FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

<u>DATE OF MEETING:</u> <u>16 JANUARY 2024</u> <u>AGENDA ITEM NO. 4</u>

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager

SUBJECT: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND

BUDGET 2024/25 – WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet notes the financial

implications of the Welsh Provisional Local Government Settlement and the remaining work which needs to be completed prior to agreeing a set of recommendations for Council to set a legal and balanced budget on 20th February (which will be subject to prior consideration and comment by Overview

and Scrutiny Committees).

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: Cabinet Members, Group Leaders and

Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Workforce conferences have been held

Chief Officer Team, the Finance Team,

for employees.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: COUNCIL PLAN 2023/24 MID-YEAR

PERFORMANCE REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: (1) To endorse and support the levels

of progress and confidence in the achievement of priorities as detailed within the Council Plan 2023/28 for delivery within

2023/24;

(2) To endorse and support overall performance against Council Plan

2023/24 performance indicators/measures; and

(3) To be assured by explanations

given for those areas of underperformance.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

CONSULTATIONS The actions/measures detailed within the

Council Plan are monitored by the respective Overview and Scrutiny

Committees according to the priority area

of interest.

The Council Plan Mid-Year Performance

Report has been to all of the

Overview and Scrutiny Committees and

no changes have been requested

following these meetings.

Chief Officers and Senior Managers have

contributed towards reporting of

relevant information.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)

UPDATED CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION SUBJECT:

STRATEGY

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Members endorse the updates to the

Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS Formal consultation is not required for

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: non-material changes to the

> Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy. However, consultation on this latest version has been undertaken with all Members, Town and Community Councils and Welsh Government, and has also been shared with all Chief Officers and the Welsh Land Contamination Working Group. This Group comprises of technical specialists from across Wales, including Natural Resources Wales. The Strategy was also shared with the Welsh Land Contamination Working Group. This consultation period was 21 July 2013 to

15 September 2023. No adverse

comments were received

Before seeking Cabinet approval, the Inspection Strategy has been considered by Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19th December 2023. Comment was received that Members did not wish reference to the historical manufacture and transport of the Airbus A380 wings in Section 7.10.8 (page 31). An additional amendment to the document has therefore been made and this point removed.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Flintshire County Council has an annual revenue budget to fund the assessments which is held within the portfolio budget. In addition to this, the Planning, Environment and Economy Portfolio employs a specialist Contaminated Land Officer (full-time) to lead on and deal with land contamination related work, projects and programmes of work. The Contaminated Land Officer also supports the work of the wider Planning, Environment and Economy Portfolio.

Capital funding set aside by Welsh Government from a capital programme, is currently suspended as that programme undergoes a review.

The continued progression of the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy ensures that Flintshire is in a strong position to apply for funding. Competitive applications for funding will continue to be made when the Welsh Government restore their capital programme.

One of the key objectives of the Strategy is to minimise the unnecessary burden of cost to the taxpayer, business, and individuals.

The 'Polluter Pays' principle applies to Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the responsibility for land contamination rests with those who caused or knowingly permitted it or, with the owner or occupier of the land. The Council will make reasonable enquiries to identify and trace those responsible for the contamination and for each individual link between contamination and receptor and will offer them an opportunity to carry out remedial works voluntarily.

Where the works cannot be secured voluntarily, appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

<u>DISPENSATIONS</u> None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

<u>DATE OF MEETING:</u> <u>16 JANUARY 2024</u> <u>AGENDA ITEM NO. 7</u>

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Education and Youth)

SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON THE NORTH EAST WALES

ARCHIVE (NEWA) PROJECT

(1)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT:

Cabinet notes the submission of a further grant application to the NLHF Wales for £7.336m by North East Wales Archive (NEWA) on 15 November 2023:

- (2) Cabinet notes the outcome of the grant application will be known by the end of March 2024, and that if the bid and the project are successful, then the service delivery model will be fully operational by the end of the financial year 2027-28; and
- (3) Cabinet notes the challenges faced by the project since 2021 and the ongoing developments, including the impact on the potential costs of the project in light of inflationary pressures in the current market conditions.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS Formal reports have been presented to the following groups:

- i. Informal Cabinet (November 2018, October 2019, September 2021)
- ii. Capital and Assets Programme Board (July 2019)
- iii. Special COT (September 2019)
- iv. COT Business (October 2019, January 2022 & November 2022)
- v. Education and Youth Overview and

Scrutiny Committee (November 2019)

vi. Cabinet (November 2019)

Specific engagement meetings have been had with the following internal stakeholders within Flintshire:

- Political: Lead Members and ward Members
- Operational: CEO, Chief Officers Team, Flintshire Record Office (archive service), Legal Services, Financial Services, Biodiversity Officer, Conservation Officer, Trees Officer, Building Design & Cost consultancy Team Leader, Carbon Officer, Health and Safety Officer, and Strategic Assets.

