

Public Document Pack

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Chief Officer (Governance)
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: Cllr Dave Hughes (Leader)

Councillors: Glyn Banks, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Chris Dolphin,
Mared Eastwood, Paul Johnson, Christine Jones, Richard Jones and
Linda Thomas

11 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
CABINET
TUESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2024 at 10.00 AM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in the Delyn Committee Room, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

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

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

A G E N D A

1 **APOLOGIES**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Purpose: To receive any declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 7 - 14)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024.

4 **URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

Purpose: Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS

STRATEGIC REPORTS

5 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2025/26** (Pages 15 - 28)

Report of Chief Executive – Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value

Purpose: To provide an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2025/26 financial year in advance of the receipt of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement on 11 December.

6 **CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR NORTH EAST WALES** (Pages 29 - 42)

Report of Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) - Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate

Purpose: To agree the Council's response to a live consultation on the proposed North East Wales National Park.

7 DE-CARBONISATION STRATEGY UPDATE (Pages 43 - 70)

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

Purpose: To provide an update on the De-carbonisation Strategy.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25 (MONTH 7) (Pages 71 - 96)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value

Purpose: This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2024/25 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 7, and projects forward to year-end.

9 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2024/25 (Pages 97 - 122)

Report of Corporate Finance Manager - Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value

Purpose: To present the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Review for 2024/25 for recommendation to Council.

10 BUSINESS RATES – WRITE OFF (Pages 123 - 126)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Purpose: To seek approval to write off irrecoverable Business Rate debts more than £25,000.

11 HOUSING RENT INCOME SERVICE – CHANGE IN REPORTING PORTFOLIO (Pages 127 - 132)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities

Purpose: To seek approval to transfer the Housing Rent Income service from the Governance portfolio to the Housing & Communities portfolio.

12 **RECOMMISSIONING OF HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT (HSG) FLOATING SUPPORT CONTRACTS** (Pages 133 - 138)

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

Purpose: To approve the commissioning / re-tendering of Flintshire's Floating Support Services funded by the Housing Support Grant.

13 **COST RECOVERY FOR SUPPORTING PUBLIC EVENTS AFFECTING THE HIGHWAY** (Pages 139 - 152)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation

Purpose: To advise on the level of support offered to event organisers, and the necessity to recover associated costs for public events affecting the highway.

14 **PROPOSALS BY THE LAW COMMISSION TO REFORM BURIAL AND CREMATION LEGISLATION** (Pages 153 - 206)

Report of Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation) - Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation

Purpose: To provide information on a review being undertaken by the Law Commission in relation to a reform in the legislation for burial, cremation and new funerary methods.

15 **FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE** (Pages 207 - 222)

Report of Chief Executive - Leader of the Council

Purpose: To provide an update on the development of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone.

16 **SOCIAL SERVICES CARE INSPECTORATE WALES, PERFORMANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION NOVEMBER 2023 – ACTION PLAN UPDATE** (Pages 223 - 278)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Purpose: To provide an update on the progress of implementing the resulting action plan.

17 **FUTURE OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM (CMHT)** (Pages 279 - 284)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Purpose: To consider a proposal to cease an integrated Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). This would involve withdrawing Social Workers from the three CMHT Teams and locating them alongside the existing Well Being and Recovery Team within Social Services.

18 **FLYING START CHILDCARE EXPANSION FLINTSHIRE PROPOSAL** (Pages 285 - 302)

Report of Chief Officer (Social Services) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Purpose: To seek approval for the proposed Phase 3 expansion of the Flying Start 2 year old childcare across Flintshire into remaining areas currently not covered.

19 **CALL-IN REPORT - RESIDUAL WASTE COLLECTION CHANGE IMPLEMENTATION AND POLICY REVIEW** (Pages 303 - 324)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation

Purpose: To provide an update following the call-in meeting relating to the Residual Waste Collection Change Implementation and Policy Review held on Tuesday 10th December 2024.

20 **EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS** (Pages 325 - 326)

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) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains matters pertaining to employment relations and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the interest in disclosure until such time as the issues have been resolved.

21 **STRATEGIC TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME** (Pages 357 - 368)

Report of Chief Officer (Governance) - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets

Purpose: To approve the criteria for adding projects to the transformation programme and to consider adding a number of projects.

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 report contains details of the financial affairs of Cambrian Aquatics and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the interest in disclosure.

22 **CAMBRIAN AQUATICS** (Pages 369 - 376)

Report of Chief Executive - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets

Purpose: To provide an update on Cambrian Aquatics.

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

CABINET
19TH NOVEMBER 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Tuesday 19th November.

PRESENT: **Councillor Dave Hughes (Chair)**
Councillors: Glyn Banks, Chris Bithell, Helen Brown, Chris Dolphin, Mared Eastwood, Paul Johnson Christine Jones, Richard Jones and Linda Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors: David Coggins Cogan, Chrissy Gee and Andrew Parkhurst attended as observers.

APOLOGIES: None.

CONTRIBUTORS: Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Governance), Chief Officer Housing and Communities), Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Corporate Finance Manager, Corporate Manager - People and Organisational Development, Corporate Manager - Capital Programme and Assets, Housing Programme Services Manager and Strategic Finance Manager.

IN ATTENDANCE: Team Leader – Democratic Services and Democratic Services Officer.

102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

103. MINUTES
[\(link to recording\)](#)

The minutes of the meeting held on [15th October 2024 \(agenda item number 3\)](#) were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings be confirmed as a correct record.

104. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR FINANCIAL BUSINESS PLAN
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Brown presented the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Financial Business Plan [report \(agenda item number 4\)](#), which highlighted all of the considerations required.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the HRA budget for 2025/26, as set out in the report, be considered;
- (b) That the proposed minimum rent increase of 2.7% be approved;
- (c) That the garage rent increase of 2.7% be approved;
- (d) That an increase in service charges to full cost recovery be approved;
- (e) That the pressures and efficiencies detailed in the appendix be noted; and
- (f) That the proposed HRA Capital Programme for 2025/26 be approved.

105. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 – 2027/28
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Richard Jones introduced the [report \(agenda item number 5\)](#) which presented the proposed Capital Programme for the period 2025/26 – 2027/28 for recommendation to Council.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the allocations and schemes in Table 3 for the Statutory / Regulatory and Retained Assets sections of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28 be approved;
- (b) That the schemes included in Table 4 for the Investment section of the Council Fund Capital Programme 2025/26-2027/28 be approved;
- (c) That the shortfall in funding of schemes in 2027/28 in Table 5 (although there are surplus in years prior), be noted; and
- (d) That the schemes included in Table 6 for the specifically funded section of the Council's Fund Capital Programme which will be funded in part through borrowing be approved.

