, but is not starting until September 2023, creating a saving against the additional budget received.	
Business Change & Support	0.454	0.523	0.069	0.069		Overspend in the main relates to the cost of the annual Access System Licence fee £0.040m minor variances account for the remainder	
School Planning & Provision	0.626	0.614	-0.012	-0.003			
Archives	0.351	0.404	0.053	0.053		Overspend is due to increased recharge from Denbighshire CC towards costs of shared service	
Holding Accounts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Minor Variances	6.314	6.269	-0.045	-0.041			

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Total Education & Youth	9.902	9.837	-0.065	-0.070	0.000		
Schools	114.081	114.081	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	9.808	10.105	0.297	0.381		A variance of £0.190m relates to Alltami Depot costs. The overspend is a combination of cleaning price increases from Newydd, security (new tender costs increased) and repair and maintenance costs. An additional £0.190m is mainly due to highway network repairs backlog over the last 6 months resulting in increased costs within 2023/24. The overall overspend is partly offset by the performance of the in-house construction team delivering traffic related schemes more cost effectively rather than contracting the work externally.	
Highways Network	8.514	9.224	0.710	0.084		The renewal of the fleet contract through contract extension from October 2023 has realised an in-year overspend of £0.532m. The remaining variance of £0.170m is attributable to increases in costs to both road fuel and streetlighting energy, increased insurance premiums, and defective highway network infrastructure repairs.	Further year increases on the Fleet Contract are being considered within the MTFS and 2024/25 budget.
Transportation	11.118	11.094	-0.025	0.004			
Regulatory Services	11.305	11.504	0.199	0.167		The overspend variance is due to sustained high volumes of residual black waste being collected, together with the reduction in income levels for both recyclable materials and a reducing return on electricity generation from gas and solar at the former landfill sites.	
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004			
Total Streetscene & Transportation	40.745	41.927	1.181	0.637	0.000		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Business	2.047	2.062	0.016	0.014			
Community	0.943	0.942	-0.001	-0.008			
Development	0.024	-0.285	-0.308	-0.290		Receipt of a one-off high value Planning Fee (£0.300m for Northern Gateway)	
Access	1.544	1.687	0.142	0.145		Variance relates to estimated costs for Ash Die Back works	
Climate Change	0.165	0.102	-0.062	-0.063		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Shared Services	0.135	0.183	0.048	0.011			
Regeneration	0.846	0.796	-0.050	-0.028			
Management & Strategy	1.354	1.134	-0.220	-0.266		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Minor Variances	3.971	3.983	0.013	-0.010			
Total Planning & Environment	7.057	6.622	-0.435	-0.484	0.000		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.239	2.192	-0.048	-0.053		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Corporate Finance	2.082	2.063	-0.019	0.012			
Holding Accounts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Total People & Resources	4.321	4.254	-0.067	-0.041	0.000		
Governance							
Legal Services	0.942	1.142	0.200	0.178		Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	
Democratic Services	2.411	2.480	0.069	0.067		Backdated Superannuation costs and current level of Members Allowances	

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Internal Audit	1.013	1.026	0.012	0.013			
Procurement	0.320	0.298	-0.022	-0.022			
ICT	5.168	5.232	0.064	0.050		In year pressure following the delay in Agile Apps Project requiring additional funding	
Customer Services	1.040	0.912	-0.128	-0.129		Staff savings from vacant posts and higher than anticipated fee income levels	
Revenues	0.566	0.372	-0.194	-0.183		Projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Minor Variances	1.333	1.324	-0.010	-0.009			
Total Governance	11.460	11.463	0.002	-0.025	0.000		
Assets							
CPM & Design Services	0.674	0.581	-0.093	-0.087		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Minor Variances	-0.674	10.336	11.010	0.087			
Total Assets	11.045	10.917	-0.128	-0.128	0.000		
Housing and Community							
Benefits	13.211	13.211	-0.000	-0.000			
Housing Solutions	2.232	4.996	2.763	2.407		The Housing Solutions service is currently reflecting a net projected overspend of £2.763m. This is mainly due to a projected overspend of £3.635m on temporary accommodation within Hotels and B and B provision, which is being offset by additional Housing Benefit income of -£0.465m. There are also other projected underspends and mitigation impacts within the wider Housing Solutions service amounting to a net figure of £0.407m, including use of reserves, minor salary savings due to vacancies and use of WG grant income. The service are actively exploring a number of mitigation measures, some of which may have operational impacts on other parts of the wider Housing service, which when approved will be incorporated within an action plan to reduce the current level of projected overspend within the Homelessness service.	
Housing Programmes	0.052	0.056	0.004	-0.004			
Travellers and Refugees	0.034	0.038	0.004	0.000			
Council Fund Housing	0.169	0.179	0.010	0.002			
Minor Variances	13.466	13.484	0.018	-0.002			
Total Housing and Community	15.698	18.480	2.782	2.405	0.000		
Chief Executive's	1.608	1.607	-0.001	0.006	0.000		
Central & Corporate Finance	32.096	30.898	-1.198	-0.970		The projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) at Month 4 was an underspend of (£1m) which has further increased by £0.250m at Month 5 where the Council has not taken out any new short or long term borrowing and continues to invest a significant amount of funds. This pattern has continued from the previous financial year resulting in no short term borrowing costs being incurred and the Council generating increased income from investments, which have increased in line with bank interest rates.	
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Grand Total	352.121	355.781	3.660	2.644	0.000		

2023/24 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - Month 4

Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
Portfolio		2023/24 £m	2023/24 £m	2023/24 £m			
Corporate							
Reduction In CLIA	Chris Taylor	0.364	0.364	0.000	C		
Actuarial Review	Gary Ferguson	1.874	1.874	(0.000)	C		
NI Reversal	Rachel Parry Jones	0.474	0.474	0.000	C		
Total Corporate Services		2.712	2.712	(0.000)			
Chief Executives / Assets							
Transport Savings	Neal Cockerton	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Vacancy Savings	Neal Cockerton	0.048	0.048	0.000	C		
3rd Sector Budget	Neal Cockerton	0.041	0.041	0.000			
Total Chief Executives		0.099	0.099	0.000			
People & Resources							
Modern Apprentices HR&OD	Sharon Carney	0.072	0.072	0.000	C		
Vacancy Savings Corporate Finance	Gary Ferguson	0.086	0.086	0.000	C		
Transport and Training Savings Corporate Finance	Gary Ferguson	0.016	0.016	0.000	C		
Total People & Resources		0.174	0.174	0.000			
Assets - ADMs							
Newydd	Rachael Corbelli	0.019	0.019	0.000	C		
Newydd NI	Rachael Corbelli	0.023	0.023	0.000	C		
Total Assets - ADMs		0.042	0.042	0.000			
Housing & Communities							
CTRS Reduction	Vicky Clark	0.147	0.147	0.000	C		
Total Housing & Communities		0.147	0.147	0.000			
Governance							
Members Support Budget	Gareth Owen	0.016	0.016	0.000	C		
Members Allowances	Gareth Owen	0.060	0.060	0.000	C		
Central Despatch	Gareth Owen	0.022	0.022	0.000	C		
Mold & Buckley Connects	Gareth Owen	0.060	0.060	0.000	C		
Total Governance		0.158	0.158	0.000			
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Vacancy Savings	Andrew Farrow	0.020	0.020	0.000	C		
Fee Income	Andrew Farrow	0.180	0.180	0.000	C		
Total Planning, Environment & Economy		0.200	0.200	0.000			
Streetscene & Transportation							
Enhanced Enforcement for Recycling	Katie Wilby	0.046	0.046	0.000	O	Side waste enforcement is already taking place with FPNs being issued, but the next steps for enforcing against those who do not habitually recycle will be to take enforcement action if residents place recyclable waste in their black bin. To introduce this will first require a period of education and engagement. Additional x3 recycling officers are currently being recruited and, once appointed, the aim is for these officers to support with door-knocking campaigns and community events in advance of introducing enhanced enforcement	Likely introduction is January 2024.
Part night Street Lighting	Katie Wilby	0.018	0.000	(0.018)	O	Difficult to implement in year due to the consultation required, and the limited opportunity following previous roll-outs. This will also require investment in the equipment to allow the switch-offs	Discussions being held with an update to come how we can achieve this saving.
Review Provision of Public Conveniences	Katie Wilby	0.012	0.000	(0.012)	O	The efficiency is largely reliant on the review of sites following the implementation of the Local Toilet Strategy and capital investment in FY 24/25-26/27.	
Extend, Repair & Reuse Initiatives	Katie Wilby	0.010	0.000	(0.010)	O	When this was put forward, we stated that the initiative would be dependent on investment funding either from WG Circular Economy grant funding or capital programme. We are still awaiting the outcome of our bid to WG, which is now unlikely given the current economic climate. Without the grant funding the initiative cannot be introduced and the efficiency will not be met.	
Waste & Recycling Round Review	Katie Wilby	0.075	0.075	0.000	C		
In House Highways Service	Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	C		
Review of Security Arrangements Alltami Depot	Katie Wilby	0.050	0.050	0.000	C		
Apprenticeship Trainee Scheme Reduction	Katie Wilby	0.035	0.035	0.000	C		

Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red	
		2023/24 £m	2023/24 £m	2023/24 £m				
Portfolio								
Increase Car Parking Charges	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.187	0.187	0.000	C	Decision approved and new charges will come into effect from October 2023 (original date planned was July 2023). Additional initiatives e.g. Free after Three and extension to parking times will mean that the original efficiency will be difficult to achieve unless the utilisation levels increase beyond current levels. Delays in being implemented.	
Introduce Car Parking Charges on all Council Owned Car Parks	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.035	0.000	(0.035)	O		
Fleet Workshop	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Training Facility	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Funeral Services	Income Generation	Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	C		
Total Streetscene & Transportation			0.523	0.448	(0.075)			
Social Services								
Contribution to Regional Team	Reduction in Contribution	Neil Ayling	0.050	0.050	0.000	C		
Reduced Contribution to EDT	Contract Costs Reduced	Neil Ayling	0.011	0.011	0.000	C		
Retendering of HFT	Contract Costs Reduced	Neil Ayling	0.040	0.040	0.000	C		
Total Social Services			0.101	0.101	0.000			
Education & Youth								
Central Management Budget	Vacant Post	Claire Homard	0.060	0.060	0.000	O		
ALN Advocacy	Offset costs from LAEG ALN Grant	Claire Homard	0.020	0.020	0.000	O		
ALN Legal	Offset costs from LAEG ALN Grant	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O		
ALN Resource Provisions	Offset costs from LAEG ALN Grant	Claire Homard	0.100	0.100	0.000	O		
Early Years Entitlement	Budget Reductions	Claire Homard	0.095	0.095	0.000	O		
Youth Club Buildings	Building Closure	Claire Homard	0.017	0.017	0.000	O		
Youth Services	Vacant Posts (1 FTE 1 PT)	Claire Homard	0.056	0.056	0.000	O		
Youth Justice	Offset costs from Grant	Claire Homard	0.016	0.016	0.000	O		
Total Education & Youth			0.374	0.374	0.000			
Schools								
3% Reduction in Delegated Funding		Claire Homard	3.103	3.103	0.000	O		
NI Reversal (Schools & Teachers)		Claire Homard	0.857	0.857	0.000	O		
Actuarial Review		Claire Homard	0.776	0.776	0.000	O		
Total Schools			4.736	4.736	0.000			
Total 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies			9.265	9.190	(0.075)			

	%	£
Total 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies	100	9.265
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	-1	(0.075)
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	99	9.190
Total 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions)		
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	100	0.000
Total Projected 2023/24 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	0	0.000

Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves

	£m	£m
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2023	19.162	
Less - Base Level	(5.769)	
Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet		13.393
Less - COVID-19 Hardship Funding Allocation		3.743
Less - Children's Services Legal Costs		0.142
Add - Transfer to Reserve Budget 2023/24		0.006
Less - Clwyd Theatr Cymru (Month 2)		0.100
Less - estimated impact of the pay award		2.727
Less - Month 5 projected outturn		3.660
Total Contingency Reserve available for use		3.027

Brought Forward 9.508

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Budget Monitoring Report
Housing Revenue Account Variances

MONTH 5 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Housing Revenue Account						
Income	(38.829)	(38.545)	0.284	0.352	There is a net pressure relating to void properties of £0.270m. This relates to costs such as void rent loss, council tax charges and service charges and is net of additional income relating to new build properties and voids moving to target rent. We are anticipating a variance of approximately £0.022m on garage rents. Other minor variances of (£0.008m).	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	7.010	7.010				
Estate Management	3.125	2.871	(0.254)	(0.234)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.249m) which is being offset by agency costs of £0.118m. Additional allocation of Housing Support Grant (£0.120m). Other minor variances of (£0.003m).	
Landlord Service Costs	1.617	1.553	(0.064)	(0.072)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.130m). We are also forecasting an increase in fleet costs of £0.028m and materials and hire of £0.051m. Other minor variances of (£0.013m).	
Repairs & Maintenance	12.150	12.194	0.044	(0.083)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.114m). Other minor variances of £0.033m. Increased Fleet Contract renewal costs of £0.126m.	
Management & Support Services	2.678	2.672	(0.006)	(0.028)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.053m). Insurance Costs £0.021m. Other minor variances of £0.026m.	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	12.712	12.712				
HRA Projects	0.126	0.129	0.003	(0.000)		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	(0.589)	(0.589)				
Total Housing Revenue Account	(0.000)	0.006	0.006	(0.065)		

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CABINET	
Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17th October 2023
Report Subject	Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection & Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Economy and Environment) Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are an intervention to prevent individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. They are part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Councils may make a PSPO after consultation with the Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and appropriate community representatives. They can be enforced by Council Officers, Police Officers or Police Community Support Officers if they are designated.

PSPOs can last for a maximum of three years before a review is required.

Active from 19th October 2017, Cabinet approved the making of a dog control Public Space Protection Order following a period of consultation and other requirements under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The PSPO requires dog owners to:

1. Remove their dogs' waste from all public places within Flintshire,
2. Have a means on their person to pick up dog waste,
3. Place their dog on a lead when asked by an authorised officer, if the dog was causing a nuisance.
4. Prohibit dogs from entering the playing areas of public marked sports pitches, formal recreation areas including but not exclusively bowling greens and tennis courts, fenced equipped children's play areas and all areas within school grounds,
5. Keep their dog on a lead in cemeteries.

Under provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Behaviour Act 2014, Flintshire's Alcohol Designated Public Place Order transitioned into a Public Space Protection Order on the same date. This order allows Police Officers the power to

ask members of the public to surrender alcohol if a member of the public is believed to be causing a nuisance in a public place. This is not a total alcohol ban in public areas, and is not applicable to licensed premises, but encouragement of sensible drinking.

Both Orders were renewed in 2020 and are now up for review and renewal or they will expire on 29th October 2023.

Any local authority that made a PSPO may extend the period for which it has effect if it is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that doing so is necessary to prevent an occurrence or recurrence of the activities identified in the order, or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities, after that time.

In addition to this, the Council has been approached by both Mold Town Council and Connah's Quay and District Angling Club to request that variations are made to the Dog Control PSPO to exclude dogs from Mold Memorial Gardens, Maes Bodlonfa, Mold and Rosie Waters, Wepre Park, Connah's Quay.