Externally the following have been engaged with:

- Denbighshire County Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Theatr Clwyd
- The National Archive (TNA)
- Wales Assembly Government Culture and Leisure Department
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)
- Glyndwr University
- HMP Berwyn
- Various charities and other providers

Consultation and engagement with our key funder NLHF, archive users and traditionally non-users and activity plan delivery partners will be ongoing. So far, the public have been engaged as follows:

- Stand and questionnaire at the Flint and Denbigh Show (August 2019)
- Public Briefing and online questionnaire launched via social media (September 2019)
 - Consultation with service users about proposed

changes. Majority of responses received were in favour of proposals.

Consultation with elected members, especially Cabinet and Hawarden ward members, which will be ongoing.

Consultation with local stakeholders and key partners will also be undertaken e.g. local history groups, Gladstone Library, Aura Libraries and Leisure etc.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The project is now estimated to cost £12,857m which is an increase of £0.366m. The ask from the Welsh Heritage Lottery Funding has gone from £7m to £7.336m to cover this increase in costs.

The funding sources include £7.336m of NLHF funding, £300k WG Culture and Leisure department capital grant funding, (supported in principle by the department, but applied for prior to the year of use), with the balance of funding identified as a match funding requirement from both FCC and DCC based on a ratio of 60:40. The increased level of match funding identified, is due in part to increased inflation on construction materials. Other sources of funding for aspects of the project will be investigated in the development phase of the project, with a view to reducing the match funding requirement from both Councils.

The phased approach to the delivery of the project and the programme milestones, assist with the management of risk, by enabling informed decisions to be made at key points in the project.

In respect of the original project business case, the redesigned building in the same location will enable the delivery of the projected cashable benefits.

In terms of the non- cashable benefits, the delivery of permanent exhibition space cannot now be achieved; instead Theatr Clwyd's exhibition space will be used as required. Although the building will now achieve net zero carbon standard in operation as opposed to Passivhaus, the repository will still be built to Passivhaus, and given that the building is significantly smaller, overall, it is not anticipated to have a greater carbon impact.

The provision of a joint archive facility would enable FCC to generate a capital receipt from the disposal of the Hawarden site.

During the life of the building, it is proposed that FCC to retain freehold for the land and the building and DCC will enter into a lease with FCC outlining clearly the terms of the shared occupation of the building (e.g. expectations around building management, maintenance and compliance). This lease would be for 25 years to begin with, pepper corn rate, and review periods and the opportunity to renew at the end of 25 years or expire. Cost sharing will be done based on population-currently 60/40 and reviewed in light of any new census data.

Considering the end of life of the building, it is proposed that DCC would not seek any return from sale or otherwise of the asset as the initial investment of capital by DCC, over the 25 years of operation, would have delivered a benefit to the organisation over and above any sort of return from sale.

Whilst FCC will have responsibility for the building, it is proposed that DCC will undertake the lead authority role in respect of the NEWA joint service contract, with both authorities equally represented on a Joint Service Board.

In terms of the operational budget for the NEWA service, the restructure and business change proposed will be managed within the existing service budgets. The smaller building will be less costly to operate, although the rateable value is anticipated to be higher. This is offset against the ongoing cost to the service of offsite storage which will be negated by a new building. An outline business plan has been developed for the service, and will be updated during the development phase, as more work is done, and costs are confirmed.

Prior to any acceptance of any NLHF grant funding offered, the heads of terms between Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council need to be agreed. This manages any risk to Flintshire County Council in terms of Denbighshire County Council's commitment to its proportion of the match funding, and the project delivery arrangements. Equally it will provide **Denbighshire County Council with** security of tenure within the new archive facility and provide the terms of the arrangements between both Councils going forward, in respect of the building, the staff, the operational budgets and the management arrangements.