106. CAPITAL STRATEGY INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2025/26 – 2027/28
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) which sought Cabinet approval for recommendation to Council.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Capital Strategy be approved and recommended to County Council; and
- (b) That Cabinet approve and recommend to County Council:
 - The Prudential Indicators for 2025/26 – 2027/28 as detailed within Tables 1, and 4-8 of the Capital Strategy
 - Delegated authority for the Corporate Finance Manager to effect movements between the separately agreed limits within the authorised limit for external debt and the operational boundary for external debt (Table 6 of the Capital Strategy).

107. INTENSIVE HOUSING MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Brown introduced the [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) which outlined a model of intensive housing management services provided by D2 PropCo for homeless accommodation and the cost benefits of engaging a partner for those services.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the work undertaken to identify potential providers of an intensive housing management service for homeless accommodation be noted;
- (b) That the outcome of the Prior Information Notice (PIN) by way of testing the market be noted; and
- (c) That the direct award to D2 PropCo be approved, to engage them as a partner to provide an intensive housing management solution for homeless accommodation.

108. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25 (MONTH 6)
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) which provided the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2024/25 financial year for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2024/25 budget be noted; and
- (b) That the measures being considered for inclusion towards improving the financial position by the end of the financial year be noted.

109. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2024/25 (MONTH 6)

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 9\)](#) which summarised changes made to the Capital Programme 2024/25 since it was set in December 2023.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the overall report be approved;
- (b) That the carry forward adjustments be approved; and
- (c) That the additional allocations approved by Cabinet on 15th October 2024 be noted.

110. COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2025/26

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Johnson introduced the [report \(agenda item number 10\)](#) which was integral to the revenue budget and Council Tax approval process for 2025/26.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the tax base of 66,458 band D equivalent properties for tax setting purposes for the financial year 2025/26 which incorporates the planned uplift to the rates from 75% to 100% to the rates for Long Term Empty Properties and the continuation of the 100% premium for Second Homes be approved; and
- (b) That a 'nil' discount for properties falling within any of the Prescribed Classes (A, B or C) continue to be set which would apply to the whole of the county area.

111. RESIDUAL WASTE COLLECTION CHANGE IMPLEMENTATION AND POLICY REVIEW

[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Banks introduced the [report \(agenda item number 11\)](#) which presented the proposed implementation date and action and communication plans in place for the service change.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed implementation date for the residual waste collection frequency change already approved, be approved;
- (b) That the proposed implementation plan be noted, and the work undertaken to date be supported;
- (c) That the communication plan be noted;
- (d) That the updated Recycling and Household Collections and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy to reflect the previously approved changes to services be noted; and
- (e) That the updated Household Recycling Centre Vehicle Permit Policy to be published following the adoption of revised procedures put in place to support customers with disabilities who may need to access the HRCs using their vehicles be noted.

112. SELF EVALUATION OF FLINTSHIRE EDUCATION SERVICES
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Eastwood introduced the [report \(agenda item number 12\)](#) which concluded that education services in Flintshire were strong, effectively supported children and young people and continued to provide good value for money.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the outcome of the Education Portfolio's annual self-evaluation report on the quality of education services for the period 2023/24 be noted; and
- (b) That any observations on the report be provided to the Portfolio Team.

113. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL LETTER 2023-24 AND HALF-YEAR COMPLAINTS PERFORMANCE 2024/25
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Thomas introduced the [report \(agenda item number 13\)](#) which provided an overview of the performance of the Council in relation to complaints of maladministration received between April 2023 and March 2024. It also provided an overview of complaints received by each portfolio.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the positive annual performance of the Council in respect of complaints made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales during 2023-24 be noted;

- (b) That the half year performance of the Council (2024-25) in respect of complaints received in line with the Council's Concerns and Complaints policy be noted; and
- (c) That the priorities outlined in the report be supported.

114. BROMBOROUGH PLASTICS – UPDATE REPORT
[\(link to recording\)](#)

Councillor Thomas introduced the [report \(agenda item number 14\)](#) which provided details of a debt recommended for write off in line with Financial Procedure Rules.

The recommendation in the report was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the write off debt be approved.

115. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS
[\(link to recording\)](#)

An information [item \(agenda item number 15\)](#) on the actions taken under delegated powers was submitted and noted.

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 and 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

116. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MODEL

Councillor Eastwood introduced the report which provided an update on the progress being made to create a new Flintshire School Improvement Service from 1st April 2025.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the complexities in creating a new local authority model for school improvement services within the expected timescales with some critical information note yet available be acknowledged;
- (b) That Members confirm their confidence in the draft model being presented to ensure ongoing and effective support for Flintshire schools to ensure the best outcomes for learners;

- (c) That Members accept that the model has to be flexible and will be subject to changes being made by the senior officers of the Education Portfolio as progress is made towards the April 2025 deadline; and
- (d) That any feedback and comments be provided, to inform the development of the model.

117. PROCUREMENT OF CLIENT INFORMATION SYSTEM - UPDATE

Councillor Jones introduced the report which outlined the procurement and implementation of a new IT system for social care.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the continued and evolving involvement in the production of the national business case and the national groups underpinning the Connecting Care programme;
- (b) That approval be given to proceed to Contract award stage and the ensuring financial commitment; and
- (c) That the proposals to begin the implementation of the new system after the 1st April 2026 be agreed, with full implementation completed by the 31st March 2028.

118. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 12.10 p.m.)

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Chair

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 17 December 2024
Report Subject	Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2025/26
Cabinet Member	Cllr Paul Johnson for Finance and Social Value
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Executive
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2025/26 financial year in advance of the receipt of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement on 11 December which had not been received at the time of writing the report. An update on the key headlines and impacts of the Provisional Settlement will be provided at the meeting.

In July, Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee were advised of an initial additional budget requirement for the 2025/26 financial year of £37.778m

This was revised upwards to £38.420m in September and the cost pressures were referred to and considered by relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees from October to December.

The UK Chancellor announced her Autumn Budget Statement on 30 October and the potential impact on the Welsh Government budget is set out in the report. The actual impact for Local Government and Welsh Councils will not be known until the publication of the Welsh Government draft budget and provisional settlement which are scheduled for 10/11 December.

Following receipt of the provisional settlement a detailed briefing will be provided to all members to advise of the impact on the Council's overall 2025/26 budget position.