Consultation on the current prohibitions and the proposed variations took place in accordance with legal requirements for 6 weeks between June 5th and 14th July 2023. In total 881 responses were received. There was strong support to renew both PSPOs, as is detailed in section 2 of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | <p>Cabinet approves the extension of a Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to cover dog control and alcohol control in Flintshire, as outlined below:</p> <p>The dog control PSPO will require a person in charge of a dog to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Remove their dogs' waste from all public places within Flintshire.(ii) Prohibit taking, or permitting the dog to enter or remain in(iii) All areas within school grounds,<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The playing areas of marked sports pitches- The playing areas of formal recreational areas including but not exclusively bowling greens and tennis courts- Fenced enclosed children's play areas.- The fenced footpath around The Rosie, Wepre Park, Connah's Quay as marked on Map 1 (Appendix 3)- Mold Memorial Park, Maes Bodlonfa, Mold as marked on Map 2 (Appendix 4)(iv) Keep their dogs on a lead within a cemetery.(v) Have appropriate means on their person, at all times, to pick up their dogs' waste from all public places in Flintshire. |
|----|---|

	<p>(vi) Put their dog on a lead, when directed by an authorised officer, if the dog is loose and causing a nuisance or annoyance to any other person, bird or animal.</p> <p>The alcohol control PSPO will impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements in public spaces in Flintshire, at all times:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Any person who, without reasonable excuse, continues drinking intoxicating liquor in a public area within the Restricted Area when asked to stop by an authorised officer, commits an offence. ii. Any person who whilst in a public area within the Restricted Area, without reasonable excuse, fails to surrender any intoxicating liquor in their possession when asked to do so by an authorised officer, commits an offence. iii. An authorised officer who imposes a requirement under Article 4(a) and/or 4(b) must tell the person that failing, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the prohibition and/or requirement is an offence.
2.	<p>Subject to final Cabinet determination, the agreed Public Space Protection Orders covering dog control and alcohol control commence on 29th October 2023 following a notice period and publicity of the upcoming order.</p>

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSALS
1.01	<p>PSPOs are designed to stop individuals or groups committing Anti-social behaviour in a public place. PSPOs may not be made for a period of more than three years but can be extended or varied if legal requirements are met.</p>
1.02	<p>A constable or authorised person of the Council may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice of £75 to anyone he or she believes to be guilty of an offence, which would be required to be paid within 14 days. Failure to do so may lead to a fine on summary conviction not exceeding level 3 (currently £1000) on the standard scale.</p>
1.02	<p>Flintshire currently has two PSPOs in place covering dog control and alcohol control. They have the same restrictions as those we have consulted on but in the case of the Dog Control PSPO we have consulted on added restrictions in Mold and Connah's Quay. We are seeking to extend these PSPO's for the current maximum period of 3 years to October 2026.</p>
1.03	<p>The consultation on the PSPO prohibitions was conducted between 5th June and 14th July 2023. Information regarding the consultation and how to take part was sent to each County Councillor, Town & Community Council, Head Teacher, Bowling club secretary, North Wales Police, The Police and Crime Commissioner and dog representative groups.</p>

	<p>A press release explaining the proposals and how the public could take part was also released in print and online. The consultations were undertaken via an online survey which included maps of potentially affected areas, a frequently asked questions and answers documents. Printed copies of the documents were also made available from all Flintshire Connects offices.</p>
<p>2.00</p>	<p>CONSULTATION RESULTS</p>
<p>2.01</p>	<p>The results of the consultation on the proposed PSPOs were as follows. For the dog control PSPO there were 881 responses, 539 survey responses were online and 342 responses were paper response. 63% of responders were dog owners.</p> <p>There was strong support for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dog owners to be made to put their dogs on a lead, when requested by an authorised officer, ONLY if the dog is loose and causing a nuisance or annoyance to any other person bird or animal (98% agreed with the proposal). 2. That dog owners are to remove their dogs waste from public land (99% agreed with the proposal) 3. Dog owners to ensure they have on their person a means to collect dog waste at all times (99% agreed with the proposal) 4. That dogs are to be kept on a lead in Cemeteries (98% agreed with the proposal) 5. Dogs should be excluded from fenced, equipped children’s play areas (98% agreed with the proposal) 6. Dogs should be excluded from the playing areas of formal recreation areas (Bowling greens/tennis courts) (98% agreed with the proposal) 7. Dogs should be excluded from all areas within school grounds (96% agreed with the proposal) 8. Dogs should be excluded from within the boundary of Marked sports pitches (96% agreed with the proposal). 9. Dogs should be excluded from the footpath around The Rosie, Wepre Park, Connah’s Quay (75% agreed with the proposal) 10. If dogs were not excluded from the footpath around Rosie Pond, Wepre Park, Connah’s Quay they should be always kept on a lead whilst on that footpath (40% agreed with the proposal) 11. Dogs should be excluded from Mold Memorial Gardens, Maes Bodlonfa, Mold (61% agreed with the proposal)

	<p>12. If dogs were not excluded from Mold Memorial Gardens, Maes Bodlonfa, Mold they should be always kept on a lead whilst in the Memorial Gardens (43% agreed with the proposal)</p> <p>95% of respondents agreed that the above steps are proportionate to achieve the aim of controlling dog fouling in Flintshire?</p> <p>For the alcohol control PSPO there were 26 responses.</p> <p>There was strong support for FCC to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with the measures adopted in current alcohol Designated Public Space Order should continue under a Public Space Protection Order? (88%) <p>88% of respondents agreed that this is a proportionate action to help control alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour in Flintshire?</p>
2.02	<p>Consultees were not able to make further representations or comments on the survey, but we had 15 representations by email. These are attached as appendix 5 to this report. The common themes from these responses were the availability of access to open spaces for walking dogs and enforcement considerations.</p>
2.03	<p>The Animal Welfare Act 2006 states that owners of dogs are required to provide for the welfare needs of their animals and this includes providing the necessary amount of exercise each day. The Home Office guidance states Councils should be aware of the publicly accessible parks and other public places in their area which dog walkers can use to exercise their dogs without restrictions. Under the proposals for the extension of the dog control PSPO dogs would not be excluded from entering public playing fields in their entirety, only from within the marked boundary of marked sports pitches. There is a complete exclusion proposed for school grounds, Mold Memorial Gardens and parts of the path around The Rosie Pool, Wepre Park.</p>
2.04	<p>Members are advised of their duty to consider the Equality's Act. The Equality and Welsh Language Assessment completed has been reviewed following the public consultation (Summary included as Appendix 2). The assessment found some disabled people may be affected by the proposal. It is reasonable that some disabled people may not be able to pick up dog waste and that a reasonable approach to be taken for assistance dogs.</p>
2.05	<p>A report on this matter was also considered by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 12 September 2023. Members supported the renewal of the PSPOs in accordance with the recommendation to Cabinet.</p>

3.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
3.01	Budget – There will be costs associated with any signage for the new PSPOs in any areas where they may need to be displayed. These costs will be funded from current budgets.
3.02	Legal – Notice and publicity of the PSPO will need to be made prior to an Order being made.
3.03	Staffing – The dog control PSPO is already enforced by Streetscene and Transportation Enforcement staff, the alcohol control PSPO is enforced by North Wales Police.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	As required by the statutory guidance a public consultation has been undertaken. The final Orders will need to be publicised prior to final publication.

5.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
5.01	If the current Dog Control PSPO is not extended by 29th October 2023, the enforcement against owners that allow their dogs to foul in public areas would not be able to continue beyond this date. If the Alcohol Control PSPO is not extended enforcement against those who refuse to comply with a request to stop drinking alcohol in a public place will not be able to continue.

6.00	APPENDICES
6.01	Appendix 1 – ASB, C&P Act 2014 & FCC implementation process Appendix 2 – Summary of Equality Impact Assessment Appendix 3 – Map of Dog exclusion area around The Rosie, Wepre Park Appendix 4 – Map of Mold Memorial Gardens, Maes Bodlonfa, Mold Appendix 5- Written Representations

7.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
7.01	Contact Officer: Richard Powell Trading Standards Investigations & Community Safety Manager Telephone: 01352 703198

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p><u>Definition of Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)</u></p> <p>Councils can use PSPOs to prohibit specified activities, and/or require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities, within a defined public area. PSPOs differ from other tools introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as they are council-led, and rather than targeting specific individuals or properties, they focus on the identified problem behaviour in a specific location.</p> <p>The legislation provides for restrictions to be placed on behaviour that apply to everyone in that locality (with the possible use of exemptions). Breach of a PSPO without a reasonable excuse is an offence. Powers to create PSPOs came into force in October 2014.</p>

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Appendix 1:

The following is the section in law relating to Local Authorities duties with regard to consultation, publicity and notification before a Public Space Protection Order can be made. Also included is the process FCC officers followed to undertake the consultation.

Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Part 4 Chapter 2

Section 72: Convention Rights, consultation, publicity and notification

- (1) A local authority, in deciding—
- (a) whether to make a public spaces protection order (under section 59) and if so what it should include,
 - (b) whether to extend the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect (under section 60) and if so for how long,
 - (c) whether to vary a public spaces protection order (under section 61) and if so how, or
 - (d) whether to discharge a public spaces protection order (under section 61),
- must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the Convention.
- (2) In subsection [\(1\)](#) “Convention” has the meaning given by section 21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- (3) A local authority must carry out the necessary consultation and the necessary publicity, and the necessary notification (if any), before—
- (a) making a public spaces protection order,
 - (b) extending the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect, or
 - (c) varying or discharging a public spaces protection order.
- (4) In subsection [\(3\)](#)—
- “the necessary consultation” means consulting with—
- (a) the chief officer of police, and the local policing body, for the police area that includes the restricted area;
 - (b) whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult;
 - (c) the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area;
- “the necessary publicity” means—
- (a) in the case of a proposed order or variation, publishing the text of it;
 - (b) in the case of a proposed extension or discharge, publicising the proposal;

“the necessary notification” means notifying the following authorities of the proposed order, extension, variation or discharge—

- (a) the parish council or community council (if any) for the area that includes the restricted area;
 - (b) in the case of a public spaces protection order made or to be made by a district council in England, the county council (if any) for the area that includes the restricted area.
- (5) The requirement to consult with the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area—
- (a) does not apply to land that is owned and occupied by the local authority;
 - (b) applies only if, or to the extent that, it is reasonably practicable to consult the owner or occupier of the land.

FCC PSPO Stages

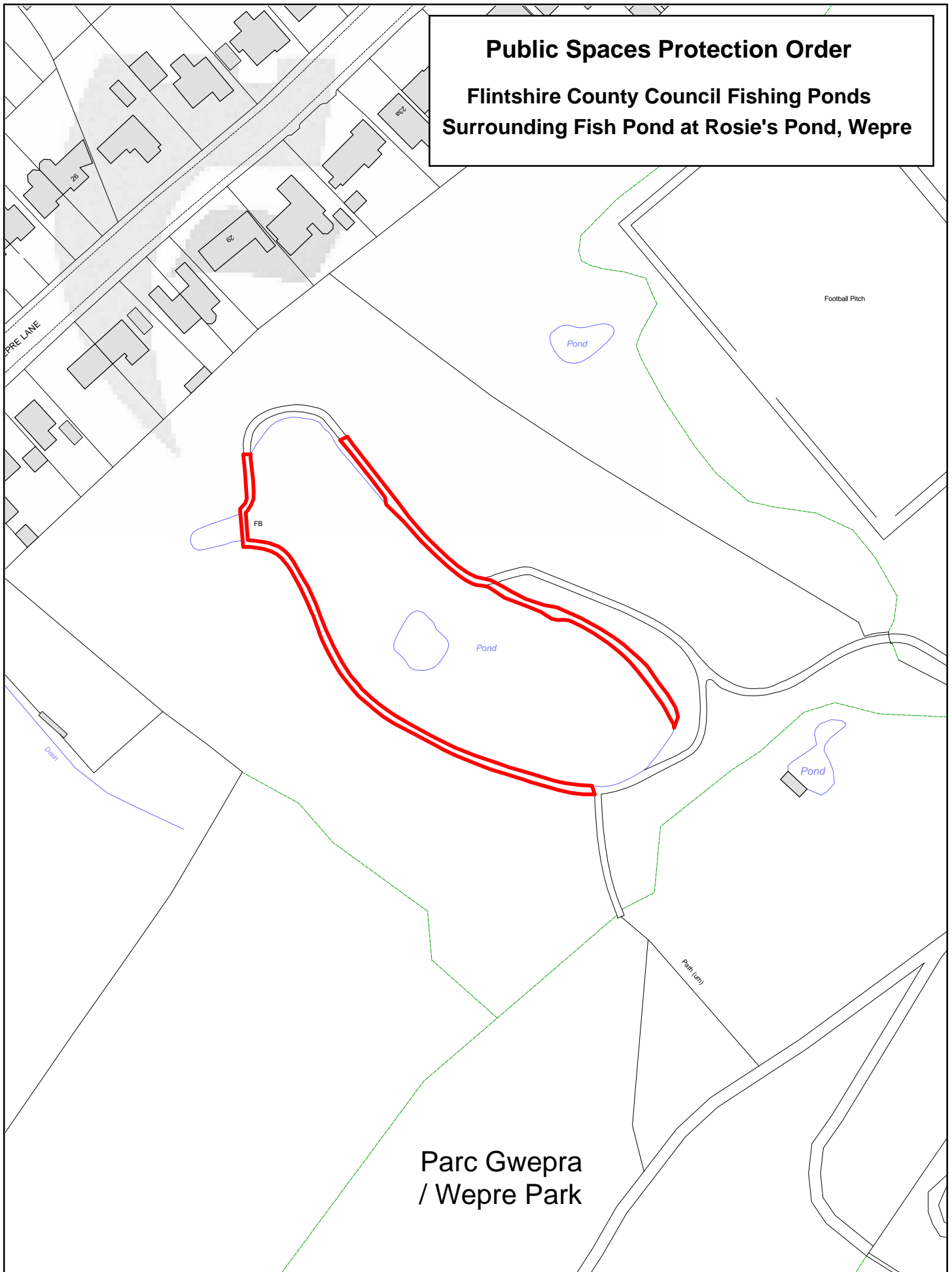
- (1) PSPO proposals agreed at cabinet subject to formal consultation – 11th April 2023
- (2) Consultation live from June 5th-July 14th 2023.
 - (i) The consultation on the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order went live on the home page of the FCC website which included a Frequently Asked Question document highlighting the proposals, maps of affected exclusion areas within the County and an online survey to complete.
 - (ii) Details of the consultation were released to the press including the proposals and how members of the public could take part and copies of documents left at each Flintshire Connects Office.
 - (iii) Letters informing of the consultation and how to take part sent to each Council Member, Town and Community Council, North Wales Police, The Police and Crime Commissioner, All primary and secondary school head teachers, bowling club secretaries, the Dogs Trust, Kennel Club and RSPCA.