Impact on other services

- Legal support required relating to contractual arrangements related to any grant funding and the collaborative arrangements between the Councils.
- ii. Financial support- relating to any grant funding administration and the establishment and support of the collaborative service
- iii. HR- support required in creation of a single shared service.
- iv. ICT-support and input related to the future ICT solution and application

- v. Archive- restructure and introduction of new way of working. Engagement with the design process, decant and recant of archives, and business as usual working across 2 counties,
- vi. Building Design and Cost
 Consultancy- input into
 procurement of contractor and
 specification of the building
- vii. Procurement-advice and guidance
- viii. Building Maintenance- advice and support related to the delivery of the grant outputs, and the collaborative arrangements related to the building
- ix. Strategic Assets the requirement to operate, manage the Old Rectory, Hawarden, in a different way once Archive's vacate or/and arrange for is disposal.

Impact on Biodiversity and the environment include:

- i. The design will incorporate garden areas which will be used to "rewild" the landscape creating biodiversity rich spaces. The plans for the gardens will also complement the drainage and attenuation strategy for the site, creating channels that hold water and thus provide a more diverse plant and animal habitat.
- ii. Opportunities to incorporate features for biodiversity into the new building will also be maximised. For example, in built bat and bird boxes that will complement the landscaping and provide homes for species already on site.
- iii. It is estimated this project will generate a significant carbon saving of that will contribute towards FCC's commitment to reducing its carbon emissions, and the move to becoming a carbon neutral Council in line with Welsh Government's ambition for a

- carbon neutral public sector by 2030.
- iv. This project supports the Council's "Green Council" priority by reducing carbon emissions, via its Net zero Carbon/Passivhaus design, and increase the amount of energy generated by renewables, via installation of solar PV on the roof and consideration of inclusion of a small ground source heat pump to provide space heating and cooling requirements.

Anti-Poverty impact include:

 Consideration will be given to providing supportive rates on any fees and charges activity undertaken by the Joint Archive Service (e.g. search room bookings)

Equalities impact include:

- The new building will be fully DDA compliant and accessible for all users which the current sites are not
- ii. The new building will be purposely designed as an archive facility and therefore designed with health and safety of staff and customers in mind.
- iii. The Joint Archive Service delivery model is that of a hub and spoke. The hub being the new building in Mold and the spokes being permanent and temporary outreach activity across the two counties. Permanent archive access points within libraries for example for digitalised records and temporary initiatives out in communities and with partners on specific topics.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED

The

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

<u>DATE OF MEETING:</u> <u>16 JANUARY 2024</u> <u>AGENDA ITEM NO. 8</u>

REPORT OF: Corporate Finance Manager

SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 (MONTH

<u>8)</u>

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: To note the report and the estimated

financial impact on the 2023/24 budget.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS None.

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: As set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Governance)

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX REFORM – WELSH GOVERNMENT

PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: Cabinet is asked to consider the Welsh

Government (phase 2) proposals to reform Council Tax and authorise senior officers to respond to the

consultation, as set out in appendix 1 to

this report.

DECISION: That the Welsh Government (phase 2)

proposals to reform Council Tax be noted,

and senior officers be authorised to

respond to the consultation to recommend the expanded version with an incremental

approach.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

CONSULTATIONS The phase 2 WG consultation follows on

from a previous consultation in September 2022 and builds on the commitment of Welsh Government to

create what they believe to be a fairer and

more progressive council tax

system.

The phase 2 consultation is open until 6

February and the purpose of this report is to provide cabinet with the opportunity to comment on the

consultation proposals and to endorse the

responses as prepared by the

senior officer in the Revenues service.

The implementation date for any changes,

including the national

revaluation of domestic properties subject

to council tax, could take effect

from April 2025. Other changes relating to

the reform of Class F and Class U exemptions would be effective from April 2026.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The implementation date for any changes, including the national revaluation of domestic properties subject to council tax, could take effect from April 2025. Other changes relating to the reform of Class F and Class U exemptions would be effective from April 2026.

Following a national revaluation, if a local authority tax-base decreases it would receive proportionately more in RSG to compensate for lower council tax revenue. On the other hand, if the tax base increased it would result in less RSG.

The possible approaches presented would all change the amount of revenue which can be raised in each council area, and this would have a redistributed effect on the RSG allocations.

The RSG is allocated using a detailed formula which takes account of local ability to raise financial resources, so that grant funding is fair across Wales.

While there would inevitably be wide ranging effects on the tax-bases across Wales because of any revaluation, WG also advise there should be no significant overall changes in funding for council services.