This report sets out the changes to the 2025/26 additional budget requirement since the last reported position in September. The report also updates on the progress made to identify solutions to bridge the budget gap and advises of the

remaining options available to the Council to enable it to set a legal and balanced budget once the provisional settlement is confirmed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To receive and note the revised additional budget requirement for the 2025/26 financial year.
2	To note the progress made to identify solutions to bridge the budget gap and to also note the remaining options available to set a legal and balanced budget once the provisional settlement is confirmed.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET 2025/26
1.01	This report provides an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2025/26 financial year in advance of the receipt of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement on 11 December which had not been received at the time of writing the report. An update on the key headlines and impacts of the Provisional Settlement will be provided at the meeting.
1.02	In July, Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee were advised of an initial additional budget requirement for the 2025/26 financial year of £37.778m
1.03	This was revised upwards to £38.420m in September and the cost pressures were referred to and considered by relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees from October to December.
1.04	National Context It is clear from a recent Society of Welsh Treasurers survey coordinated by the Welsh Local Government Association that all Councils in Wales are experiencing similar significant financial challenges. Across Wales total cost pressures of £563m have been identified for the 2025/26 financial year with additional cost pressures of £457m in 2026/27 and £462m in 2027/28.
1.05	The UK Chancellor announced her Autumn Budget Statement on 30 October and the potential impact on the Welsh Government budget is set out below.
1.06	For the 2024/25 financial year Welsh Government will receive additional revenue consequential funding of £774m with a further £929m anticipated for the 2025/26 financial year (£694m revenue and £235m capital).

	Therefore, over the next two years Welsh Government are expected to receive additional funding of around £1.7bn.																											
1.07	The actual impact for Local Government and Welsh Councils will not be known until the publication of the Welsh Government draft budget and provisional settlement which are scheduled for 10/11 December.																											
1.08	Based on the above, Welsh Government will have much greater funding flexibility than previously expected to allocate to local government so that they can meet the impact of pay awards and escalating service demand in areas such as social care, homelessness and additional learning needs. The Council will continue to make representations for a better funding settlement which will be essential to enable the Council to be able to set a legal and balanced budget.																											
	THE REVISED ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT																											
1.09	<p>Since September there have been some changes to the additional budget requirement, and these are set out in the table below:</p> <p><u>Table 1: Changes to the Additional Budget Requirement 2025/26</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 927 1404 1391"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">£m</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Note</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>September Cabinet Report</td> <td style="text-align: right;">38.420</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Pressures:</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employers National Insurance Contributions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4.189</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employers Teacher Pension Contributions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.147</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hawarden High School – Resource Unit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.138</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(3)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional Teacher Pay Award – Sep 2024</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.399</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of County Placements</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.200</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised Additional Budget Requirement</td> <td style="text-align: right;">47.493</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Notes in support of table 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of Employers National Insurance contribution increase following UK Autumn Budget Statement – it is anticipated that additional funding will be provided for this from HM Treasury. 2. Impacts of the increase in Employers Teacher Pension contributions effective from April 2024 – it is anticipated that additional funding will be provided by UK Government / Welsh Government. 3. Specialist Additional Learning Needs provision as approved by Cabinet in October (full annual impact of £0.237m from 26/27) 4. A Teacher Pay Award of 5.5% has been approved effective from 1 Sep 2024 – an additional 0.5% compared with the budgeted amount of 5%. 5. Impact of current in-year projected overspend 		£m	Note	September Cabinet Report	38.420		New Pressures:			Employers National Insurance Contributions	4.189	(1)	Employers Teacher Pension Contributions	3.147	(2)	Hawarden High School – Resource Unit	0.138	(3)	Additional Teacher Pay Award – Sep 2024	0.399	(4)	Out of County Placements	1.200	(5)	Revised Additional Budget Requirement	47.493	
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	<u>FUNDING SOLUTIONS</u>																											

1.10 Since September a significant amount of work has been undertaken to identify solutions to meet the remaining budget shortfall. An update on the latest position is detailed in the table below:

Table 2: Funding Solutions identified to date

	£m
Additional Budget Requirement	47.493
Less:	
Additional Funding	
Additional Funding for Employer NI increase	(4.189) (1)
Additional Funding for Teacher Pension increase	(3.147) (2)
Reduction in Existing Cost Pressures:	
Homelessness Demand	(3.017) (3)
Pay Award 2024/25	(0.754) (4)
Streetscene and Transportation – various removed	(0.681) (5)
Central Loans and Investment Account	(0.500) (6)
Children’s Group Homes	(0.450) (7)
Reduction of indexation pressures	(0.700) (8)
Revised Teachers Pay Award 25/26	(0.294) (9)
Mockingbird Repayment deferred for one year	(0.287) (10)
Digital Posts - various	(0.191) (11)
Recycling Income	(0.150) (12)
Local Bus Services	(0.150) (13)
Net Changes to borrowing costs	(0.129) (14)
Homecare Capacity	(0.100) (15)
Regional Collaboration Team	(0.050) (16)
Specialist Legal Expenses	(0.040) (17)
Empty Homes Grant	(0.025) (18)
ADM Resource	(0.024) (19)
Increased Income:	
Fees and Charges (annual review)	(0.150) (20)
Fast Track Income	(0.022) (21)
New Cost Reductions:	
School Demography	(1.349) (22)
Residual Waste Collection frequency	(0.653) (23)
County Hall vacation	(0.371) (24)
Reduction in Travel Budgets (indicative)	(0.160) (25)
Digital Strategy	(0.058) (26)
Reduction in NDR Transitional Relief	<u>(0.001) (27)</u>
Total Funding Solutions identified to date	(17.642)
Remaining Additional Budget Requirement	29.851

Notes in support of table 2:

1. Funding is expected through HM Treasury – assumed in full.
2. Funding is expected to be transferred into the Settlement – assumed in full.
3. Reduction in cost pressure based on Independent Homelessness Review Report in October – mid range.
4. Reduction following the NJC Pay Award for 2024/25 being agreed in October.
5. Reduction in cost pressures following a review and some alternative funding solutions being identified.
6. Reduction in cost pressure due to continuation of relatively stable interest rate forecasts.
7. Pressure deferred due to application for Welsh Government grant to provide funding for the pressure.
8. Review and Challenge of external partner and projected savings on the central utilities budget across Corporate Buildings and Schools.
9. Reduced cost pressure due to revised calculations.
10. Deferment of the first Mockingbird Loan Repayment to 2026/27 as agreed with Welsh Government.
11. Digital posts that can now be funded from approved carry forward balances.
12. Recycling income is not projected to reduce as much as originally forecast.
13. Removed Choice cost pressure as included in the September Cabinet report.
14. The level of anticipated borrowing costs from various capital schemes is not as high as originally anticipated.
15. Deferred pressure due to in-house Homecare Service not yet at full capacity due to current recruitment challenges.
16. Deferment of pressure to 2026/27 in agreement with Welsh Government.
17. Removed Choice cost pressure as included in the September Cabinet report.
18. Removed Choice cost pressure as included in the September Cabinet report.