Appendix 2 Summary of Equality Impact Assessment

	Positive impact Y/N	Negative impact Y/N	No impact Y/N	How is the group affected and what is the evidence?	How could you limit the negative impact	How can you promote positive impact
Age (<i>across the whole age spectrum</i>)	No Impact	Y	No Impact	There may be occasions where elderly persons with poor mobility may not be in a position to pick up their dogs faeces	Exemptions to be considered for appropriate groups within the schedules of the final order.	No Impact
Disability	No Impact	Y	No Impact	Wheelchair users may not be in a position to reach the ground pick up their dog faeces. Persons who require the use of assistance dogs may be discriminated against by not being to access certain areas.	Exemptions to be considered within the schedules of the final order.	It is reasonable to appreciate that some disabled people may not be able to pick up the waste and there is a reasonable approach taken for assistance guide dogs.
Gender Reassignment	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Marriage and civil partnership	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Pregnancy and maternity	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Race	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Religion / Belief	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact

Sex	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Sexual Orientation	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact
Welsh Language	Y	No Impact	No Impact	In line with statutory duties signage and literature surrounding the PSPO will need to be produced in both Welsh and English.	No Impact	Signs to be produced bilingually
Other (eg human rights, poverty, rurality)	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact	No Impact

Public Spaces Protection Order
Flintshire County Council Fishing Ponds
Surrounding Fish Pond at Rosie's Pond, Wepre



Parc Gwepra / Wepre Park



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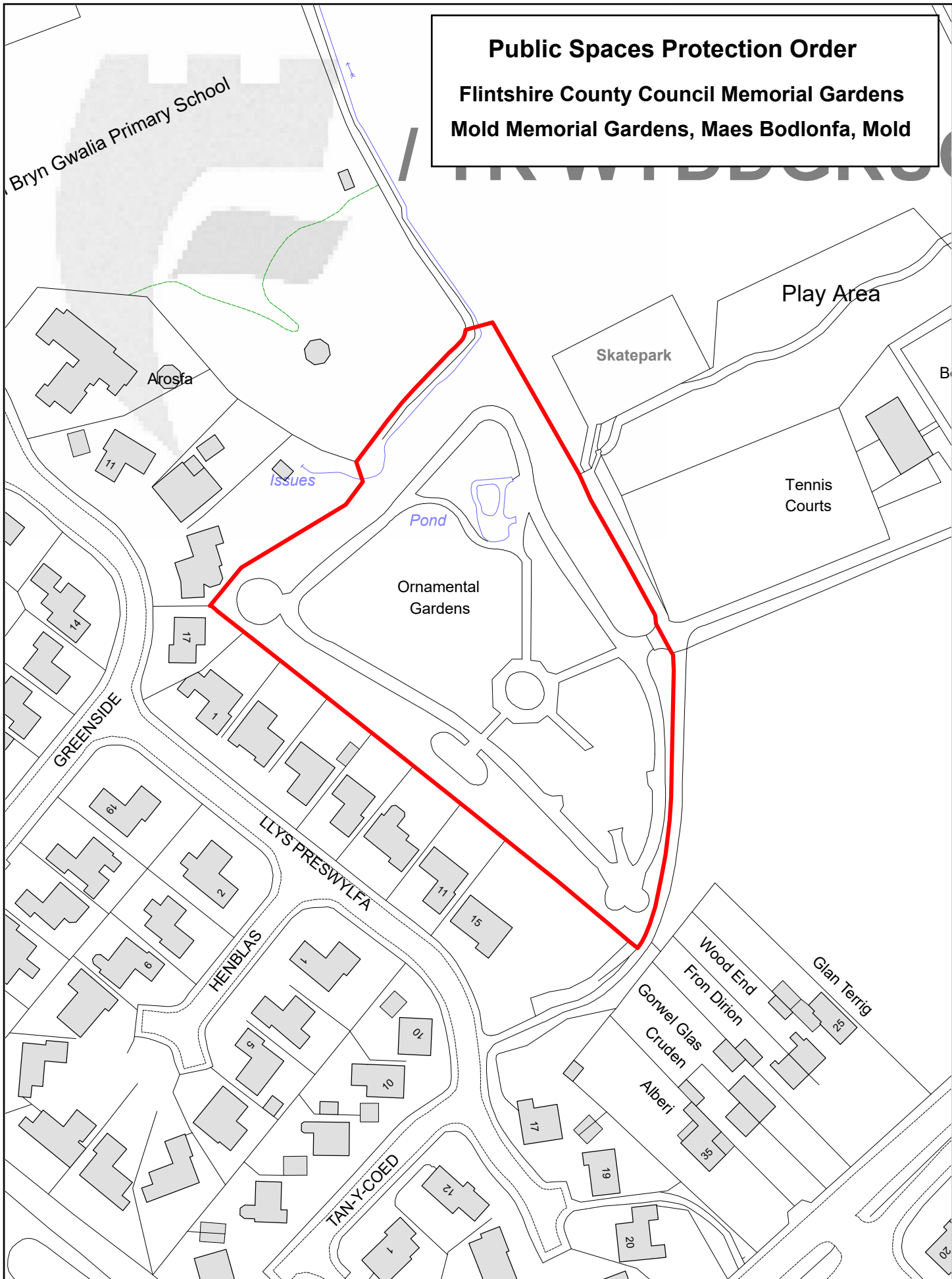
Planning, Environment & Economy
Flintshire County Council,
County Hall, Mold,
Flintshire, CH7 6JF.
Chief Officer: Mr Andrew Farrow

Scale 1:1250 @ A4
OS map SJ 2968
Produced 16/08/2023



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Public Spaces Protection Order
Flintshire County Council Memorial Gardens
Mold Memorial Gardens, Maes Bodlonfa, Mold



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Ref Number	Summary of Representation	Council's Response	Changes proposed to draft document
1	<p>The issue is that there has been a dog control order in place already, which is not a problem and is welcomed. The issue is that there is a tiny sign at the side of the angling club regarding the application for the amendment about keeping dogs on leads by the pond. Respondent believes that it is unlawful to make this amendment for a private members club as the sign says it is on behalf of the angling club.</p>	<p>There is nothing that stops a private members club requesting a PSPO. The PSPO must go through the correct Council procedures which in this case it has. Also the request came from the club to local County Councillors who requested that the Rosie be included in the PSPO and therefore the consultation \justification given by he Angling Club is public safety in relation dog fouling and safety of wildlife</p>	
2	<p>The form of words that you are using on the PSPO are wholly incorrect, you state you have applied for a PSPO amendment on the inner path however in the consultation document there is no distinction between the two paths. Should your amendments be granted it would be possible that a dog warden could enforce fixed penalties on a path which was not intended.</p>	<p>The Frequently Asked Questions that accompanies the consultation states: <i>'It is a requirement for local authorities to undertake consultation with interested or affected parties prior to the introduction of a new PSPO or when an existing PSPO needs to be renewed. Consultees are invited to share their views, and make representations, that will then be considered and reviewed prior to the implementation of a new or renewed PSPO.'</i></p>	

<p>3</p>	<p>I believe that timing this during a local election is outrageous as there are no local MPs to make representation in regard to this however I will expect my complaint is upheld and investigated properly.</p>	<p>Advice was sought from Legal and we received the advice below: <i>The by election is for the town council and it is not going to make a decision on whether to approve the PSPO. The by election is not at county level and to that extent we would expect to continue business as usual.</i></p> <p><i>Are we concerned that we might be proposing a policy that tends to support one candidate or another? No the consultation is neutral and is an open question about the areas of the whole county to be covered by the PSPO, not just the specific proposals for Wepre Park.</i></p> <p>The election took place on 22nd June which would still have allowed 3 weeks to raise issues with the newly elected Town Councillor.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Northop Hall Bowling and Tennis Club and as Secretary to the Club I can truthfully state that the Club would welcome such an order to control dogs in a recreational area.</p>		<p>Noted</p>

<p>5</p>	<p>Recently I came across a noticed pinned on the fence at Wepre Park requesting people's views on dogs being allowed to walk around the Rosie pond. I walk my dog in the park regular and in doing so often pass along the side of the Rosie like many others.</p> <p>I would like to state that I am a responsible dog owner. I always carry doggie poo bags, pick up and dispose of my dog's poo in the appropriate bins and also pick up dig poo other than my own dogs.</p> <p>I currently do not walk my dog around the pond but feel it is an injustice for me not to be able to do so esp while on a lead. The Rosie in my opinion should be available to all not just fishermen who many unfortunately appear to want exclusivity of the Rosie.</p> <p>I notice there are signs around the pond with a raised hand with large letters saying STOP!. I find that intimidating and totally unnecessary. It appears to suggest nobody but fishermen are allowed within the fenced area.</p> <p>On a slightly different note, but just as important I would like answers to the following, please.</p> <p>Why are there no signs about the conduct of fishermen with rules to adhere too round the Rosie esp in relation to conduct and H&S?</p>		<p>Noted – These issues will be raised with the Committee of the Angling Club and FCC</p>
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	<p>Why no signs instructing fishermen not to block the path around the pond with their fishing gear?</p> <p>I often see fishing poles and other fishing gear blocking the footpath around the pond?</p> <p>Why is this allowed to happen and what is the club's responsibility to ensure H&S for all?</p> <p>Should you care to visit most Saturday or Sunday afternoons you will find evidence of the footpath blocked by inconsiderate fishermen.</p> <p>Finally in my opinion I believe the Rosie should be available for all to enjoy not just a few selected few which it would appear the fishing club would like to enforce.</p> <p>Dogs on a lead pose no threat to anybody or anything and should be allowed to walk with owners around the pond.</p> <p>I would be happy to accompany one or more of your officers and walk around the Rosie to see for themselves.</p>		
6	<p>I write today regarding the proposed PSPO Wepre Park dog control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > I am 75 yrs have walked in the park since 1st March 1977. > I have 2 dogs these are number 7&8. To my knowledge I have cleaned up any mess they have made, along with the vast magority. > For it to be considered to catorgarise and 		<p>Noted- Will bring to the attention of the Angling Club and members of FCC Scrutiny Committee</p>

	<p>demonise all dog owners because of a few</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Is shameful on your behalf. > Please consider many many dog walkers are good people picking litter, volunteering > and doing things you do not see. > To ban all from the Rosie inner path is nothing other than pandering and pampering a few. i.e CQ AC . > Blaming it on dog mess is wrong this path is without doubt clean. > But I will add as a dog man who watches and understands their behaviour I NEVER allow my dogs off the lease in or around the Rosie the area is a toilet. > Anglers will not leave their equipment to visit the WC s instead use bushes or any cover available. I have found carrier bags with excrement in thrown into the public space. > I have witnessed and reported a Bailiffe throwing dead fish into the public space. > I incurred a £1300 vets bill when my dog ingested something that smelled of Aniseed > (Discarded ground bait I suspect). > These people (Anglers) are not without fault, and to ban all dog walkers is wrong. > The Rosie belongs to the Community and no one other. 		
7	<p>I am a dog owner and follow the proposal aims already, however, I also stand in dog muck at least once a week so whilst the rules are right, until someone enforces them and the culprits face the true consequences, it's all just wasted</p>		<p>Noted- Areas are patrolled based on intelligence received</p>

	<p>time. I've never in my life seen anyone ever patrolling Flint to inspect footpaths and dog owners so that sets the standard that it's okay to do...for those disrespecting people.</p>		
8	<p>I have been going to Maes Bodlonfa Park with dogs for 24 years. More and more restrictions have been brought in over time. My dog walking friends and I agree with the restrictions so far. We are responsible dog owners who always pick up after our beloved pets and use the very few bins provided to dispose of their poo. Our dogs are supervised and well behaved. We meet every morning in the Memorial Gardens and chat whilst keeping our eyes on our pets. We are all disabled in some way and need somewhere to sit down when required. We also pick up poo left by irresponsible dog owners! If the Council would only implement the powers they already have, things would be better for everyone. I see irresponsible dog walkers casually walking across marked pitch areas and even take dogs into the children's play area. Unfortunately, there are some people who feel rules are not made for them. If we're to be restricted to Kendricks Field with our pets, could it please be fully secured, especially at the bottom end on Ruthin Road. May we also have some seating, or some of us will be unable to use the park at all and will be effectively excluded.</p>		Noted

	<p>Dogs don't: Take drugs</p> <p>Drink alcohol</p> <p>Vandalise plants and shrubs</p> <p>Paint graffiti on the skatepark</p> <p>Cycle like a maniac round the Memorial Gardens</p> <p>Throw litter all over the entire park</p> <p>Unfortunately all the above antisocial behaviour occurs in the park on a regular basis.</p>		
9	<p>I am emailing you directly as the response the council wishes to provide does not conform to survey questions.</p> <p>At the council meeting last week, Cty Cllr Alasdair Ibbotson provided the members with the Enforcement Fines over the past 5 years: 2022/23 – 2 2021/22 – 0 2020/21 – 1 2019/20 – 42 2018/19 – 6</p> <p>The council wishes to submit and record a response to say that they would support the PSPO if enforcement was taken. Currently, given the figures for the past 5 years, enforcement in Flintshire does not hold any weight.</p>		Noted

9	<p>Hawarden Community Council have reviewed the Dog Control PSPO and request that the playing fields in Mancot and at Gladstone Playing fields be omitted from this Order please. (Gladstone was previously excluded).</p> <p>Kind regards Sharron</p> <p>Mrs Sharron Jones FSLCC, PGDBA, CiLCA, Cert HE Clerk and Financial Officer Hawarden Community Council Council Offices 113 The Highway HAWARDEN CH5 3DN</p>		Already not included in the Order
10	<p>Dear Mr Cockerton</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of a constituent, Mike Flynn, 80 Dee Road, Connah's Quay, who recently contacted me regarding the proposed amendments to the PSPO at Wepre Park, Connah's Quay.</p> <p>Mr Flynn informs me that he has raised his concerns with the County Council but there was no interest in correcting or amending the statements that have been put before the public.</p> <p>It would seem from my conversation with Mr Flynn that there is a discrepancy with regards to the actual footpaths in question that surround the Rosie pool in Wepre Park.</p>	See responses on representations 1-3	

	<p>The council have stated that it is a gated footpath they wish to restrict access to however in the application there is no mention to the gated area and also on the website it incorrectly shows the map of the applied area and title it “current map of PSPO sites” this in turn indicates to members of the public that legislation is to be enforced on this public right of way path.</p> <p>Mr Flynn also states that in the map of the PSPO application, the area that has been applied for is indeed the public footpath. He has however been told in a phone conversation with Richard Powell that this is a mistake yet there is not going to be any attempts to rectify this and should this amendment pass, it leaves members of the public at risk of being fined or taken to court for allowing their dogs off a lead on a public right of way footpath.</p> <p>It has also been raised that a private members club should not be seeking to deny the rights of members of the public from using a public right of way as identified on the ordnance survey maps. This leads to a further question of why your FCC mapping system which shows public rights of way does not align with the ordnance survey maps.</p> <p>I would ask that this matter is looked into and that any changes or amendments are clearly made and advertised to the public and if you could answer the issues raised above.</p>		
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	I look forward to hearing from you. Yours sincerely Mark Tami MP		
11	From Hope Community Council: <i>In principle the council supports the work of FCC but they need to install more enforcement signs and make people aware of enforcement. This is something the council have requested FCC to do some time ago for the Willows, however, this is still yet to be actioned. The council requests for part pitch markings on the Willows (one goal post) which would then exclude dogs from entering the playing area.</i>	Is this a marked sports pitch. Noted: A comment requesting a marked sports pitch has been passed to Street Scene	
12	From Holywell Town Council: Members feel dogs should be kept on leads at the following locations. There are examples in Holywell but this should be County wide – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street/Town Centres • Immediate Streets Outside Schools • Community Hospitals • Memorial Gardens 		Noted, but outside of this consultation
13	Following on from a recent Town Council meeting held on the 5 July 2023 in reference to the above, Councillors fully agree and support the extension of the current Dog control PSPO for another three years.		Has been addressed

