

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 OCTOBER 2024

Minutes of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, 10 October 2024

PRESENT: **Councillor Bill Crease (Chair)**
Councillors: Tina Claydon, David Coggins Cogan, Rob Davies, Gladys Healey, Ian Hodge, Alasdair Ibbotson, Gina Maddison, Allan Marshall, Vicky Perfect, Jason Shallcross and Sean Bibby (substitute for Billy Mullin)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Helen Brown, Dave Hughes (Leader of the Council), Christine Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Well-being), Andrew Parkhurst and Sam Swash attended as observers

APOLOGY: Councillor Chris Bithell (Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection)

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Paul Johnson (Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value), Councillor Richard Jones (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets), Councillor Mared Eastwood (Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language and Culture), Councillor Linda Thomas (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance) and Corporate Manager - Capital Programme and Assets

For minute number 49

Community and Business Protection Manager, Senior Manager (Safeguarding and Commissioning), Youth Justice Senior Manager, Trading Standards Team Manager, Community Safety Team Leader and Chief Inspector Emma Parry of North Wales Police

For minute numbers 50-51

Corporate Finance Manager and Strategic Finance Manager

For minute number 51

Carwyn Rees from Audit Wales

For minute numbers 52-53

Strategic Policy Advisor

For minute number 54

Team Leader for Corporate Maintenance and Strategic Executive Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Democratic Services Manager, Democratic Services Officer and Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

None.

46. MINUTES ([Link to recording](#))

Matters Arising

On minute number 36 resolution (c), officers confirmed that the letter to the Health Board and Ministry for Health would be despatched by the end of the week.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

47. ACTION TRACKING ([Link to recording](#))

The Democratic Services Manager presented a [report \(agenda item number 4\)](#) on progress with actions from previous meetings. He agreed to update the document for the next meeting, including a response to Councillor Shallcross' question on the rationale for funding transportation for pupils out of county to Chester Catholic High School, as raised in July.

On that basis, the recommendation was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the progress which has been made.

48. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME ([Link to recording](#))

The Democratic Services Manager presented a [report \(agenda item number 5\)](#) on the Committee's current Forward Work Programme. He agreed to liaise with the Chair to schedule the items listed in sections 1.04 and 1.05 along with other items raised by Members as follows:

- Long-term Financial Strategy.
- Regular item on Transformation including impact on Equalities.
- Previously requested item on the Assets department.

On that basis, the recommendations were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved, as amended; and
- (b) That the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises.

49. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT ([Link to recording](#))

The Chief Executive introduced a [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) on the work of the Community Safety Partnership over the past 12 months. A joint [presentation](#) was given by the Community and Business Protection Manager, Senior Manager (Safeguarding and Commissioning), Chief Inspector Emma Parry of North Wales Police, Youth Justice Senior Manager (James Warr), Trading Standards Team Manager (Richard Powell) and Community Safety Team Leader (Peter Shakespeare) which covered activities during the year, crime and disorder in Flintshire and local priorities.

In response to comments, the Chair welcomed any opportunities to publicise the activities of the Partnership. Chief Inspector Emma Parry agreed to liaise with officers on a request for the Committee to visit the Police Station in Mold.

A copy of the presentation slides would be shared with the Committee following the meeting.

The recommendation was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes and supports the contents of the report.

50. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25 (MONTH 5) ([Link to recording](#))

The Strategic Finance Manager presented the [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) on the 2024/25 month 5 position for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) prior to consideration by Cabinet.

In response to questions, officers advised that updates on action plans for Social Services, Streetscene & Transportation and Housing & Communities would be reflected in the month 6 report. Comments on the general format of the report in respect of readability and clearly identifying over/underspends were noted for consideration by officers.

RESOLVED:

That having considered the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (month 5) report, the comments raised by the Committee be referred to Cabinet.

There was a brief adjournment at this stage of the meeting.

51. AUDIT WALES REPORT - FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY ([Link to recording](#))

The Corporate Finance Manager introduced the [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) outlining the findings of a local report by Audit Wales, following a review across all 22 Welsh Local Authorities. Appendix 2 to the report set out the Council's response to the recommendation by Audit Wales.

Carwyn Rees of Audit Wales presented an overview of the key findings.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's comments on the Audit Wales report be noted.

52. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 ([Link to recording](#))

As Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Linda Thomas presented a [report \(agenda item number 9\)](#) setting out the Council's progress in implementing its Strategic Equality Plan and meeting equality objectives during 2023/24.

The recommendations were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee endorses the Strategic Equality Pan Annual Report for 2023/24; and
- (b) That the Committee is assured that the Council has been making progress to meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty.

53. NEW BRIGHTON - ADOPTION OF A WELSH NAME ([Link to recording](#))

The Strategic Policy Advisor presented a [report \(agenda item number 10\)](#) to recommend the adoption of a Welsh name for New Brighton - Pentre Cythrel.

The recommendation was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee supports the recommendation to approve the adoption of "Pentre Cythrel" as the recognised Welsh form of New Brighton and asking the Welsh Language Commissioner to include this in the standardised list of Welsh place-names.

54. OFFICE RATIONALISATION PROGRAMME AND COUNTY HALL CAMPUS ([Link to recording](#))

As Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets, Councillor Richard Jones introduced a [report \(agenda item number 11\)](#) which outlined phases and indicative costs for the next stage of the project. The Corporate Manager - Capital Programme and Assets provided an overview of the key points.

RESOLVED:

That the comments made by the Committee on the report be noted by Cabinet.

55. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

None.

(The meeting started at 10am and ended at 1.35pm)

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Chair

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