	<p>19. Removed Choice cost pressure as included in the September Cabinet report.</p> <p>20. Estimate of increased income from the 2025 review of fees and charges.</p> <p>21. Anticipated income forecast to be received from the Fasttrack project.</p> <p>22. Based on the downturn in overall pupil numbers</p> <p>23. Reduction in cost following implementation of the Residual Waste Service moving to 3 weekly from April 2025</p> <p>24. Initial projected savings from vacation of County Hall</p> <p>25. Indicative 20% reduction in travel budgets based on increased home working.</p> <p>26. Digital Strategy net savings from Care Cubed and Paris systems.</p> <p>27. Minor adjustment in NDR Transitional Relief.</p>
1.11	<p><u>AREAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION</u></p> <p>There are still a number of areas that will need to be subject to final consideration for final budget setting purposes once we have received our funding allocation from Welsh Government and these are set out below.</p>
1.12	<p>Welsh Government Aggregate External Finance (AEF)</p> <p>As set out earlier in the report we will be notified of our provisional settlement on 11 December which will provide more certainty on our overall budget position. Final budget proposal options will then need to be prepared for consideration by members prior to final budget setting day scheduled for 18 February.</p> <p>Following the UK Autumn Budget Statement there is scope for a much more positive funding allocation than previously anticipated. Each 1% uplift in our AEF equates to £2.595m so it is essential that a significant uplift is provided.</p> <p>However, as was the case last year changes to data sets as a result of PLASC and the latest statutory returns are likely to have a significant negative impact on our allocation.</p>

1.13	<p>Pay Assumptions</p> <p><u>Impact of National Pay Awards</u></p> <p>A pay award uplift of 4% for both Teaching (from September 2025) and Non-Teaching (from April 2025) is currently included in our estimates. This is a higher assumption than many other Welsh councils and will be reviewed again in advance of final budget setting in conjunction with latest economic forecasts.</p> <p><u>Pay Modelling</u></p> <p>An ‘aspirational’ amount of £2m is currently included for the potential impact of the pay modelling review which is being undertaken to address the recruitment and retention difficulties being experienced across the Council. A further assessment of affordability, including any potential compensatory cost reductions will need to be undertaken for final budget setting although there is a possibility that this cost pressure may need to be removed/deferred.</p>
1.14	<p>Schools Budget</p> <p>The delegated schools budget has been relatively protected in recent years.</p> <p>However, as the Council's largest budget it is inevitable that consideration will need to be given to a further contribution to the overall budget gap in the 2025/26 financial year including the amount of £0.750m currently included as a contribution to addressing school deficit budgets.</p> <p>School budgets benefitted from a net uplift of £3.995m in 2024/25 after taking into account increases for pay, NDR, free school meals and specialist mobile classroom provision which was offset by a 3% reduction and agreed savings on energy, demography and Pension Contributions.</p> <p>The current additional budget requirement for 2025/26 includes total cost pressures of £12.521 for school budgets for pay awards and other identified pressures.</p> <p>Each 1% reduction on the schools budget would equate to £1.173m off the cumulative cost pressures currently included.</p>
1.15	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>The homelessness service has continued to see increasing numbers presenting for support, and the projected overspend in the current financial year is £2.3m, net of ‘No One Left Out’ Grant and additional Housing Benefit income.</p> <p>In response to growing concerns over the financial implications of increasing levels of homelessness, the Chief Executive engaged an Independent Consultant to complete a review of the Councils Homelessness Service and the Council’s approach to tackling homelessness more broadly.</p>

	<p>The outcome of this review was considered by Cabinet in October and a number of recommended measures were agreed which could potentially reduce the cost pressure for 2025/26 within a range of £3.500m - £5.500m (from the £7.5m currently included) however, it is important to note that this is based on demand levels staying within the range we have seen over the last 18 months and any spikes in demand could further increase the financial pressure to the service.</p> <p>Therefore, at this stage a mid-range reduction of £3.017m has been assumed but this will be reviewed in advance of final budget setting based on latest demand projections.</p>
1.16	<p>Portfolio Cost Reductions</p> <p>It is unlikely that the other remaining options available to the Council will be sufficient to meet the current funding shortfall.</p> <p>Therefore, all portfolios are revisiting their cost base with a view to identifying the impact of potential further budget reductions of up to 10%. This will be a very significant challenge but is essential to provide Council with the options it requires for consideration at final budget setting.</p>
1.17	<p>Transformation Programme</p> <p>The resourcing and governance arrangements of this key programme are now underway and an update is included as a separate item on this agenda. The areas identified in the report will be reviewed with regards to achievability although it is anticipated that most of the cost reduction benefits will be over the medium to longer term. However, in view of the major challenge facing the Council priority will be directed to any areas that may be able to generate savings for the 2025/26 budget.</p>
1.18	<p>Review of In Year Budget Position</p> <p>The Council's latest budget monitoring position (as at Month 7) shows an overall projected overspend of £6.466m which is partly mitigated by a one-off budget risk reserve of £3m. To address the situation Action Plans have been put in place by the relevant overspending portfolios in an attempt to try and bring spend back in line with the approved budget by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>However, service demand levels continue to be at unprecedented levels in areas such as social care and there is a significant risk that spend cannot be contained within existing budget levels. A review of the latest in-year budget position will need to be assessed prior to final budget setting.</p>
1.19	<p>Social Care – Commissioning Costs</p> <p>Social Care budgets have been relatively protected in recent years and commissioning costs will be subject to negotiation with care providers over the coming weeks.</p>