	<p>Councillors did make comments concerning the questionnaire and how a certain question was misleading. 'Do you agree that dogs should be banned from the footpath around the Rosie, Wepre Park, Connah's Quay?'</p> <p>They agreed that this question should have been worded as 'the inner footpath' as people may not be aware of there being two footpaths and only the inner footpath is the one in question.</p> <p>Could you please note that Connah's Quay Town Council agree to the extension of the PSPO.</p> <p>If you require any further information do not hesitate to let me know.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Suzanne Wilson Town Clerk</p> <p>Connah's Quay Town Council</p>		
14	<p>I filled in your online form about dogs on leads control but I couldn't really leave any comments. I think it's unfair to ban completely, but I would like to stress that I have had several unpleasant experiences with dogs in the Mold Memorial Gardens. I've barely gone on a walk with my young children</p>		Noted

	<p>without them stepping in or finding dog poo. Many are off leads and in one case we had to witness an unleashed dog ragging and killing a squirrel whilst the owner swore at her dog and then me in front of my children (age 3 and under). So I really think some tighter restrictions are required. Thanks for reading. Laura.</p>		
<p>15</p>	<p>From the information currently available on the website I suspect an incorrect version of the draft Order has been displayed – the link from the website seems to relate to the 2020 Order, not the proposed Order, which I understand from press reports includes a “ban” on dogs in the memorial gardens Mold, and perhaps also at Wepre Park – I can find no reference to those sites on the draft Order.</p> <p>This may not be relevant to Buckley, but may be indicative of other inaccuracies – and would invalidate any survey responses.</p> <p>Also no email address or contact detail was given for any response other than via the very formalised and limited “on-line survey”.</p> <p>In relation to dogs on the Elfed path 22, the press has reported Mr Andrew Farrow as saying “signage is critical” , and that the public COULD walk a dog on the public path across school grounds (or a cemetery) if it were on a lead. If we could be satisfied this would be clearly conveyed by signage on ALL such public paths we would probably be able to withdraw our objection.</p>		<p>Signage stating dogs must be on a lead are already displayed at this Public Footpath</p>

	<p>I would suggest the easiest way of doing this is, in conjunction with your PROWay colleagues, would be to add a plate on each of the public path signs saying e.g. "Dogs must be on lead on this path" (in English and Welsh?).</p> <p>Part of the path at Elfed school is defined by tarmac, but part is over grass. Could I suggest the path line is marked by paint on the grass eg blue dash lines 2metres apart? (I have recently seen this done in Cornwall across a golf course).</p> <p>There is also a need for this situation to apply temporarily to any path route on school grounds to be used while building work is taking place on Within Cottage site, and the path is temporarily closed for safety reasons.</p> <p>This situation may also need to be assessed for any sites where public paths cross any other school sites, cemeteries, or football pitches/play areas (Offhand, I can think of Flint & Holywell cemetery, Hope recreation area, opposite school)</p> <p>I should be pleased if you would acknowledge receipt of this objection and confirm it will be taken into account.</p> <p>I have copied this email to Andrew Farrow, for information, since he was quoted in press reporting to a Ctte meeting in May. He was also involved in setting up a Consultation protocol with Ramblers for Planning applications, I hope a</p>		
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	<p>similar protocol can be set up for any other FCC Consultations affecting public paths.</p> <p>Howard White Chair Flintshire Footpaths Ctte Ramblers Cymru</p>		
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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th October 2023
Report Subject	Disabled Adaptations Policy
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing & Communities)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 places a mandatory duty on Local Authorities to provide disabled facilities grants (DFGs). The grant is available for adapting or providing facilities for a disabled person in a dwelling.

This report details the amendments to the policy that have been necessary to align adaptations for the private sector or with those for local authority council housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.00	Cabinet to support and approve the updated Disabled Adaptations policy which covers both private homes and council stock properties.
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REPORT DETAILS

EXPLAINING DISABLED ADAPTATIONS FOR PRIVATE AND HOUSING SECTOR	
1.01	Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 places a mandatory duty on Local Authorities to provide disabled facilities grants (DFGs). The grant is available for adapting or providing facilities for a disabled person in a dwelling.
PRIVATE SECTOR ADAPTATIONS	
1.02	A DFG is a capital grant which is utilised to help individuals living with a disability with financial support towards the cost of adapting their homes to enable them to continue living independently in their home.
1.03	The statutory limit for any DFG is set by the Welsh Assembly Government and is currently £36,000 per application within a five-year period. However, further applications can be made within this period if the customer's medical condition has changed. This case would then be reviewed with the Occupational Therapist upon application.
1.04	A DFG is available to owner occupiers, private tenants, and local authority tenants. For persons living in social housing with a registered social landlord, the tenant is required to request any adaptations directly with their landlord.
1.05	Where the application is for a child, or the applicant is in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, there is no means test and the cost of the adaptation up to the maximum grant will generally be awarded.
1.06	For other applications the amount of the grant will vary from zero to the maximum grant depending on the cost of the approved works and the financial circumstances of the applicant. A means test will be carried out to establish, based on the financial circumstances of the applicant, whether the applicant will be required to make a financial contribution to the adaptation costs.
1.07	The Welsh Government Housing Adaptations Service Standards (revised March 2021) provides all Local Authorities DFG teams with the guidance on the level of service expected including adaptation categories, timeframes, and performance measures to ensure consistency in approach. As such the applicant must own the property or be a tenant and intend to live at the address during the grant period (currently 10 years). In the case of private tenants, the landlord may apply for the grant if they have a tenant who is disabled.

1.08	<p>The council must satisfy itself that the work is necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the disabled person; that it is reasonable; and can be done – the age and condition of the property must also be considered.</p> <p>In order to do this, the property is assessed by a surveyor and an occupational therapist and appropriate considerations will determine the best option for the individual considering their needs and the most cost-effective solution.</p>
1.09	<p>The council must ensure that any adaptation works will provide the most effective long-term solution to meet the needs of the disabled person.</p>
1.10	<p>A Discretionary Grant is offered for all requests for medium sized adaptations, this part of the policy was created to meet the request of Welsh Government in the revised Housing Adaptations Service Standards. As this is a Discretionary Grant it will still be at the discretion of the Disabled Adaptations Manager to determine whether to means test a case or not particularly if the works are complex in nature resulting in a combination of medium adaptations which are comparable to the cost of large scale works around £20,000 or above.</p>
1.11	<p>There may be instances where the disabled person’s existing home is not suitable for adaptation, and with the agreement of all parties, the council may decide to assist the household to move into more suitable accommodation.</p> <p>For owner occupiers and private tenants, the Council can offer a Relocation Grant up to the value of £20,000 to assist with the moving and legal costs. This can be considered even if the alternative accommodation needs some minor adaptations to make it fully suitable.</p>
	<p>LOCAL AUTHORITY SECTOR ADAPTATIONS</p>
1.12	<p>Adaptations for Local Authority Housing sector follow the same legislation and Welsh Government Standards as the Disabled Facilities Grant. However, there are some differences as the adaptations are paid using the Housing Revenue Account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The eligibility criteria are slightly different. • The contract holder does not have to make an application they just need to be assessed by an Occupational Therapist. • There is not a means test for contract holders. • There are no financial limitations to the works. • As a responsible Council it’s important to make best use of housing stock and the budget available. Therefore, the policy provides full details on what is considered when deciding whether to approve the adaptations, there are other factors considered unlike when approving a DFG.
	<p>PERFORMANCE</p>
1.13	<p>The following table shows the numbers of medium and large adaptations for the Private Sector:</p>

	Number Completed	Days to deliver (average) Target 238
2021/22	90	278
2022/23	123	144
2023/24 (To 31/07/23)	40	168

Please see below a review of each year to explain the increases and decreases in the figures above;

2021/22 – All jobs had restarted and are now either completed or have commenced. However, due to the Covid delay and some jobs being outstanding prior to the pandemic, there has been an adverse impact on the average number of days to complete the work. There was also an issue whereby many of our contractors were extremely busy after Covid19 and therefore we had a number of jobs with delayed start dates.

2022/23 – The small number of legacy cases that had been outstanding had been completed within this financial year apart from two cases. This meant that stats for delivery should now be providing a truer picture of performance.

2023/24 – The two large legacy cases have now been completed; however, they will have impacted on the days to deliver, but hopefully the current large adaptations which are on time may help the stats by the end of the financial year.

1.14 Care and Repair currently deliver all of the small adaptations for the private sector. Please see below information on the number completed.

	Number Completed	Days to deliver (average) Target 21
2022/23	987	8
2023/24	328	8

1.15 The following table shows the numbers of adaptations for the Local Authority Sector:

	Small	Medium	Large
2022/23	531	137	2
2023/24 (To 31/07/23)	136	37	0

In addition to aligning the policy we are also aligning the performance reporting to meet Welsh Government standards.

2.00 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.01 See below chart for spend to date (31/07/23) and the projected costs.

General Fund (Capital)		Budget	Spend to 31/7/23	Projected Spend
DFG	2023/24	£1,660,000	£279,060	£1,592,000
Welsh Gov Enable Grant	2023/24	£286,171	£113,762	£341,288

Housing Revenue Account		Budget	Spend to 31/7/23	Projected Spend
LA	2023/24	£1,000,000	£178,144	£677,748

3.00 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

3.01 Under the five delivery principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act the revised Disabled Facilities Grant Policy can have the following impacts:

Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact

Long-term	Positive impact on longer term solutions to enable disabled people to remain in their own home for longer.
Prevention	Positive - Enabling the grant will have a significant positive preventative impact for people.
Integration	Positive- The Grants policy and the wider best practice group that reviews and aligns best practice is a positive example of integration across sectors.
Collaboration	Positive - As above.
Involvement	Positive - The policy has been through a consultation process and user/customer satisfaction is built into the process to ensure user involvement in shaping improvements to service.

Well-being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	No Impact
Resilient Wales	No Impact

	Healthier Wales	Positive - The Disabled Facilities Grants are there to support disabled people to be in a position to live safely and more comfortably in their own home for longer. The revised policy sets out the process for disabled facilities grant in a clear and easy to understand way.
	More equal Wales	Positive - By supporting disabled people to live more comfortably and safely in their own homes will also contribute to enabling them to fulfil their potential no matter what their background.
	Cohesive Wales	No Impact
	Vibrant Wales	No Impact
	Globally responsible Wales	No Impact
	<p>The revision of the Disabled Facilities Grants Policy, when implemented will contribute to the Council's Well-being objective of 'Caring Council' through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of appropriate interventions (i.e., support or adaptations) to assist people to remain in their homes wherever possible 	
3.02	We have carried out an integrated impact assessment, see appendix 3.	

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The report was presented to the Community, Housing and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee 13 th September, 2023. A consultation exercise is ongoing which includes: Disability Forum, Vision Support, Older Peoples Group and Armed Forces.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Policy
5.02	Appendix 2 – Revised Housing Standards
5.03	Appendix 3 – Impact Assessment & Risks

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Jen Griffiths, Service Manager – Housing, Welfare and Communities</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702929</p> <p>E-mail: jen.griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) – A statutory grant of up to £36,000 to help individuals living with a disability with the cost of adapting their homes to enable them to continue living at their residence with the maximum amount of independence.</p> <p>Small Adaptations - anything which is not classed as medium or large. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab Rails • Small Ramps • Stair/Mop stick Rails • Key Safes • Additional electrical sockets or accessible taps, etc <p>Medium Adaptations - anything which is not classed as small or large. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level Access Showers • Stair lifts • Ceiling Track Hoists • Large ramps • Or a combination of these adaptations installed as one job <p>Large Adaptations - these are works which will require specialist assessments, statutory approvals, and major adaptations to a property such as extensions and through floor lifts. An Occupational Therapists assessment will be required, and planning permission may be needed. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building an extension to provide a downstairs bedroom and/or bathroom • Through floor lift • Significant internal structural modifications e.g., relocate bathroom or kitchen

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DISABLED ADAPTATIONS POLICY

Version Number	Author	Purpose/Change	Reviewer	Date
1.0	Robin Davies	Revised Mandatory Grant conditions. Implemented Discretionary Grant. Revised Discretionary Grant Conditions and Amount.	Neal Cockerton	22/09/21
2.0	Robin Davies	Revised Discretionary Grant conditions to remove means test.	Vicky Clark	01/08/22
3.0	Robin Davies	Revised DFG Policy to merge Private Sector and LA Sector Adaptation Policies.	Vicky Clark	01/09/23

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1. Introduction

Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide grant aid to assist with the delivery of adaptations for a disabled person in a dwelling.

You are entitled to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant if you are a homeowner, a tenant renting from a private landlord, a resident of a park home or living on a houseboat.

Discretionary assistance for adaptations in addition to, or instead of, a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant may be awarded dependent upon the assessed adaptations required.

Prior to a Disabled Adaptation being approved, Flintshire County Council needs to be satisfied that the works are necessary and appropriate to meet the long-term needs of the disabled customer, and that it is reasonable and practicable to carry out the works having regard to the age and/or the condition of the private building.

To establish this, the Disabled Facilities Grants Team will assess the application in consultation with the Occupational Therapy Team and inspect the property to assess that the proposed works are technically feasible, that there are no other reasonable alternative solutions, and there are no health and safety issues.

For a Disabled Adaptation to be made available, one or more of the following reasons must be established:

- Help a disabled occupant with access to and from their premises (such as widening doors or installing ramps);
- To allow access to internal rooms, specifically a main living room, bathroom, bedroom, or kitchen facility (such as by providing a stair lift);
- To have easier access and movement around the home to enable the disabled person to care for someone dependent on them, who also lives there (such as a child, husband, wife, or partner);
- To make the building safe for the disabled occupant or other people living with the disabled occupant;
- To improve any heating system in a dwelling to meet the specific specialist needs of the disabled occupant. In the event a heating system is not in place or is not suitable, to provide a suitable heating system;
- To allow access to and from a garden by a disabled occupant or making a garden safe for a disabled occupant.

The relevant works are limited to, or include, such works as is believed to be necessary to achieve the purposes stated above.

For the purpose of an adaptation, a person is considered disabled if one of the following applies:

- Sight, hearing, or speech is substantially impaired;
- Having a mental disorder, or impairment of any kind;
- Are substantially physically disabled by illness, injury, impairment present since birth, or otherwise;
- Are registered (or could be registered) disabled with the Social Services Department.

Grants application process

To make an enquiry for an adaptation or an application for a Disabled Facilities Grant, an individual should contact the Single Point of Access team, Social Services on 01352 702642. The Social Services Duty Team will be able to advise whether an individual meets the criteria for assessment by an Occupational Therapist.