The national revaluation of council tax bandings would be an extensive exercise and resourced through the Valuation Office Agency, though the effects of the revaluation would result in additional workloads within the Revenues, particularly to administer any transitional rate relief scheme, deal with increased levels of customer

enquiries, and provide advice and support to residents, particularly those who may struggle to pay increased levels of council tax in cases where properties are re-banded upwards.

Proposed changes to Class F and Class U exemptions would result in minimal additional workloads. The time limitations for Class F would inevitably result in the collection of increased council tax levels for the small number of cases where probate is not awarded within the agreed time periods. The Class F proposals would also prevent some properties from being left empty for long periods and encourage executors/next-of-kin not to delay applying for probate or letters of administration.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)

SUBJECT: STREETLIGHTING POLICY 2023-2028

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: (1) That Cabinet notes the portfolio's performance against the current

standards and policy; and

(2) That Cabinet supports the revised

As detailed in the recommendations.

Street Lighting policy.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

DECISION:

CONSULTATIONS Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

Member for Streetscene and Regional Transport Strategy.

With the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Revenue: The portfolio is currently

reporting an in-year budget pressure of £200k for street lighting due to increased

energy costs.

As part of the MTFS budget solutions for 2023-2024, work is ongoing to deliver further efficiencies either through extending part-night lighting or light dimming in line with the policy. By extending the part-night lighting a

financial saving of approximately £12k per 1,000 lanterns will be delivered. This will be achieved by replacing the photocells on the lanterns installed at locations

defined within the policy.

Capital: As outlined in Section 1.04, a number of street lighting assets and electrical infrastructure are now at a

critical stage and in urgent need of replacement. A bid has been submitted to the Capital Programme Board for 2024-2025 for the most critical assets and will be subject to sufficient budget being available and approval by the Board.

Human Resources: There are no known implications for additional capacity or for any changes to current workforce practices, structures or roles as part of this policy review.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)

UNSAFE MEMORIALS IN FLINTSHIRE SUBJECT:

CEMETERIES

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: (1) That Cabinet supports the proposal to adopt the "digging in" method to stabilise those memorials deemed to be structurally unsafe when the grave owners cannot be traced. This approach will address the ongoing health and safety risk associated with unsafe memorials that only currently receive a temporary shortterm fix; and

(2) That Cabinet supports the proposal to address unsafe kerb sets by repositioning all kerb sections within the structure of the grave either above or below the surface depending on the presence of a concrete slab foundation.

As detailed in the recommendations. **DECISION:**

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS Consultation will be carried out with the **REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:** local elected members and town /

community councils, subject to approval.

A communications plan will need to be drafted and delivered, subject to approval and would involve publication and notification of the change in approach being publicised on the authority's website, social media platforms and within each cemetery.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Revenue: There could be potential

revenue implications for the proposals.

Should approval not be given for the "digging in" method, then each of those memorials currently supported with wooden stakes would require re-staking every two to three years to ensure that the stakes were still fit for purpose and hadn't degraded. The current cost for having memorials staked via the appointed contract including materials is £9 per memorial. Therefore, the current revenue costs would be approximately £5,850.00 every two to three years. This cost will increase as more unsafe headstones are identified and not repaired by family members or next of kin.

Capital: There are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years.

Human Resources: In order to address the number of memorials and broken kerb sets currently identified, a team consisting of two operatives (Streetscene 2 and Streetscene 1) would need to be established to deal with the current backlog. It is estimated that this would take approximately 4 months to complete at a cost of approximately £17,000. Once the backlog has been cleared, any further identified unsafe memorials would be dealt with by the existing Bereavement Services team within current resource allocations.

Some initial equipment purchase may be required, such as lifting gantry for heavier memorials at a cost of approximately £1k, and "porters" trolleys at a cost of approximately £100 each, which could be purchased from within the existing revenue budget allocated for plant and equipment.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS

None.

| DATE PUBLISHED |): |
|----------------|----|
|----------------|----|

17th January 2024

SIGNED

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)

SUBJECT: ALARM SERVICE CHARGES REVIEW

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet supports and endorses the

proposal to achieve full cost recovery for the housing revenue account alarms

service.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS Housing and Communities Programme

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: Board.