	<p>The impact of the recently announced increase in Employers National Insurance contributions and Real Living Wage is likely to significantly impact on the independent care sector and will need to be factored into negotiations.</p>
1.20	<p>Out of County Placements</p> <p>There continues to be significant volatility in this area and the trend of increasing costs is continuing with the projected overspend in the current financial year now being £1.7m. An initial amount of £0.500m was included in the forecast which has now been increased to £1.7m to re-set at existing levels. However, this will need to continue to be kept under close review and risk assessed as part of final budget setting, and it appears inevitable that a further increase may be required.</p>
1.21	<p>Council Tax</p> <p>The impact of an annual uplift in Council Tax is not currently included within the Budget Solutions identified in Table 2. As in previous years council tax levels will be a key consideration in the final stage of the budget process.</p> <p>However, it is anticipated that a similar increase to the current year will be required as there continues to need to be a greater reliance on local taxation.</p> <p>Each increase of 1% in Council Tax (net of the impact on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme) would provide an additional £1.1m towards the gap.</p>
1.22	<p>Summary and Conclusions</p> <p>The United Kingdom Autumn Budget Statement on 30 October included welcome additional consequential funding for Welsh Government to consider as part of its upcoming draft budget for 2025/26 (see para 1.06)</p> <p>We now need to await the provisional settlement allocation from Welsh Government scheduled for the 11 December and it is essential that we receive a significant contribution to reduce the reliance on local taxation and the other measures set out in the report.</p> <p>As set out in the report, the Council will need to identify sufficient solutions to meet the remaining gap of £29.851m to meet its statutory duty of setting a legal and balanced budget. It is important to note that no account has been taken to date on the Council's two main funding streams of Welsh Government Grant and annual Council Tax uplifts.</p> <p>Further reports and specific proposals from the considerations detailed in paragraphs 1.12 – 1.21 will then be brought to members in January and February 2025 in line with the timeline below.</p> <p>Following receipt of the provisional settlement a briefing will be provided to all members to advise of the impact on the overall 2025/26 budget position.</p>

1.23	Table 3: Budget Timeline	
	Date	Event
	10/11 December 2024	WG Draft Budget/Provisional Settlement
	17 December 2024	Report to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Budget Update
	16 January 2025	Overview and Scrutiny Committees – as required
	21 January 2025	Report to Cabinet and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Proposed budget requirement and solutions
	18 February 2025	Report to Cabinet and Council - Final Budget Proposals
	February 2025	WG Final Budget/Settlement

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: the revenue implications for the 2025/26 budget are set out in the report.</p> <p>Capital: the borrowing needs for the capital programme are built into the revenue estimates for 2025/26.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT		
3.01	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Long-term</td> <td> <p>Negative – the absence of longer-term funding settlements from Welsh Government means that sustainable support for service delivery is challenging for the longer term. Sustainable funding from Welsh Government that provides additional funding for Indexation, service demands and new legislation will provide a positive and sustainable position for the Council in the longer term.</p> <p>Negative – failure to agree a balanced and legal budget and may lead to potential Welsh Government intervention.</p> <p>Negative – failure to balance the budget may lead to the section 151 Officer issuing a section 114 notice effectively declaring the Council bankrupt.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Long-term	<p>Negative – the absence of longer-term funding settlements from Welsh Government means that sustainable support for service delivery is challenging for the longer term. Sustainable funding from Welsh Government that provides additional funding for Indexation, service demands and new legislation will provide a positive and sustainable position for the Council in the longer term.</p> <p>Negative – failure to agree a balanced and legal budget and may lead to potential Welsh Government intervention.</p> <p>Negative – failure to balance the budget may lead to the section 151 Officer issuing a section 114 notice effectively declaring the Council bankrupt.</p>
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Prevention	As above
Integration	Neutral Impact
Collaboration	Services continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with other services and external partners to support positive impacts.
Involvement	Communication with Members, residents and other stakeholders.
Well-Being Goals Impact	
Prosperous Wales	Longer term funding settlements from Welsh Government that provide additional funding for indexation, service demands and new legislation will aid sustainability and support a strong economy that encourage business investment in the region. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Resilient Wales	Continuation of services to support communities and social cohesion will have a positive impact. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Healthier Wales	An appropriate level of funding will ensure that communities are supported and will have a positive impact. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
More equal Wales	A positive impact with greater parity of funding from Welsh Government for all Welsh Local Authorities. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Cohesive Wales	Appropriate level of funding will support services working alongside partners. The opposite will be true if settlements are inadequate.
Vibrant Wales	As Healthier and Cohesive Wales above
Globally responsible Wales	Neutral impact.

4.01	Consultation has taken place with Portfolio Management Teams and the Chief Officer Team, the Finance Team, Cabinet Members, Group Leaders and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Workforce conferences have been scheduled in January for employees.
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None to this report

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Cabinet Report July 2024 Cabinet Report September 2024 Overview and Scrutiny Reports and Presentations October-December 2024

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Gary Ferguson Corporate Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 702271 E-mail: gary.ferguson@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS): a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.</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>Capital: Expenditure on the acquisition of non-current assets or expenditure which extends the useful life of an existing asset.</p> <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>Revenue Support Grant: the annual amount of money the Council receives from Welsh Government to fund what it does alongside the</p>

Council Tax and other income the Council raises locally. Councils can decide how to use this grant across services although their freedom to allocate according to local choice can be limited by guidelines set by Government.

Specific Grants: An award of funding from a grant provider (e.g. Welsh Government) which must be used for a pre-defined purpose.

Welsh Local Government Association: the representative body for unitary councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks authorities in Wales.

Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April.

Local Government Funding Formula: The system through which the annual funding needs of each council is assessed at a national level and under which each council's Aggregate External Finance (AEF) is set. The revenue support grant is distributed according to that formula.

Aggregate External Finance (AEF): The support for local revenue spending from the Welsh Government and is made up of formula grant including the revenue support grant and the distributable part of non-domestic rates.

Provisional Local Government Settlement: The Provisional Settlement is the draft budget for local government published by the Welsh Government for consultation. The Final Local Government Settlement is set following the consultation.

Funding Floor: a guaranteed level of funding for councils who come under the all-Wales average change in the annual Settlement. A floor has been a feature of the Settlement for many years.

External Partners: Organisations outside of the Council that we work alongside to deliver services.

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Consultation for a proposed new National Park for North East Wales
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate
Report Author	Chief Officer for Planning, Environment and Economy
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Natural Resources Wales are leading work on the development of a new national park for Northeast Wales. This is currently the subject of live consultation exercise:

<https://ymgynggori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/north-east-gogledd-ddwyrain/waless-national-park-proposal-public-consultation/consultation/subpage.2024-10-04.4971417404/>

The questionnaire requests stakeholder's views on the proposed National Park boundary. However, the consultation goes beyond that and asks more extensive questions in relation to the proposed park in principle.

The consultation exercise runs until 16th December 2024 and an extension of this has been agreed with NRW to allow Cabinet to submit comments on behalf of the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	That Cabinet, on the basis of the currently available information, does not support the proposal to create a new National Park for North East Wales.
2.	That the final wording of the response attached at Appendix 2 is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate in conjunction with the Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy).