For a contract holder residing in a Flintshire County Council property, they will not need to complete an application form for an adaptation but will need to be assessed by an Occupational Therapist.

In the event an assessment has been completed and it is deemed an adaptation is required, the Occupational Therapist will complete an Adaptation Recommendation Form and will advise the client of the process which will be followed.

A Building Surveyor and the Occupational Therapist will discuss the recommendations to ensure the work can be reasonably and practicably carried out as per the general conditions. There may be a requirement to inspect the property to facilitate this assessment.

Policy Resource implications

Generally, the Council will resource the Policy through a combination of the following: -

- Capital allocations received from the Council's Capital Programme.
- Specific complementary funding made available by Welsh Government from the Enable support for independent living fund.
- Support to deliver smaller adaptations through the Care and Repair charity, utilising their resources to provide a whole house approach to care and support.

Policy Review and revision

This Policy shall remain in force until it is required to be reviewed and revised accordingly in-line with any Welsh Government review of Housing Adaptations Service Standards.

The Council will advise members of the public of any amendments to this Policy, for example due to minor legislative changes, via our website as appropriate.

Equality and diversity

This Policy produces significant positive outcomes for vulnerable groups and those with disabilities. It reduces inequalities experienced by those groups in respect of health, housing, and income.

We aim to continuously improve the quality of our services for our customers and are committed to giving an equal service to all members of the public regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, gender, or sexual orientation.

Applications for assistance falling outside the Policy

Although this Policy will be the primary consideration in determining applications for assistance, all such applications shall be dealt with on an individual basis, based on the merits of each case. The Council will not refuse to consider an application that falls outside this Policy.

It is recognised that there will always be exceptional circumstances. These cases will be considered for Welsh Government provided Enable funds by the Disabled Facilities Manager, and the Service Manager in conjunction with representatives from Social Services and the Lead Occupational Therapist.

The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 is the legislative framework governing the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grants.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide grant aid to assist with the delivery of adaptations for a disabled person in a dwelling.

In July 2002 the Government made significant changes to housing grant legislation, introducing Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002. This order allows local authorities to formulate their own flexible financial assistance policies to their funding to address specific local needs and priorities.

In April 2021 Government amended the Housing Service Standards to remove mandatory means testing for all medium adaptations and transferring powers to local authorities under the Regulatory Reform Order to be able to create their own discretionary policies.

Consequently, it is incumbent upon Local Authorities to ensure that their financial assistance policy is updated to reflect the terms of this scheme and any other assistance offered.

In addition, the Local Government Act 2000 created a discretionary power referred to as 'the well-being power' which enables Local Authorities to do anything that they consider is likely to promote or improve the economic, social, or environmental well-being of the area and/or persons in it if they are not restricted from doing so by other legislation.

Section 25, Local Government Act 1988, states that consent from the Secretary of State or Minister is required for provision of financial assistance, unless the assistance or benefit is provided in exercise of any power conferred by Article 3 of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002.

Consequently, the broad nature of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002 and the general 'well-being' powers contained in the Local Government Act 2000, means that Local Authorities will be able to provide financial assistance through the provision of discretionary grants and loan schemes to the full range of applicants and can attach such conditions or terms that they consider appropriate in the circumstances.

The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to provide or arrange for the provision of a range of services for those described as disabled in the Equality Act 2010.

COUNCIL PROPERTIES

3. General conditions

All forms of assistance referred to in this Policy document are subject to several general conditions.

All persons requesting a Disabled Facilities Grant has to meet the following requirements;

- Are a permanent Flintshire resident.
- Are a Flintshire Housing Contract Holder or their partner.
- Or a member of the contract holder's immediate family who have been resident in the household for at least 12 months or who have moved to the property following advice and guidance from professionals in the Social Services department with a view to adaptations being required.
- All requests for assistance must come from the Occupational Therapist Team on their specified Adaptation Recommendation form.
- In exceptional cases, where the property must be vacated for works to be carried out, the Council may be able to assist in finding temporary accommodation.
- Only one property is normally adapted for each disabled person and in the case of a child being disabled with separated parents, the principle residence would be determined by the parent in receipt of child benefit.

The Council have developed a more considered approach when responding to requests to adapt a property, as it's important that we make best use of housing stock.

If the Housing department deem that it is not reasonable or practicable to adapt the property contract holders will be requested to consider transferring to a more suitable property. This decision whether to undertake works will consider facts such as;

- The extent to which the existing home is capable of being adapted.
- The cost of the work in relation to the long-term benefits.
- The availability of more suitable alternative accommodation.
- The degree of occupation within the premises for example, in a two- or three-bedroom family dwelling where under occupation exists or where the requirement is to provide an additional bedroom.
- Where parking bays and/or access ramps will adversely affect the safety and amenity of the area.
- Where the works would affect the ability of the Council to let the property in the future.
- Where a level access shower is requested to be installed on the first floor of a property, whether a house or flat.

If a contract holder chooses to install their own adaptations, they must seek permission and approval from the Council in accordance with their contract terms. If approved, if of a technical nature, these will not be maintained by the Council and the contract holder will be responsible for any servicing and repair costs. Any Planning or Building Regulation fees need to be met by the contract holder if applicable. At the end of the tenancy the contract holder will be required to remove them and make good any damage to the property. Alternatively, if the Council agree to take responsibility for the alterations the contract holder will need to sign over ownership free of charge.

Any adaptation to a property that has been funded by the Council is owned by them and must not be removed by the contract holder during or at the end of their tenancy. If an adaptation is removed without approval, then the contract holder will be charged the full cost of replacing it.

In circumstances where an adaptation is no longer required, the Council will consider removing it if it can be used in another home, this will be based on each individual case.

The council will not remove any level access wet room if still considered fit for purpose or any constructed permanent ramping.

4. Types of Assistance

The council has a duty to consider all requests received for adaptations under Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (HGC&RA). All applications for assistance will be subject to an assessment by the Social Services Occupational Therapy Team.

This policy provides criteria to ensure adaptations are awarded fairly and consistently. The council's intention is to meet performance targets and service standards as set out by Welsh Government for the delivery of disabled facilities assistance.

Appendix 1

MINOR ADAPTATIONS	
Purpose	Works classed as those which usually cost less than £1,000, see Revised Housing Standards for details of example minor adaptations.
Eligibility Criteria	See General Conditions.
Example of Works	Grab Rails Key Safes Hand Rails Door Entry Intercom Lever Taps Modifying Existing Steps Temporary Small Ramp Window Operating Equipment

Appendix 2

MAJOR ADAPTATIONS	
Purpose	Larger works to adapt a property to suit the needs of a disabled person who resides at the property.
Eligibility Criteria	See General Conditions.
Example of Works	<u>Medium adaptations.</u> Large Ramp Level Access Shower Stair Lift Ceiling Track Hoist Hardstanding's Kitchen adaptations <u>Large adaptations</u>

	Through Floor Lift Extensions Major Structural Internal works
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PRIVATE PROPERTIES

5. General conditions

All forms of assistance referred to in this Policy document are subject to several general conditions.

We provide every customer with confirmation of our terms and conditions;

- All applications for assistance must be made on the Council’s official adaptation request forms.
- All applicants will be required to have their property registered with HM Land Registry.
- The payment or part payment of grants is conditional on the eligible works being carried out to the satisfaction of the Council and the receipt of an acceptable invoice for the works and any ancillary or professional fees.
- One application can only be made within a 5-year period, unless the customer’s condition has changed, this would be reviewed with the OT upon application.
- Where applicable the grant may require repayment if the applicant disposes of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. See conditions in Appendix 1-6 below.

Unless stated otherwise, any additional funding utilising a grant will be secured as a local land charge against the property where breach of the conditions would require repayment of all or part of the financial assistance. This charge will not be removed until either the conditions expire or until the financial assistance is repaid.

No grant assistance will be awarded for works that have commenced prior to the date of formal notification of grant approval.

- Where it is ascertained that an application for assistance has been determined based on inaccurate or incomplete information, the Council can withhold or demand repayment of monies from the applicant.
- If an applicant knowingly makes a false statement, in respect of any information they provide as part of an application for financial assistance or payment, including details of income and savings, the Council may refer the matter to the Police with a view to prosecution.
- In exceptional cases, where the property must be vacated for works to be carried out, the Council may be able to assist in finding temporary accommodation. Applicants must be unable to arrange temporary accommodation privately e.g., with family or friends and will be liable for the cost of any rent, removals or furniture storage costs incurred. However, if the applicant would suffer undue hardship, the Council may be able to provide discretionary assistance.

Exceptions to repayment conditions

It is recognised that there will be certain situations where it would be inappropriate or unreasonable for a disabled person to be required to repay the grant on disposal of their dwelling. A written request for a repayment waiver must be made to the Council, explaining the circumstances of the case and the reasons why repayment of grant would cause undue hardship. The particulars of

each individual case will be considered on their own merits and the applicant will be notified of the outcome in writing.

Where a property is vested in another individual's name under a will or intestacy, the death of the owner will trigger repayment, unless the property was the inheriting person's main residence at the time of application. In this case the condition to repay the grant assistance and occupy the property will transfer to the new owner.

Revisions after grant approval

Where, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the applicant, the eligible works cannot be completed for the estimated costs submitted with the application, the Council will continue with the work without considering any additional charge to the client.

Adaptations falling outside grant assistance

In the event the cost of the adaptation is in excess of the total assistance available by the Council, the applicant may choose to relocate or be placed on the Council's Specialist Housing Register.

6. Grant Payments

Grant payments will be made directly to the main contractors, subject to the work being completed to a satisfactory standard and supported by an accurate invoice. Interim payments can be made on the larger works, subject to conditions.

Upon notification of completion of the works, a full inspection will be undertaken. The final payment will only be released when all works have been completed satisfactorily and all relevant invoices, guarantees and certificates have been received and conditions met. In cases of dispute between the applicant and the contractor over the satisfactory completion of grant works, the Council reserve the right to adjudicate and release payment to the contractor if deemed appropriate, however, the contractual arrangement for quality and warranties is between the client and the contractor.

Utilisation of Own Contractors

On occasion, applicants may request to utilise their own contractors. For this to be facilitated, the contractors will need to join the Council's Tendering System. This will ensure the contractors are bona-fide, have all the appropriate insurances, and are financially stable. This will also facilitate the payment for the works completed directly to the contractors.

7. Alternative Assistance

The Council works in partnership with Care and Repair North East Wales, which is a Community Benefit Society with charitable status that provides advice and support on adaptations and delivers minor adaptations to properties. They offer many other grants for private customers to assist them with a variety of works, such as house repairs, etc.

Care and Repair can be contacted:

- Via telephone on 01352 758700 or 03001113333

- Online on www.careandrepairnew.co.uk or via email at enquiries@careandrepairnew.co.uk or by post at Care and Repair North East Wales, Place for You, Rowley's Drive, Shotton, Flintshire, CH5 1PY

It has been agreed that Care & Repair process any small cases on behalf FCC, for example, provide small modular ramping for hospital to home cases they utilise their recycled ramp stock, this is more environmentally friendly and cost effective.

8. Financial Assistance

Grants may be subject to a 'means test', see Eligibility Criteria in Appendices below. Applicants will be asked to provide financial information to help calculate whether they are eligible for a grant and whether they are required to contribute towards the cost of the work.

A mean test will not be required if they are in receipt of one or more of the following passported benefits: -

- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit (excluding single persons discount)
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Working Families Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Pension Credit Guarantee
- Universal Credit
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance

9. Types of Assistance

The council has a duty to consider all applications for Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) which are administered under Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (HGC&RA). The council also provides discretionary assistance in the form of a fast-track grant for smaller adaptations. Other products for disabled facilities assistance are also provided on a discretionary basis. All applications for assistance will be subject to an assessment by the Social Services Occupational Therapy Team.

This policy provides criteria to ensure grants are awarded fairly and consistently. The council's intention is to meet performance targets and service standards as set out by Welsh Government for the delivery of disabled facilities assistance.

Appendix 3

MINOR ADAPTATIONS	
Purpose	Works classed as minor in the Welsh Government Housing Adaptations Service Standards, these are dealt with directly by Care and Repair North East Wales in-line with the Service Level Agreement.
Eligibility Criteria	Referral to Care & Repair by Occupational Therapist confirming that works are necessary and appropriate.

Conditions	None
Amount	Usually less than £1000

Appendix 4

MANDATORY DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT	
Purpose	DFG's are available to adapt a property to suit the needs of a disabled person who resides at the property.
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Referral by Occupational Therapist confirming that works are necessary and appropriate.</p> <p>Adaptation is the most satisfactory course of action subject to a reasonable and practicable assessment.</p> <p>Available to homeowners, tenants renting from a private landlord, a resident of a park home or living on a houseboat.</p> <p>Amount of Disabled Facilities Grant depends on the income and savings of the disabled person and his or her partner, even if the disabled person is not the applicant for the grant (such as when an application is made by a landlord with a disabled tenant).</p> <p>If the income and savings are below the test limits, a contribution will not be required.</p> <p>If the income and savings are greater than the test limits, a contribution will be required towards the cost of the works.</p> <p>There is no requirement for a means test for all Children's Disabled Facilities Grants (under the age of 19).</p> <p>There is no requirement for a means test if an applicant is in receipt of any of the following passported benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Support • Income-based Employment and Support • Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance • Guarantee Pension Credit • Housing Benefit • Council Tax Reduction • Universal Credit • Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit provided that the annual income for the purposes of assessing entitlement to the tax credit is less than £15,050
Conditions	Any grant classed as a large adaptation will require a Local Land Charge to be placed against the property.

	<p>As set out in the Housing, Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, the grant will only be paid when the Council are satisfied that the work is being completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval.</p> <p>Repayment of any grant for a large adaptation requires a maximum repayment amount of £10,000 in accordance with HGC&RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.</p> <p>Where a property is vested in another individual's name under a will or intestacy, the death of the owner will trigger repayment, unless the property was the inheriting person's main residence at the time of application. In this case the condition to repay the loan or grant assistance and occupy the property will transfer to the new owner.</p> <p>Adaptations made at a property for a private tenant will require the approval of the private landlord prior to a decision on the adaptation being made.</p>
Amount	<p>Maximum of £36,000.</p> <p>If the Council is managing the adaptation construction works on behalf of the client, then any unforeseen costs that cause the cost of the work to exceed the grant maximum of £36,000 will be met by the Council. This will not apply where the client is managing the works themselves or where the extra costs arise from additional items requested by the client which did not form part of the original grant agreement with the Council.</p>

Appendix 5

DISCRETIONARY ADAPTATIONS	
Purpose	<p>The eligible works of a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant are extensive, however it is considered prudent that monies be set aside to enable, enhance, or provide more cost-effective solutions, where it is reasonable and practicable to do so, to a particular disabled persons assessed needs. For example, the provision of smaller scale adaptations with a less bureaucratic process.</p> <p>The Welsh Government review of adaptations supports this, and the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002 allows Local Authorities to implement it.</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Same eligibility criteria as Mandatory DFG, without the requirement for a means test.</p>
Conditions	<p>As set out in the Housing, Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, the grant will only be paid when the Council are satisfied that the work is being completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval.</p>

	approval.
Amount	No set limit, any medium sized adaptation may be given discretion to not means test, however this is the discretion of the Disabled Adaptations Manager.