If the proposal is agreed, there will be a

communication plan drafted to

engage with the affected residents and local Members in the period leading up to the service charge implementation

of April 2024.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: The proposed service charge increase will

enable full cost recovery to be

achieved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)

SUBJECT: HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND ANTI-SOCIAL

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: To approve the Housing Management

and Anti-Social Behaviour policies.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS Consultation has been completed and

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: included:

Draft policy shared with residents'

groups and the Tenants

Federation.

Attendance at resident group

meetings.

Other groups as identified following

the first stage Integrated Impact

Assessment.

Cabinet and Communities and

Housing Overview and Scrutiny

Committee

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

<u>SIGNED</u> Democratic Services Manager

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)

SUBJECT: BAILEY HILL MOLD

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: That Cabinet note the successful

completion of development at Bailey Hill

in Mold.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendation.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

<u>CONSULTATIONS</u> The Bailey Hill project was extensively

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT: consulted upon with local

stakeholders including the schools in

Mold.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: The Centre, even once the income from

residential and community lettings has been considered, runs at a deficit each year and will always do so. At present, Mold Town Council have been

bearing this cost. The tripartite partnership will need to review the operation of the Centre and more fairly distribute the operation and costs of the

Centre between them in line with the original concept for the site.

The costs arising from the arrangement

cannot be quantified at this stage

but are likely to be sufficiently small as to

be able to be absorbed within the Enterprise and Regeneration service

budget.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED

The

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 15

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)

SUBJECT: ACCESS BARRIER REVIEW UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: (1) That Cabinet note the feedback on

the proposed access

improvements and the potential

risks to the Authority; and

(2) That Cabinet agrees to the proposed improvements to the access points as detailed in the

plan and specification.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS North Wales Police and Natural

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

Resources Wales (NRW) were consulted on the consultant's study and their views

fed into the recommendations

and are supportive of the approach. The

study was also shared with

individual members of the disability community who have expressed an

interest or concern in accessing the WCP.

The Environment and Economy Overview

and Scrutiny Committee and

Flintshire Local Access Forum (LAF) discussed the report 11th July 2023.

The Committee and forum supported the

recommendations in principle subject to further consultation with

appropriate user groups.

Users and stakeholders were asked for

feedback on the plan and

specification for improvements at Saltney

footbridge during October.

Summary of responses included in

Appendix 2.

The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the update report following the consultation of users and stakeholders on 19th December 2023.

A wide range for comments were received from members of the committee and are summarised as follows:

- Fundamentally disagree with the proposal, this is a retrograde step and barriers should be removed to allow access for all. Increased visitor numbers will reduce illegal access. We should be acting within the spirit of the legislation.
- Path safety is paramount, this is a compromise which should be supported.
- 6-month review period is too long and there needs to be further consideration to what the options will be after the review period
- The proposals are worth trying.
 Need to look at other access points in the area.
- Radar locks can be difficult to operate, the use of chicane barriers to slow speeds should be considered.
- The proposal does not work, radar keys are widely available.
- Are there lessons to be learnt from other Authorities in the same position.

The committee voted 6 in favour, 3 against the proposals.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Review was funded by Natural Resources Wales WCP grant fund.

An application for funding from Natural Resources Wales WCP grant has been made to implement recommendations within this pilot area.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

<u>SIGNED</u>

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET RECORD OF DECISION

DATE OF MEETING: 16 JANUARY 2024 AGENDA ITEM NO. 17

REPORT OF: Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)

SUBJECT: FLEET CONTRACT REVIEW

RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT: As detailed in the recommendations of the

report.

DECISION: As detailed in the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISION: As in the report.

CONSULTATIONS Undertaken with: -

REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT:

• Cabinet Member for Streetscene &

Transportation

• Chief Officer Team

HR Business Partner

Procurement Team Leader

Fleet & Contract Manager

County Contracts Solicitor

External Legal Support

(Weightmans)

Strategic Finance Managers

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Revenue: The Strategic Finance

Managers have been consulted regarding the impact of changing the procurement

model for Fleet.

Capital: The Strategic Finance Managers

have been investigating funding mechanisms for future vehicle

procurement.

Human Resources: The HR Business Partner has been consulted to advise on recruitment and TUPE at the point

when the contract expires.

IT: a review of the existing IT systems within the service is being undertaken to

assess the suitability to support an inhouse provision going forward.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

DISPENSATIONS None.

DATE PUBLISHED: 17th January 2024

SIGNED Democratic Services Manager