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ON-GOING CONSULTATION EXERCISE FOR A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR NEW EAST WALES
1.01	In its Programme for Government (2021-2026), Welsh Government set out its intention to designate a new National Park in Wales based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or AONB (now known as a 'National Landscape'). If established, it would be the fourth National Park in Wales, and the first since 1957.
1.02	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is the Welsh Government's statutory adviser on landscape and natural beauty and the designating authority for any new National Parks and National Landscapes. Welsh Government has commissioned NRW to evaluate the case for the proposed new National Park.
1.03	NRW is independent and will make an evidence-based recommendation for the benefit of the people of Wales, accounting for all relevant legislation. They have prepared procedural guidance setting out the statutory process that must be followed. It is evidence led and allows for engagement with all stakeholders.
1.04	The assessment procedure will decide if the evidence demonstrates that the statutory criteria relating to natural beauty and opportunities for open-air recreation are met, and if the area is of sufficient national significance that National Park purposes should apply. The procedure will also allow for consultation and ensure opportunity to adjust the proposals such that benefits are maximised and potential disbenefits can be avoided.
1.05	On completion of the assessment procedure, If NRW considers that Designation is desirable for the people of Wales, (both current and future generations), then a Designation order will be submitted to Welsh Government. Welsh Government will consider this and decide to either confirm, refuse, or vary the Designation Order. If confirmed, a new National Park will be created.
1.06	The assessment will take place within the existing Senedd term (2021-2026).
1.07	<p>The study area (referred to as the Area of Search), based on the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley 'National Landscape' was identified and shared during a public engagement period in late 2023. Following this, and a period of evidence gathering, NRW are now consulting the public on the emerging proposal. The consultation exercise lasts for 12 weeks and concludes on 16th December 2024. Flintshire County Council have been consulted on the proposal as a key stakeholder and member of the AONB Joint Advisory Committee. It is therefore important that the Council responds, though there is nothing to prevent individual Members from responding independently.</p> <p>A further consultation with the County Council will take place in 2025.</p>

1.08	Whilst the consultation seeks view on the proposed boundary for the National Park the questionnaire also includes more fundamental questions in relation in principle support for the concept of the Park. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at Appendix 1.
1.09	The proposed boundary of the National Park within Flintshire reflects the current outline of the AONB. Earlier iterations and suggested boundaries in relation to the National Park within Flintshire saw the existing AONB boundary extending to the north towards the coast, and eastwards to take in Hope Mountain and across to the outskirts of Caergwrle. Neither of these proposals have been taken forward into the boundary which is currently the subject of consultation.
1.10	<p>The key questions which the consultation poses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think that the area proposed should be a National Park? • Do you agree with where the proposed National Park boundary has been drawn? • Do you have any other comments about the Candidate Area boundary? <p>This is a small selection of the questions asked.</p>
1.11	<p>The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the consultation and provided their views at the meeting on 12th November 2024. The Committee voted in favour of not supporting the proposed National Park based on the currently available information. The Committee had concerns in relation to:</p> <p>The potential future short and long term costs to the County Council of establishing and operating the National Park;</p> <p>The potential future costs to individuals living in and outside the proposed National Park;</p> <p>The National Park introducing another level of bureaucracy; The current National Landscape of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley already doing an effective job of protecting the landscape and natural environment of the area;</p> <p>The National Park placing more burden on the remaining areas of Flintshire outside the park to provide land for employment and housing; The constraint on growth within the proposed National Park and within its immediate vicinity;</p> <p>The potential to reduce the value of existing National Parks in Wales.</p>
1.12	Given the simplicity of the questionnaire which accompanies the consultation it is suggested that the views of Cabinet are instead set out in a written response to NRW setting the Council's concerns. The detail of the content of that response will include the views of the Scrutiny Committee (should Cabinet agree with them) and Cabinet.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	At this stage it is difficult to predict what the resource implications would be of a new National Park should it be introduced. If it is created, it would be a separate local government body with its own governance and staffing structure. In most cases, National Parks also take on the planning function for their areas.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the consultation and provided their views at the meeting on 12 th November 2024. Their views are summarised above.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None identified at this stage.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Copy of the questionnaire
	Appendix 2 – Draft response to NRW

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow – Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy) Telephone: 01352 703201 E-mail: andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Natural Resources Wales is the largest Welsh Government Sponsored Body, formed in April 2013, largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales.

Wales's New National Park Proposal

Please complete the following form, to share your views as part of an official response from Flintshire County Council.

* Required

* This form will record your name, please fill your name.

1

Are you answering this survey as...? *

- Flintshire County Councillor
- Head of Service
- Other FCC staff member

The 2023 Engagement Period

Natural Resources Wales held an engagement period on an initial Area of Search for a National Park in October and November 2023. They carefully considered all the responses before presenting the findings in an engagement report published on their project website.

2

During the engagement period in 2023, a number of key themes were identified. In your opinion, which are the most important themes? Select three only *

Please select at most 3 options.

- Landscape conservation, Recognition for the area, Tranquillity
- Wildlife, Agriculture and Land Management, Environment and Sustainability
- Management of Tourism, Public services, and infrastructure
- Questioning the necessity for change, Management and Controls, Costs, Funding, Bureaucracy
- Local people and Communities, Local Economy
- Access issues and Outdoor recreation
- Housing implications
- Culture and Heritage
- Planning implications
- Boundary location

3

Would you like to suggest any other themes or add any additional information? Please briefly explain your answer

The Proposed National Park Candidate Area



After detailed evaluation by an independent and experienced landscape consultant, the Candidate Area map identifies the areas that met the statutory criteria for a National Park. Please refer to the Candidate Area map and summary of evidence report which is available to view on the website and at the events. The Candidate Area map Natural Resources Wales are consulting on is the refinement of the Area of Search 2023. This refinement took into consideration all comments raised in the 2023 engagement period and the technical assessment work in 2024. Some areas originally in the Area of Search have been excluded and two additional areas included. The summary of evidence report provides information on the decisions made.

4

Do you agree with the conclusions that this area has natural beauty? Select one only *

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Unsure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

5

Is there any other important information Natural Resources Wales should include in their assessment of natural beauty? If yes, please give further details

6

Do you agree with the conclusions that this area has opportunities for open air recreation? Select one only *

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Unsure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

7

Is there any other important information we should include in our assessment of opportunities for open air recreation? If yes, please give further details

8

Do you think the area proposed should be a National Park? Select one only *

- Yes
- Yes, but with modifications to the proposed boundary
- No
- Don't know

9

To what extent do you agree with where the proposed National Park boundary has been drawn? Select one only *

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure

10

Do you have any other comments about the Candidate Area boundary?