Appendix 6

DISCRETIONARY TOP UP < £3K	
Purpose	If the work is likely to cost more than the current statutory limit (currently £36,000) then a discretionary top up maybe offered without the need for any further financial assessment.
Eligibility Criteria	Applicant eligible for a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant.
Conditions	As set out in the Housing, Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, the grant will only be paid when the Council are satisfied that the work is being completed to their satisfaction and in accordance with the grant approval. Repayment of any Top up Grant requires repayment in accordance with HGC&RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.
Amount	Maximum of £3,000.

Appendix 7

DISCRETIONARY TOP UP GRANT > £3K	
Purpose	This grant will be considered in instances where the required expenditure to provide the disabled adaptation is above the statutory limit (currently £36,000) and above £39,000. It will only be provided to owner occupiers and the grant amount will be registered as a local land charge against the property.
Eligibility Criteria	Applicant eligible for a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant which requires a top up. Applicant has an owner's interest. An Assessment Panel comprising of senior officers from Social Services and Housing will determine whether a Top-Up can be issued. Subject to means test.

	<p>The grant is discretionary, and the availability is dependent upon the detail of each individual case. It is important to ensure we protect the public purse.</p> <p>A contribution towards the cost of works may be requested from the customer dependent upon their financial circumstances, all minutes of the Top Up Panels are recorded to show the decision-making process.</p>
Conditions	<p>Property must be occupied by the applicant or a family member (in the case of a child) as their main residence.</p> <p>If the property has a mortgage, it is the responsibility of the owner to advise the mortgage lender a charge will be placed against the property.</p> <p>Repayment of any Top up Grant requires repayment in accordance with HGC&RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.</p> <p>Where a property is vested in another individual's name under a will or intestacy, the death of the owner will trigger repayment, unless the property was the inheriting person's main residence at the time of application. In this case the condition to repay the grant assistance and occupy the property will transfer to the new owner.</p> <p>Voluntary early repayment may be made at any time and the charges will be removed.</p>
Amount	Maximum of £26,000.

Appendix 8

RELOCATION GRANT	
Purpose	A Relocation Grant or the exploration of alternative housing solutions will be considered in the event the adaptation is not feasible, reasonable, practical, or cost effective.

<p>Eligibility Criteria</p>	<p>Current property is unsuitable for adaptation and does not meet the long-term needs of the applicant or it is more cost effective to move rather than adapt.</p> <p>The Council must be satisfied that the new property can be more easily, and cost effectively adapted to meet the long-term needs of the disabled occupant.</p> <p>Report by Occupational Therapist and DFG Surveyor confirming the adaptation works are necessary, appropriate and confirmation that the new property meets the long-term needs with a requirement for some adaptations, but these must not be extensive and are more cost effective than adapting the current property.</p> <p>Applicant has an owner's interest in the property.</p> <p>Subject to means testing.</p>
<p>Conditions</p>	<p>Repayment of any Relocation Grant requires repayment in accordance with HGC&RA1996 General Consent Conditions 2008, if the applicant chooses to dispose of the property whether by sale or transfer within 10 years of the certified date. The potential repayment amount will be placed as a local land charge against the property.</p> <p>The grant is discretionary, and the availability is dependent upon the detail of each individual case.</p>
<p>Amount</p>	<p>Maximum of £20,000.</p> <p>To help bridge the affordability gap between the value of the applicants existing home and the purchase price of the new property.</p>



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government

Housing Adaptations Service Standards

Date of issue: [Revised March 2021](#) ~~April 2019~~

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

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1. Aim

The Welsh Government recognises the essential role housing adaptations play in supporting disabled and older people to live safely and independently, improving the health and wellbeing of the individual, their families, carers and reducing pressures on frontline services such as health and social care.

The preventative work which housing adaptations offer is very much in line with the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Social Services and Wellbeing Act and the approach set out in Prosperity for All and Healthier Wales. Housing Adaptations should also be considered within the wider context of Equalities Act 2010 and the UN Principles for Older Persons and service providers should pay due regard to them in providing support to service users.

The provision of support for housing adaptations in Wales is complex and is a reflection of the multiple partners involved in the care and support arrangements of disabled and older people.

The aim of the standards is to set out the level of service expected for the delivery and installation of a **housing adaptation** that service users, regardless of their geographic location and tenure, can expect. The service Standards should ensure service providers deliver **housing adaptations** in a more consistent manner and inform service users on the level of service to expect when they seek support for a housing adaptation.

The service standards should be viewed as a planning and delivery tool by service providers to align their procedures and systems with the standards as much as possible and to coordinate and integrate their work with other relevant service providers that operate within their region.

2. Key Issues

Recent independent reviews have highlighted the complexity of the different ways in which housing adaptations are provided. Examples of reports include:

- A review of Independent Living Adaptations: Welsh Government (2015) ¹
- Housing Adaptations: Wales Audit Office (2018) ²
- Housing and Disabled People: Equalities and Human Rights Commission (2018) ³
- Housing Adaptations: Report of the Public Accounts Committee (2018)⁴

Each report has identified issues of funding complexity and the challenging arrangements for accessing services across Wales. The multiple funding programmes in place for providing adaptations in Wales has resulted in service

¹ <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/review-independent-living-adaptations/?lang=en>

² <https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/housing-adaptations-2018-english.pdf>

³ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/housing-and-disabled-people-wales-hidden-crisis.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11703/cr-ld11703-e.pdf>

users receiving different levels of service dependent upon their tenure and where they live.

3. Scope

These standards will be applied to all housing adaptations, and will be relevant to:

- Local Authorities
- Care and Repair Agencies
- Registered Social Landlords
- Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) organisations
- Occupational Therapists
- Service Users or their representatives

In addition to the above, the service standards will be relevant for Healthcare and Social Service Professionals e.g. community nurses and social workers.

The Welsh Government will keep the standards under review, and may publish amended standards as appropriate.

Legislation requirements for the delivery of specific types of adaptation overrides any services standards outlined in this document, and service providers should seek their own legal advice where needed.

4. Service Standards for the delivery of Housing Adaptations

The service standards set the expected levels of service for the installation of a Housing Adaptation and can be seen at **Figure 1**. There is a responsibility on both the service user (or their representative) and provider to work constructively and collaboratively together towards agreed outcomes, with neither party acting unreasonable which could result in unnecessary delays or an unsatisfactory outcome.

Setting service levels will help to ensure housing adaptations are delivered in a consistent manner, regardless of a service user's location and tenure, whilst giving flexibility to service providers to determine the best way to utilise their own resources to meet the standards. In meeting the needs of a service user, it should be noted that in some situations it may be more appropriate that other measures are considered and explored before a housing adaptation is considered e.g. re-ablement or re-housing to more suitable accommodation where this is an option.

Due to the complexity of delivering some housing adaptations, especially larger sized adaptations, the process can result in a number of steps that may involve input from wider stakeholders such as the planning department, building control teams and utility companies. These steps have to be taken to ensure that the adaptation will provide the help and assistance needed for the service user and meets broader legislative requirements. As a result, the timeframes for delivering a housing

adaptation can vary. The 'Expected Timeframes' service standard in **Figure 1** has been split to reflect the following key phases that can be involved in deciding if a Housing Adaptation should be provided:



- **First Point of Contact** - The time it takes from a service user making first contact with a relevant service provider (this could be a Local Authority, Care and Repair Agency, Housing Association or from their health or social services contacts) to being assessed by a competent person (such as an Occupational Therapist or Trusted Assessor) and;
- **Housing Adaptation confirmed as necessary** - The timescale for an Occupational Therapist (or another suitably competent person) report/referral/recommendation being provided to the service provider outlining the adaptation works required.
- **Installation of Housing Adaptation** - The date of referral (or decision, recommendation, report) made by the competent person when the adaptation is confirmed as needed to installation. This is to ensure that alternative forms of assistance (e.g. re-ablement) are considered before deciding a housing adaptation is needed.

The Welsh Government expect service providers to work in collaboration with Occupational Therapists (or other competent persons who can advise and identify the required adaptation) as well as service users to determine the best possible outcome is achieved, while still reflecting the principles of all work being **necessary** and **appropriate, reasonable** and **practicable**.

Definitions of the different types of housing adaptations (Small, Medium or Large) are listed in **Figure 2**. These are included to provide a guide for service providers to determine how to record the most appropriate type of adaptation (Small, Medium or Large). For situations that are considered urgent e.g. to facilitate a hospital discharge, support a palliative care package, or prevent admission to hospital or a care home, these instances should be prioritised and delivered as soon as practicable.

The definitions in **Figure 2** also aims to help service users understand the different types of adaptations and what they can expect in how they are delivered by the service provider.

The Welsh Government recognises there may be situations or individual cases which do not fit within the categories of **Figure 2** for a variety of reasons. In these cases, **service providers should use their professional judgement to decide the most appropriate category to use based on sound judgement and evidence.**

5. Monitoring and enforcement of Service Standards

Performance monitoring data will be submitted to the Welsh Government using the data collection methodology for 'Housing Adaptations Data Monitoring', which will help evidence progress on delivery of the service standards. The data collected through this process will be published on an annual basis. The Welsh Government has revised the terms of conditions for a number of grants it provides for housing adaptations for service providers to work in line with the service standards.

6. Complaints and concerns

If a service user is not satisfied with the level of service received, they have the right to make a complaint. Any complaints should be directed to the service provider and handled in accordance with their organisational complaints procedure.

Figure 1 - Housing Adaptations Service Standards

Service Standard	Level of Service Expected
<p>Standard 1: Purpose</p>	<p>The purpose of a housing adaptation can provide a number of benefits, but is primarily to help disabled and/or older people and support their carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to remove barriers that can lead to people being disabled by their environment and not by their impairments (social model of disability); • to remain or become more independent within their own home; • to facilitate an earlier hospital discharge; and • to prevent any further falls. <p>The adaptation provided should be necessary and appropriate, as well as reasonable and practicable.</p>
<p>Standard 2: Equality and Diversity</p>	<p>Disabled and/or older people can expect that they will be treated fairly and respectfully. Service providers will ensure they have equality and diversity policies in place to ensure this and that staff have undertaken the appropriate disability awareness training.</p>
<p>Standard 3: Communication</p>	<p>Communication should be a two way process between the service provider and service user (or their representative), and based on the principles of coproduction and the ‘what matters’ conversation as endorsed in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing Act. Information and communication will be in a format which most effectively meets a service users’ needs, such as Welsh and English, and accessible formats including braille, large fonts, audio versions and other languages. At the start of the process the service user (or their representative) will be informed of the key steps to install an adaptation. The service user should be meaningfully included in the decision making process on the design and delivery of an adaptation where practicable. They will also be informed of the expected timeframes, be regularly updated on progress and invited to provide feedback during and at the end of installation.</p>

Standard 4: Quality of Service	<p>The work will be completed by a suitably competent person, either an employee of the service provider or someone from their approved contractors list which is regularly monitored by the service provider and subject to clear selection, retention and quality assurance procedures. If a service user decides to use their own contractor to carry out the work it will be the service user's responsibility to deal with and resolve any issues and will need the appropriate consent and permissions from their landlord where this is appropriate. Service users can also be signposted to other organisations or given initial advice to find the support they may need.</p>
Standard 5: Quality of Equipment	<p>Any equipment installed will be compliant with relevant health and safety requirements, technical specifications and be appropriate for the purpose which they were intended. Service user should also be informed and made aware of; warranty information, service charges and maintenance requirements where it is appropriate to do so.</p>
Standard 6: Expected Timeframes	<p>For Small Adaptations: The solution will usually (i.e. for 90% of cases) be installed within 3 weeks (if urgent) or 4 weeks (if non urgent) from date of first contact with the service provider who have deemed it necessary for the adaptation to be installed.</p> <p>For Medium Adaptations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From first point of contact with the service provider, the service user can expect to be assessed within 2 months by a competent person e.g. an Occupational Therapist, or Trusted Assessor. - If the adaptation is confirmed as necessary the Occupational Therapist or Trusted Assessor will provide a report/referral/recommendation to the service provider within 2 weeks of the decision. - Solution usually installed within 4 months (or in line with legislative requirements) from date of referral/recommendation from a competent person. <p>For Large Adaptations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From first point of contact with the service provider, the service user can expect to be assessed within 2 months by a competent person e.g. an Occupational Therapist. - Once the adaptation is confirmed as necessary the Occupational Therapist will provide a report/referral/recommendation to the service provider within 2 weeks of the decision. - Solution usually installed within 15 months (or in line with legislative requirements) from date of referral from a competent person, to reflect steps taken in some cases, e.g. planning permission.

Standard 7: Eligibility Checks	For Small Adaptations: - Means Test is not required. - Occupational Therapist assessment not required. - Trusted Assessor assessment may be required.
	For Medium Adaptations: - Means Test <u>is not</u> may be required (only in relation to a Disabled Facilities Grant). - Occupational Therapist Assessment may be required. If not, a Trusted Assessor will be required.
	For Large Adaptations: - Means Test may be required (only in relation to a Disabled Facilities Grant). - Occupational Therapist Assessment will be required. - Trusted Assessor assessment would not be appropriate in these cases.

Figure 2 – Definitions of different types of Housing Adaptations

Category	Nature of Work Required	Example of Work	Funding Source
<p>Small Adaptions adaptations are inexpensive items, which can be provided very quickly. It would generally fit into the description of 'immediate falls prevention' or 'urgent for hospital discharge' and can be assessed and installed within days or the same day if urgent. It can be identified by a number of health/ social services/ other appropriately trained staff e.g. RSL staff, Care and Repair Staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor home modification required • Not a specialised solution • No building/planning approval required • Adjustable / Flexible • Simple & Intuitive • Minimal maintenance and/or servicing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab rails • Stair rails • Small ramps • Accessible taps • Key safes • Mop stick hand rails • Outdoor rails • External / staircase lights • Additional electrical sockets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENABLE • RRAP • RSL Funds • LA own funds • Self funded
<p>Medium Adaptations anything which is not classed as small or large.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major home modification may be required, but building/planning approval not required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk in shower • Stair lifts • Large ramps • A combination of adaptations installed as one job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENABLE • RSL Funds • LA own funds • Physical Adaptation Grants (PAG) • Disabled Facility Grant (DFG)s • Self funded
<p>Large Adaptations these are works which will require specialist assessments, statutory approvals and major adaptations to a property such as extensions and through floor lifts. An Occupational Therapists assessment will be required and planning permission may be needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major home modification / structural change required • Specialised / Innovative solutions required • Building / planning approval required • Fixed / permanent / long term • Complex / unfamiliar / requires training & supervision • Solution requires expertise for installation and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building an extension to provide a downstairs bedroom and/or bathroom • Through floor lift • Significant internal structural modifications e.g. relocate bathroom or kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Facilities Grant • Physical Adaptations Grants • RSL Funds • LA own funds • Self funded

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

IIA for Disabled Adaptations policy Sep 23 - currently all groups that have been consulted have reported a positive impact. Some small requests received for wording amendments to the policy which will duly be considered and amended in the final draft.

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Welsh Language	G	Any adaptation will have a positive outcome and create equality within the community.
Health	G	An adaptation will have a positive impact on a person's health and wellbeing.
Resilience and Adaptation	G	An adaptation will have a positive impact by creating a safer environment.
Housing	G	An adaptation will have a positive impact by creating more accessibility in dwellings.
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving your local authority's Net Zero target		
Further Assessment(s):	Carbon Assessment. Equalities Assessment.	
Legend:	G	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.
	A	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.
	R	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
	RR	Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance		Any adaptation works always look to improve energy efficiency where possible.
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A	

Transport

Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	

Land Use

Land use	#####	
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Legend:

	No associated carbon impacts expected.
	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.
	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.
	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.
	Does not meet best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th October 2022
Report Subject	Elections Act 2022 – Voter Identification (Voter ID) Update
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Elections Act 2022 makes a number of changes to the elections process at UK Parliamentary and Police and Crime Commissioner elections. This does not apply to Flintshire County Council, Town and Community or Senedd elections.

Some of the changes include the requirement that voters produce an approved form of photo ID at the polling station, changes to absent voting rules, EU citizens' voting rights and 'votes for life' for overseas electors.

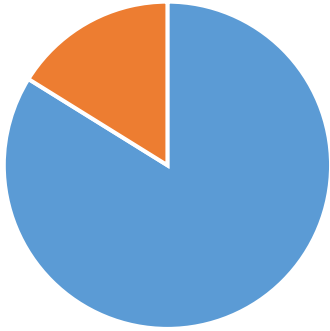
This report provides an update on the voter identification (ID) process and support provided to voters who do not have an acceptable form of photo ID. It also outlines work undertaken to promote Voter ID and planned communications ahead of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for Thursday 2nd May 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet notes the update on Voter ID.
2	That Cabinet supports the work undertaken and planned communications to promote Voter ID.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ELECTIONS ACT 2022 – VOTER IDENTIFICATION (VOTER ID) UPDATE
1.01	<p>Background</p> <p>The Elections Act 2022 was granted Royal Assent and passed into law on 28th April 2022.</p> <p>The main changes are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The requirement that voters produce an approved form of photo ID at the polling station before they can be issued with a ballot paper.• Returning Officers will be responsible for improving support in polling stations for people with a wide range of disabilities.• Electors will be able to apply online for an absent vote, with both online and paper applications requiring the applicant’s identity to be verified. Electors will be required to reapply every three years for a postal vote.• Electors will only be allowed to act as proxy for up to four people, of which no more than two can be ‘domestic electors’ and political parties/campaigners will be banned from handling postal votes.• For the Police and Crime Commissioner elections (2nd May 2024) EU citizens will no longer automatically be entitled to register to vote and stand for election and the voting method will move to the “first past the post” system.• The 15-year limit on overseas electors right to vote in Parliamentary elections will be removed and will be able to register in respect of their last UK address. <p>These changes have been made through secondary legislation over the last year and further changes will be made during the Autumn/Winter 2023/24.</p>
1.02	<p>Voter Identification (Voter ID)</p> <p>Since 16th January 2023 registered electors have been able to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC), which can be used instead of photo ID. Information has been provided on the Councils website on the accepted forms of photo ID that can be used when voting at a polling station. It also explains how to apply for a VAC, if you don't have an accepted form of photo ID.</p>

	<p>Electors can apply online on a gov.uk website or by filling out a paper application form. They can also get help taking and uploading a photograph at one of the Flintshire Connects offices. All staff have been provided with information on the new requirement.</p>				
1.03	<p>Processing VAC applications</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the electoral services team to process all applications received. This work has been undertaken using existing resources. Plans will be put in place for extra resources when the volume of applications increase in the lead up to the Police and Crime Commissioner and UK Parliamentary elections.</p>				
1.04	<p>Volume of applications</p> <p>As at week ending 28th July a total of 99 VAC applications have been received. A total of 16 applications have been rejected as they did not provide a suitable photograph and re-submit within 28 days, despite being sent a reminder in accordance with regulations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total number of VAC applications received</p>  <table border="1"> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>Total number of VAC applications accepted (83)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>■</td> <td>Total number of VAC applications rejected (16)</td> </tr> </table>	■	Total number of VAC applications accepted (83)	■	Total number of VAC applications rejected (16)
■	Total number of VAC applications accepted (83)				
■	Total number of VAC applications rejected (16)				
1.05	<p>Communications Plan</p> <p>The annual canvass of properties commenced in July and over the summer months information on Voter ID has been sent to residents. Information has been included in email canvass communications to over 32,000 properties. Properties that have been sent a paper communication have also received a leaflet regarding Voter ID. Therefore, over 71,000 properties in Flintshire have been sent direct information about Voter ID.</p> <p>Over the coming months further promotion on Voter ID will commence. The Council's digital channels will be used to remind electors of the requirements of Voter ID and how to apply for a VAC. Information will also be sent to under-represented groups. It is planned to include a leaflet with the Council Tax bills in March next year. The Electoral Commission will run</p>				

	<p>a media campaign in the new year and in the run up to the Police and Crime Commissioner election.</p> <p>Electors will also receive a poll card which will include information regarding Voter ID which is a new requirement.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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2.01	<p>Revenue: there are no implications for the approved revenue budget for this service as a grant payment has been received to cover the costs of this new burden from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.</p> <p>Human Resources: the service has undertaken this work using existing resources, but extra resources will be required closer to the Police and Crime Commissioner election to cope with the increased volume of applications and for the next UK Parliamentary election.</p>
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	<p>As an Act of the UK Parliament this legislation does not include an assessment of how it meets the needs of future generations. However, our own assessment indicates that the provision of voter ID has the potential to disenfranchise some sections of society.</p>
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4.00	
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4.01	None.
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	None.
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	<p>Voter ID at the May 2023 local elections in England: interim analysis https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/our-views-and-research/our-research/voter-id-may-2023-local-elections-england-interim-analysis</p> <p>Report to Flintshire Council – Tuesday 13th December 2022</p> <p>The Elections Act 2022 https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3020</p>
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7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Lynn Phillips – Team Leader Democratic Services Telephone: 01352 702329 E-mail: lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	Act: a Bill that has been approved by both the House of Commons and the House of Lords and been given Royal Assent by the Monarch.

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th October 2023
Report Subject	To seek amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to include Developments of National Significance (DNS) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Projects under Delegated Powers.
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To delegate all matters and Council responses associated with Developments of National Significance (DNS) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)

The changes to the Scheme of Delegation sought is as set out below and covers all steps in respect of both types of applications.

Deal with matters relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and Developments of National Significance (DNS)

- *To submit observations on behalf of the Council*
- *Responding to the relevant Decision-Making Body on environmental impact assessment screening and scoping opinion consultations.*
- *Responding to the developer's consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation.*
- *Responding to the Decision-Making Body's consultation on the adequacy of the developer's consultation.*
- *To provide any formal and informal response to the developer's non-statutory and statutory pre-application consultation*
- *To provide any formal response to the relevant Decision-Making Body on NSIP/DNS application consultations include the drafting of a Local Impact Report, which shall be submitted following notification of the proposal to the Local Ward Member and with final agreement of the content of the Local Impact Report with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection*
- *To agree to enter into Planning Performance Agreements with developers.*
- *To agree Statements of Common Ground.*

- *To represent the Council at Examination Hearing Sessions/Public Inquiries and make verbal/written representations during the examination*
- *To approve details submitted to the Local Planning Authority in accordance with requirements contained in NSIP Development Consent Orders*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To endorse the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation as set out in the Executive Summary.
2	To endorse the proposed changes to be actioned under Delegated Powers to the Leader of the Council as set out in the Appendix to this report.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	The consenting process is different for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and a Development of National Significance (DNS) compared to a traditional planning application for development which would be sought under the Town and Country Planning Act which the Local Planning Authority would determine. An application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a NSIP is made to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008. An application for a DNS proposals is made in accordance with the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 made directly to Planning Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). The Council is a stakeholder which has a role to play in the consideration of these types of development, however the Council is not the decision maker.
1.02	The Council's response on matters related to the Planning Act 2008, and the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 are an executive function, and are not a delegated function as stated within the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
1.03	There is a need to update the Council's Scheme of Delegation set out in the Council's Constitution to reflect new legislation and regulations as the Scheme of Delegation has not been updated with respects to these matters since this legislation has come into force.
1.04	Amongst other things, the Council are asked to produce a Local Impact Report for these types of proposals to inform the decision maker on the local issues associated with the proposal. In producing a Local Impact Report, the Local Authority is not required to carry out its own consultation with the local community. The report should consist of a statement of positive, neutral, and negative local impacts, but it does not need to contain a balancing exercise between positives and negatives; nor does it need to take the form of a formal Committee Report.
1.05	The Examining Authority (the Planning Inspectorate, England) in the instance of NSIPs, and PEDW in the instance of DNS proposals will carry

	<p>out a balancing exercise of relevant impacts when considering and assessing the proposals, and these will include taking into account of those local impacts specifically reported in the Local Impact Report produced by the Local Planning Authority. The Local Impact Report is a matter of fact and is an object report. The Local Planning Authority is not the decision maker, and there is no statutory requirement for the Local Authority to consult the Local Ward Member, Community/Town Council or local affected community, or communities.</p>
1.06	<p>Local Ward Members and locally affected communities are invited to provide their views on the NSIP and DNS proposal when they would be consulted at various stages of the non-statutory and statutory developer led pre-application consultation for these projects. Local Ward Members and locally affected communities also have an opportunity to engage in the examination when the applications have been submitted by submitting representation directly to PINS or PEDW.</p>
1.07	<p>In the cases of DNS proposals (examples include energy generation such as solar farms and combined heat and power plants between 10MW and 350MW installed capacity) there are various stages of engagement and consultation for the Local Ward Member and affected communities to engage and share their views on the proposal. This includes opportunities during the pre-application period, the application and consultation stage, and then finally during the consideration of the application at the examination stage.</p>
1.08	<p>At the pre-application engagement and consultation stage, the developer publicises draft proposals, engages with affected communities including Local Ward Members at the non-statutory preapplication stage, and then again during the statutory pre-application consultation stage.</p>
1.09	<p>Once the DNS application has been submitted and made valid, the statutory five-week representation period starts. During this period, relevant consultation and publicity will be carried out by PEDW. This stage gives Local Members, Community Council's and affected communities the opportunity to provide representation on the DNS application direct to PEDW (within the statutory time periods set). The application details are published on PEDW's website, and a press notice is published in the local paper. Neighbours are notified by PEDW, along with notification to Community Councils. The Local Planning Authority is responsible for erecting site notices providing notification of application which provides details of the proposal and how to respond during the representation period. The detail of the proposal is also placed on the planning register via the Citizen Portal on FCC's planning website. More details of how to engage in the process can be found on the Welsh Government website within 'An Accessible Guide to Engaging with the Process'.¹</p>
1.10	<p>Nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP) are large scale projects falling into five general categories (Energy; Transport; Water; Waste Water and Waste). Examples include electricity generating projects such as large</p>

¹ <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/developments-of-national-significance-dns-engaging-with-the-process.pdf>

	scale off-shore windfarms, rail freight interchanges, reservoirs, hazardous waste facilities and pipelines.
1.11	Before submitting an application for a NSIP, applicants have a statutory duty to carry out consultation. At the pre-examination stage, the public, including Local Ward Members, Community/Town Councils and members of the public are able to register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation to summarise their view on the application in writing. Interested Parties are then invited to attend the Preliminary Meeting, and then during the examination, Interested Parties who have registered by making a Relevant Representation are invited to provide more details of their views in writing. Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority to all the important and relevant matters including the representations of all Interested Parties, any supporting evidence submitted, and answers provided to the Examining Authority's questions set out in writing or posed at hearings. More information on how to engage in the process can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website. ²
1.12	At present as responses to these NSIP and DNS applications are an Executive Function of the Council, any response made by the Local Planning Authority associated with the Planning Act 2008 and the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 would need to be agreed with the Council's Cabinet. The time limits associated with providing representations for both NSIP and DNS proposals are prescribed within the legislation and regulations. The Planning Authority does not have the authority to change the deadlines associated with a proposal applied for under these regulations. In the past Officers have sought delegated powers to be able provide a response in accordance with the deadlines set by PEDW and PINS, so that the prescribed deadlines can be met. However, the timescales and deadlines are very short and rigid, which often do not fit with the timings of scheduled Cabinet meetings. Therefore, delegated authority is sought to respond to these types of projects to ensure that the Local Planning Authority can engage in the planning project in a timely manner without the need to seek Cabinet approval.
1.13	It is important to note that responses that the Local Planning Authority is requested to provide are of a factual and technical nature and are objective. It is proposed that any responses in associated with these types of development are delegated to the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy. The Local Ward Member would be notified on the receipt of the consultation from PEDW or PINS to make them aware of the project. This would give them an opportunity to seek further information from the case officer and they would be advised then how to respond directly to the decision maker on the proposal.
1.14	The submission of a Local Impact Report would also be delegated to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) in consultation with the Cabinet member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection.

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/participating-in-the-process/>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: there are no implications for the approved revenue budget for the planning service for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p>Capital: there are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years</p> <p>Human Resources: Officers will have more capacity to respond directly to various stages of the DNS/NSIP proposal as time won't be spent in drafting Cabinet Papers to seek delegated powers on a case-by-case basis each time this is required</p>
3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	N/A
4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None required.
5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1: Draft Delegation Form for Actions Taken Under Delegated Powers
6.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Hannah Parish, Minerals and Waste Planning Manager Telephone: 01352 703253 E-mail: hannah.parish@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>DCO (Development Consent Order) DNS (Development of National Significance) ExA (Examining Authority) LIR (Local Impact Report) NSIP (Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project) PEDW (Planning Environment Decisions Wales) PINS (Planning Inspectorate (England))</p>

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

SERVICE:	Development Management and the Minerals and Waste Shared Planning Service
INITIATING OFFICER:	Hannah Parish and Matthew Parry-Davies (on Behalf of Andrew Farrow)
SUBJECT:	Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation for DNS/NSIP Projects

TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE DELEGATED POWERS REPORT TO CABINET

(Brief description):

To delegate all matters and Council responses associated with Developments of National Significance (DNS) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)

The changes to the Scheme of Delegation sought is as set out below and covers all steps in respect of both types of applications.

Deal with matters relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and Developments of National Significance (DNS)

- *To submit observations on behalf of the Council*
- *Responding to the relevant Decision-Making Body on environmental impact assessment screening and scoping opinion consultations.*
- *Responding to the developer's consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation.*
- *Responding to the Decision-Making Body's consultation on the adequacy of the developer's consultation.*
- *To provide any formal and informal response to the developer's non-statutory and statutory pre-application consultation*
- *To provide any formal response to the relevant Decision-Making Body on NSIP/DNS application consultations include the drafting of a Local Impact Report, which shall be submitted following notification of the proposal to the Local Ward Member and with final agreement of the content of the Local Impact Report with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection*
- *To agree to enter into Planning Performance Agreements with developers.*
- *To agree Statements of Common Ground.*
- *To represent the Council at Examination Hearing Sessions/Public Inquiries and make verbal/written representations during the examination*
- *To approve details submitted to the Local Planning Authority in accordance with requirements contained in NSIP Development Consent Orders*

FULL DETAILS:

The consenting process is different for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and a Development of National Significance (DNS) compared to a traditional planning application for development which would be sought under the Town and Country Planning Act which the Local Planning Authority would determine. An application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for a NSIP is made to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008. An application for a DNS proposals is made in accordance with the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 made directly to Planning Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). The Council is a stakeholder which has a role to play in the consideration of these types of development, however the Council is not the decision maker.