11

If a National Park is established, then it would require a new Name. Working with partners Natural Resources Wales have identified two options. **Bryniau Clwyd a'r Berwyn:** Clwyd recalls the name of the local government area 1974- 96. Bryniau Clwyd is the mountain chain from Prestatyn to the Dee Valley and recalls the medieval cantref of Dyffryn Clwyd. Berwyn is a historic name for the chain of mountains extending south from the Dee Valley. Together they describe the geographical extent of the Candidate area well. **Glyndŵr:** Owain Glyndŵr lived within the Candidate area at Sycharth. A variant of his name, Glyndyfrdwy is one of the constituent regions of the park. He was the last Prince of Wales who led a rebellion in 1400 and by 1404 had established rule over the whole country. When his strongholds were recaptured, Glyndŵr disappeared and acquired a mythical status as the Mab Darogan, who will one day return. Glyndŵr also recalls the name of the local government area 1974-96.

Please select the one you prefer or suggest your own.

*

Park Cenedlaethol - Bryniau Clwyd a'r Berwyn - National Park

Park Cenedlaethol - Glyndŵr - National Park

Other

12

If other, please specify with a short justification if possible:

13

Are there any other comments you wish to add on the proposal for a new National Park?

Welsh Language Considerations

We would like to know your views on the effects of this proposal might have on the Welsh language, as follows:

- Opportunities for people to use Welsh language
- Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language

14

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

15

Please also explain how you believe this proposal could be formulated or changed to have:

- Positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on

treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

- No adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

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Flintshire County Council's response to the consultation to create a new National Park for North East Wales

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to respond to your consultation to create a National Park in North East Wales. The Council acknowledges the positive aspects that such a designation may bring to the area in terms of the protection and enhancement of the natural environment plus the increased opportunities which may arise for the tourism sector. However, at this stage and on the basis of the information available at present, we cannot support the proposals.

To inform this view, the Council's Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the consultation and provided their views at the meeting on 12th November 2024. The Committee voted in favour of not supporting the proposed National Park based on the currently available information.

The Council has the following concerns in relation to the development of a National Park:

The potential future short and long term costs to the County Council of establishing and operating the National Park. At this stage there are no details of how the establishment of the Park will be funded, nor how it will be maintained in the longer term. This Council is already under pressure in relation to its revenue budget and has made no provision for the establishment of the National Park.

The potential future costs to individuals living in and outside the proposed National Park. Again, there is a paucity of detail in relation to the financial burden which may be placed on existing Flintshire residents both inside and outside the proposed Park boundary.

The National Park introducing another level of bureaucracy. When Councils and the public sector generally are experiencing increased pressures, it is not considered that the creation of another public sector body with its own governance structures, staffing and capital budgets and overview and scrutiny arrangements is prudent use of public money.

The current National Landscape of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley are already doing an effective job of protecting the landscape and natural environment of the area. This body is well-established and has historically done an excellent job of protecting and enhancing the landscape of the area. If the areas to the south within Wrexham and Powys are lacking protection from inappropriate development, the extension and re-naming of the existing National Landscape would seem like a pragmatic mechanism to achieve those aims without introducing and funding another public body.

The National Park placing more burden on the remaining areas of Flintshire outside the Park to provide land for employment and housing. The National Park Authority will have limited aims, mainly to protect and enhance the natural environment. This constraint on growth will place an increased burden on areas within Flintshire but outside the boundary to meet the County's growth ambitions. Meanwhile, within the Park the level of development will be restricted. The establishment of the National

Park would inevitably trigger an immediate review of our, recently adopted, Local Development Plan.

The potential to reduce the value of existing National Parks in Wales. Whilst we are aware of the beauty of the candidate area, we would question its intrinsic value when compared to other national parks already in existence within Wales.

I would stress again that the opinions set out above are the Council's initial views based on the information available to us at this time. We accept that further consultations will take place on the National Park project and would welcome clarity on the matter raised above prior to the next stage of consultation.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to comment on your proposals and we would happily meet with you to explain these concerns further.

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Decarbonisation Strategy
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update and overview regarding the Council's obligation to create a decarbonisation strategy which complies with the new Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS 2 2023) and the delivery of the new standards.

As a result of the new standards, the Council will be required to update specifications, work briefs and programmes of work to comply with the guidance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To support the delivery of the next phase of the capital investment programme to ensure compliance with the newly updated Welsh Housing Quality Standards requirements and the proposed Decarbonisation Strategy.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD AND THE OPTIONS WITHIN THE STRATEGY
1.01	<p>The Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023 (the Standard) sets the target for the condition of all social housing in Wales.</p> <p>The Standard was originally introduced in 2002 and has been successful in raising the quality of social housing in Wales. This level of quality must be maintained and enhanced, taking account of changes and expectations in, and impacts from, the wider world such as climate change and technical advancements in building fabric.</p> <p>The Council is committed to bringing all existing social housing up to this new Standard by 2033 (elements in Part 3 may be reached at different times). The expectation is that WHQS 2023 will be reviewed within 3 years.</p> <p>The next review will consider the improvement made to the social housing stock and the progress required to remain on track to meet 2050 climate obligations.</p> <p>The Standard sets the requirements all social housing is updated and kept in good condition, so social tenants can live in a home that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in a good state of repair. • Is safe and secure. • Is affordable to heat and has minimal environmental impact. • Has an up-to-date kitchen and utility area. • Has an up-to-date bathroom. • Is comfortable and promotes wellbeing. • Has a suitable garden; and • Has an attractive outside space. <p>A home will meet the Standard when all relevant elements are achieved. It is recognised that some elements of the Standard are not applicable to all homes. It is also recognised that not all homes will be able to achieve some elements for various reasons.</p>
1.02	<p>New Themes</p> <p>WHQS 2023 driving towards a Net Zero Wales WHQS sets out Standards relating to the decarbonisation of social homes and aims to reduce carbon emissions from the Welsh housing stock. This Standard contributes towards governmental climate change goals expressed through the Net Zero Wales plan published in 2021 and updated in 2022. In time, it is anticipated that the Standard will apply to other types and tenures of housing, and this will be kept under regular review.</p> <p>Evaluation of WHQS 1 (2008)</p>