The Council's response on matters related to the Planning Act 2008, and the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 are an executive function and are not a delegated function as stated within the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

There is a need to update the Council's Scheme of Delegation to reflect new legislation and regulations as the Scheme of Delegation has not been updated since this legislation has come into force.

Amongst other things, the Council are asked to produce a Local Impact Report for these types of proposals to inform the decision maker on the local issues associated with the proposal. In producing a Local Impact Report, the Local Authority is not required to carry out its own consultation with the community. The report should consist of a statement of positive, neutral, and negative local impacts, but it does not need to contain a balancing exercise between positives and negatives; nor does it need to take the form of a formal Committee Report.

The Examining Authority (the Planning Inspectorate) in the instance of NSIPs, and PEDW in the instance of DNS proposals will carry out a balancing exercise of relevant impacts, and these will include those local impacts specifically reported in the Local Impact Report. The Local Impact Assessment is a matter of fact. The Local Authority is not the decision maker.

The time limits associated with both NSIP and DNS proposals are prescribed within the legislation and regulations. The Council does not have the authority to change the deadlines associated with a proposal applied for under these regulations. The timescales and deadlines are very rigid which often do not fit with the scheduled Cabinet meetings, where at present any response associated with the Planning Act 2008 and the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 would need to be signed off at Cabinet level. As the Council's responses on these matters are an Executive Function of the Council, Officers have in the past sought delegated powers to provide a response so that the prescribed deadlines can be met. Other responses that the Local Authority is requested to provide are of a factual and technical nature. It is proposed that any responses in associated with these types of development are delegated to the Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:	Indirect savings on officer time to reduce the need to report to Cabinet on DNS/NSIP projects
HR IMPLICATIONS:	Officers will have more capacity to respond directly to various stages of the DNS/NSIP proposal as time won't be spent in drafting Cabinet Papers to seek delegated powers on a case-by-case basis each time this is required.

APPROVED BY CHIEF OFFICER:	
DATE:	
APPROVED BY CABINET MEMBER:	
DATE:	
DATE SUBMITTED TO CABINET:	

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EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN REPORTED TO CABINET – 17.10.23

Streetscene and Transportation

- **The Flintshire County Council (Cymau Road, Abermorddu; Blackbrook, Sychdyn; Crecas Lane, Ffordd Y Faenol Fach, Grange Lane and Ddreiniog Road, Carmel; Mountain Road, Cilcain; Bryn Yorkin Lane and Ffordd Las, Cymau; Duckers Lane, Mancot; Ffordd Y Gilrhos, Treuddyn; Ffordd Penrallt, Gwaenysgor; Cae Rhug Lane, Gwernaffield; Kelsterton Lane, Kelsterton; B5121, Parc Capel, Ffordd Gledlom, Unnamed Road, Unnamed Road, Ffordd Y Graig and Unnamed Road, Lixwm; Ffordd Llanfynydd, Llanfynydd; Ffordd Y Pentre, Ffordd Y Bryn and Henffordd, Nercwys; Penyfron Road, Pantymwyn; Brynford Road, Pentre Halkyn, High Street, Trelawnyd; Unnamed Road, Trelogan; Well Street, Buckley; and Wood Lane, Broughton) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 202x**
To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the 20mph speed limit on the roads listed above.
- **The Flintshire County Council (Various Roads Within Flintshire) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 202-**
To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the above.
- **The Flintshire County Council (Drury New Road, Drury Lane, Bannel Lane and Padeswood Road South, Buckley) and (Station Road, Talacre)**
To advise Members of the objections received following the advertisement of the 40mph and 50mph speed limits on the roads as listed above.

Housing and Assets

- **Community Asset Transfer**
The report relates to the Community Asset Transfer of Connah's Quay Community Garden, Off Mill Lane, Connah's Quay, CH5 4HA.
- **Community Asset Transfer**
The report relates to the Community Asset Transfer of Connah's Quay Cricket Club, Central Park, Connah's Quay, CH5 4DZ.
- **Community Asset Transfer**
The report relates to the Community Asset Transfer of Ffynonngroyw Community Centre, Main Road, Ffynonngroyw, Flintshire, CH9 9SN.

NEWydd Catering and Cleaning

- **School Meal Price Increase**
Increases the price of meals within schools to continue to provide a quality service in line with sharply increasing costs, particularly those associated with both food and labour.

Copies of the Delegated Powers reports are retained by the Team Leader – Committee Services and available to view on request by Members.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS
COUNCIL, CABINET, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY
1 October 2023 TO 31 March 2024**

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
October					
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/23	Streetscene and Transportation	Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transition Plan To consider the Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transition Plan.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/10/23	Streetscene and Transportation	Highway Structures (Audit Report) To provide Scrutiny with a progress update on the Highway Structures audit report	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee Page 240	10/10/23	Streetscene and Transportation	Missed Collections and Fleet Reliability To update the committee following their request for further information relating to Missed Collections & Waste and Recycling Collection Vehicle Reliability.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 241	10/10/23	Streetscene and Transportation	Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2 To review and comment on the budget pressures and cost reductions under the remit of the Committee.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy, Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
<p>P S C 2 4 2</p> Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Temporary Accommodation Homelessness Audit - Action Plan Update</p> <p>To provide a progress report on the action plan for service improvement following the audit of the Temporary Accommodation.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2</p> <p>To review and comment on the budget pressures and cost reductions under the remit of the Committee.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Housing and Communities	Performance of the WHQS Capital Programme - Assurance Report To provide an update on progress of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS), that the Council is delivering through its Capital Investment Programme.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Community & Housing Overview Scrutiny Committee	11/10/23	Housing and Communities	Void Management To provide a detailed update to the Committee on Void properties and the work undertaken to bring the properties back into use.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Action Tracking To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	

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COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Social Services	Joint Funded Care Packages - Update Report To share an update on the current situation on the long term debt with the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board since the last report was received.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Governance	Cyber Resilience To share with the Committee Audit Wales' national report on Cyber Resilience.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Finance	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 5) To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 5) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/10/23	Chief Executive's	Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2 To review and comment on the budget pressures and cost reductions under the remit of the Committee.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet	17/10/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders – Alcohol and Dog Control To determine the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders relating to dog control and alcohol.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Cabinet	17/10/23	Housing and Communities	Disabled Adaptations Policy To present the updated Policy for Disabled Facilities Grants.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	17/10/23	Housing and Communities	Housing Strategy Action Plan Performance Update To provide an update on the progress of the Council's Housing Strategy 2019-2023 and action plan.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Cabinet	17/10/23	Housing and Communities	Flintshire Housing Need Prospectus To provide the annual update on the Council Housing Needs prospectus which allows the local authority to identify their priorities for Social Housing Grant as part of the WG Grant framework. The prospectus also provides a clear and concise summary of the housing need and demand.	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	17/10/23	Governance	<p>Elections Act 2022 – Voter Identification (Voter ID) Update</p> <p>To provide an update on the voter identification (ID) process and support provided to voters who do not have an acceptable form of photo ID. It also outlines work undertaken to promote Voter ID and planned communications ahead of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for Thursday 2 May 2024.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	17/10/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Changes to the Scheme of Delegation</p> <p>To delegate all matters and Council responses associated with Developments of National Significance and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy).</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	17/10/23	Chief Executive's	<p>Corporate Self-assessment To provide the final report, detailing a summary of the findings following Stage 2 completion including a summary of feedback following consultation and stakeholder engagement.</p>	Strategic	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Cabinet	17/10/23	Chief Executive's	<p>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 5) This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2023/24 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 5, and projects forward to year-end.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	17/10/23	Social Services	<p>Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme 2022-2025</p> <p>To seek approval of the proposed Childcare and Early Years Capital (phase 2) Programme to allow submission of a Business Justification Case to Welsh Government to release Capital funding for the projects noted.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing, Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee Pages 249	19/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&C OSC)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/10/23	Education and Youth	<p>Flintshire County Summer Playscheme 2023</p> <p>To provide feedback on the Flintshire County Summer Playscheme 2023.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	19/10/23	Education and Youth	Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2 To review and comment on the budget pressures and cost reductions under the remit of the Committee.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement, Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Flintshire County Council	24/10/23	Governance	Rolling Review of the Employees Code of Conduct As part of the rolling review of the Constitution, we need to consider whether the Employees Code of Conduct needs any amendments to keep it up to date.		
Flintshire County Council	24/10/23	Chief Executive's	Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23 To present to Members the draft Annual Treasury Management Report 2022/23		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire County Council	24/10/23	Governance	<p>New consultation: Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill</p> <p>For Council to be updated on a new consultation: Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill which, if passed, among other things, will increase the number of Members of the Senedd from 60 to 96, change the way in which Members are elected, make provision in relation to the Senedd's constituency boundaries, and decrease the length of time between Senedd elections from five to four years.</p>		
Flintshire County Council	24/10/23	Governance	<p>Committee Sizes and Political Balance</p> <p>To consider setting Committee sizes to an odd number of seats and recalculating Political Balance to reflect the new sizes.</p>		

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Flintshire County Council	24/10/23	Governance	<p>New consultation: Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill</p> <p>For Council to be updated on a new consultation: Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill which, if passed, among other things, will increase the number of Members of the Senedd from 60 to 96, change the way in which Members are elected, make provision in relation to the Senedd's constituency boundaries, and decrease the length of time between Senedd elections from five to four years.</p>		
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&HC OSC)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Social Services	<p>Social Care Commissioning To receive an update on Audit Wales Report into OP Care Home Commissioning in North Wales.</p> <p>Oversight by Member of the Dom Care Framework refresh for North Wales.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Social Services	<p>Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2 To review and comment on the budget pressures and cost reductions under the remit of the Committee.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	26/10/23	Social Services	North Wales Regional Partnership Board (NWRPB) Annual Report Members note the work and progress undertaken in 2022/23 on the work areas being taken forward through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
November Page 25 of 25					
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Streetscene and Transportation	<p>Waste and recycling collection on unadopted roads</p> <p>To provide scrutiny with an in-depth overview of the recently commissioned review of waste and recycling services, specifically focused on properties located along un-adopted roads.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Page 255 Environment & Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Local Energy Plan Development Update</p> <p>To provide an update on the progress of development of Flintshire's local area energy plan.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Flintshire County Council's Carbon Footprint Report 2022-23</p> <p>To provide an update on the Council's latest carbon footprint data following submission to Welsh Government.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Shared Prosperity Fund To provide an update on the development of the programme and the selection of projects to receive a grant award from the Flintshire SPF funding allocation.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	FCC Social Enterprise Update Report To provide an update of social enterprise activity, achievements and future priorities	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	15/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Action Tracking To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/23	People and Resources	Employment and Workforce Mid-year Update This report covers strategic updates in addition to the quarterly workforce statistics and their analysis.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16/11/23	Finance	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 6) and Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 6) To provide the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 6) report and the Capital Programme 2023/24 (Month 6) report.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	21/11/23	Governance	Council Tax Base for 2024/25 To approve the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2024/25 as part of the process of the revenue budget setting and Council Tax setting process for the new year.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Cabinet Page 258	21/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Shared Prosperity Fund To provide an update on the development of the programme and the selection of projects to receive a grant award from the Flintshire SPF funding allocation.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	21/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Flintshire County Council's Carbon Footprint Report 2022-23 To provide an update on the Council's latest carbon footprint data following submission to Welsh Government.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Cabinet	21/11/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Social Enterprise 1) provide an update on the Council's work to support social enterprises; 2) to respond to the Audit Wales review of social enterprise support in Wales; and 3) to present the Council's self-assessment on social enterprise support and refreshed social enterprise action plan.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Cabinet	21/11/23	Governance	<p>Introducing a Corporate Facebook Page To agree the need for a Corporate Facebook page that will support digital communications, including good news stories and important information for our communities.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Governance	<p>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2022-23 and complaints made against Flintshire County Council during the first half of 2023-24</p> <p>To share the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual Letter 2022-23 for Flintshire County Council and an overview of the complaints received against Council services in the first half of 2023-24.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Governance	<p>Audit Wales Assurance and Risk Assessment Review Report 2021-22</p> <p>To summarise the findings to Governance and Audit Committee of the detailed assurance and risk assessment work undertaken.</p>	All Report Types	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Governance	Governance and Audit Committee Action Tracking To inform the Committee of the actions resulting from points raised at previous Governance and Audit Committee meetings.	All Report Types	
Governance and Audit Committee	22/11/23	Governance	Forward Work Programme To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Internal Audit Department.	All Report Types	
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee	30/11/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (EY&C OSC) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
December					

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (S&HC OSC)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Page 262 Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/12/23	Social Services	<p>Council Plan 2023-24 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (S&HC OSC)</p> <p>To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.</p>	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&E OSC)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/12/23	Streetscene and Transportation	Outcome of Adoption of Local Toilet Strategy To update members on the outcome.	Operational	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/12/23	Streetscene and Transportation	Council Plan 2023-24 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (EE OSC) To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12/12/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	Bailey Hill Mold To provide an update on the development of the facilities at Bailey Hill in Mold.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&H OSC)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Page 2 of 4 Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13/12/23	Housing and Communities	<p>Council Plan 2023 -24 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (CHA OSC)</p> <p>To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>Action Tracking</p> <p>To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/23	Chief Executive's	Council Plan 2023-24 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (CROSC)) To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/23	Overview and Scrutiny	Forward Work Programme To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.	Operational	
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/12/23	Finance	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 7) To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 7) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)	
Page 266	Cabinet	19/12/23	Governance	<p>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2022-23 and complaints made against Flintshire County Council during the first half of 2023-24</p> <p>To share the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) Annual Letter 2022-23 for Flintshire County Council and an overview of the complaints received against Council services in the first half of 2023-24.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
	Cabinet	19/12/23	Planning, Environment and Economy	<p>Bailey Hill Mold</p> <p>To provide an update on the development of the facilities at Bailey Hill in Mold.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
January						
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10/01/24	Housing and Communities	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (CH & E)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration	

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	11/01/24	Finance	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 8) To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 8) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
February					
Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee Page 267	1/02/24	Education and Youth	Council Plan 2023-24 Mid-Year Performance Reporting (EYC OSC) To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/02/24	Housing and Communities	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (CH & E) To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8/02/24	Finance	<p>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 9) and Capital Programme Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 9)</p> <p>To provide the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 9) report and the Capital Programme 2023/24 (Month 9) report.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement
Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6/03/24	Housing and Communities	<p>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (CH & E)</p> <p>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>	Operational	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE	CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO	AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT	REPORT TYPE (Strategic or Operational) (Cabinet only)	PORTFOLIO (Cabinet only)
Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7/03/24	Finance	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 10) To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 (Month 10) Report and Significant Variances.	Operational	Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
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