	<p>The evaluation concluded <i>‘that the WHQS had been effective in achieving its key objective of raising standards of social rented housing’ and ‘has benefits for tenants and should be continued into the future...’</i></p> <p>The evaluation process identified areas of the Standard that required updating and improving, areas where research and societal changes had changed expectations since the original Standard was launched, as well as new areas to include, these are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection and reporting. • Compliance policies. • Fire and electrical safety. • Affordable warmth and environmental impact (new element). • Flooring (new element). • Water efficiency (new element). • Biodiversity (new element). • Active travel (new element).
1.03	<p>Timeline for achievement of the Standard</p> <p>By 31 March 2025, landlords must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the condition of their stock and the work necessary to meet the Standard. • Estimate the investment needed to achieve the Standard. • Complete tenant engagement on the programme. • Prepare and submit a Compliance Policy to the Welsh Government; and • Update the Business Plan to reflect the programme. <p>By 31 March 2027, landlords must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce Target Energy Pathways, informed by their Whole Stock Assessment. <p>By 31 March 2034, landlords should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed that all their housing stock meets the Standard. <p>Tenant engagement on the programme</p> <p>It is recognised that to foster pride and belonging, tenants should be encouraged to be involved in making any decisions that affect their community and environment. It is expected that tenants are shown how the programme was developed, and how tenant and / or tenant groups views and priorities have influenced the programme. The precise process for tenant engagement is a matter for the individual landlord.</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix 1 - WHQS Tenant Questionnaire</p>
1.04	<p>The strategy will advise how the Council can plan to reduce and contribute to the elimination of carbon emissions into the atmosphere.</p> <p>There are some important areas to consider when developing our strategy:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets: set targets that are based on evidence and realistic and consider setting separate targets for different categories or locations. • Involve all areas of the council, its housing tenants, service users, clients and other customers on the council’s journey towards net zero to help drive change. • Build resilience: mitigate risks related to technology, policies, and supply chain disruption. • Create a vision: have a clear vision for the future and gain support from senior leaders. • Establish a structure: develop a structure and financing requirements to govern the decarbonisation journey. • Track performance: regularly check performance against the targets set. <p>The housing and assets teams have been working hard to draft the decarbonisation strategy, using the data from recent investment programmes, audits and professional reviews.</p> <p>The initial draft was reviewed by teams across the service and implementation of some of the options through a desktop exercise, reviewing past and live workstreams, implementing the measures proposed. The draft strategy was then updated to reflect any changes in working practices and responding to any lessons learnt from ongoing investment works.</p> <p>Appendix 2 details the options open to the Council which will form the strategy moving forwards.</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix 2 - Decarbonisation Strategy Report Nov 2024</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Staff - There are concerns staff retention may be difficult to maintain. Given the construction industry is an ever-changing sector, staff may seek opportunities elsewhere i.e., new build, private sector etc.</p> <p>The housing assets service have revised the team structures to incorporate a degree of resilience, succession planning and robustness to the delivery model and departments risk register has been updated.</p>
2.02	<p>Budgets - When developing our delivery programme, budget estimates were made for the required upgrade works to our existing properties with contingency sums included for unforeseen work such as structural repairs etc.</p> <p>Further works have been undertaken with colleagues in Finance and we have begun forecasting our budget requirements for the next tranche of works.</p>

2.03	<p>Procurement – Procuring the various WHQS works can be challenging. The Council must ensure all contracts are measured, not only by cost but by quality. Quality forms an important part of the assessment process where the Capital Works Team interviews all contractors and assesses Quality Submission Papers before any contracts are awarded. The team have been able to secure further efficiencies by merging some contracts so that internal and external resources can be shared.</p> <p>There is a risk that many contractors are opting for new build contracts rather than refurbishment contracts. Engaging with our supply chain early and sharing our Capital Investment Programme aspirations with our Contract Framework Partners assists us to procure longer term contracts and therefore reduces risk of inflated costs based on long term contract arrangements.</p>
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>As per section 2, the Council has commenced with a full review of the Council's resources, budget requirements and procurement challenges.</p> <p>The Housing and Assets service are in the process of procuring various frameworks of contractors and suppliers to mitigate risks in terms of contractor resource and material supply and to also provide assurance with regards to associated costs, which impact upon our budgets etc.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>Prior to the Capital Investment Programme commencing in 2014 to comply with the WHQS (2008), the team held Member workshops, where most Members attended and were actively involved in the design and delivery of the current capital programme.</p> <p>Tenant Federation workshops were also held where we engaged with the federation with regards to what priority, and which order, the works should be completed, along with holding tenant consultation workshops in our FCC Connects Centres and community centres engaging with our tenants and discussing the Capital Programme along with ascertaining what order tenants would prefer to have components of their home upgraded first.</p> <p>Moving forwards, and as part of the next phase of the capital programme and decarbonisation retrofit programme, the Capital Works Team will again be consulting with Members, contract holders and contract holder groups to ensure their preferences and any concerns with regards to this next phase are considered and implemented.</p>
4.02	<p>In addition to the work detailed within this report, there is a wider issue that needs to be considered around the potential to undertake regeneration schemes on some of our estates rather than continue to commit funding to assets that will be expensive to continue to maintain and run, have high numbers of voids and which are expensive to heat and run for the tenant.</p>

	Consultations will need to be held with Members and contract holders as the Council progresses with its investment plans and this will be completed prior to any works being procured and delivered.
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - WHQS Tenant Questionnaire
5.02	Appendix 2 – Decarbonisation Strategy Report November 2024

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	https://www.gov.wales/welsh-housing-quality-standard
6.02	https://gov.wales/decarbonisation-homes-wales-advisory-group#content
6.03	https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2021-06/welsh-housing-quality-standard-summative-evaluation.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Sean O'Donnell, Service Manager - Housing Assets Telephone: 01352 701642 E-mail: Sean.O'Donnell@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Capital Programme: The Council's financial plan covering capital schemes and expenditure proposals for the current year and future years. It also includes estimates of the capital resources available to finance the programme.</p> <p>The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS): is a national standard of quality for homes. This is set by the Welsh Government. It means that all tenants in Wales should have the opportunity to live in good quality homes which meet the requirements of that household.</p> <p>Financial Year: the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April.</p> <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>

Contract Framework: A Contract Framework is an agreement between one or more contracting authorities and one or more economic operators. These frameworks have Contractors, Consultants and Suppliers that have been successful in joining the specific work categories. The Council often uses these frameworks to procure works that have already gone through a tender process in line with OJEU and can be utilised to procure works or services. They are often the most economic advantage in terms of value for money and local training provision.

HRA: The Housing Revenue Account.

Components: A part or element such as an asset / amenity (kitchen bathroom, boiler, roof, windows, doors etc.).

Decarbonisation: Referring in this instance to Welsh Governments requirement for all Local Authorities in Wales to reduce its carbon emissions and usage.

EPC: Energy Performance Certificate.

SAP: Standard Assessment Procedure.

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The new Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) has been released by Welsh Government and we wanted to get your opinion on what is important to you. By completing and returning this form, you will help us shape the service we deliver to you over the next 10 years.

Full Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Contact Number _____ Number of Occupants _____

The new standard places a big emphasis on energy efficiency and reducing the costs of running your home; alongside key improvements such as kitchens, bathrooms, windows and doors.

Question 1 : Which of these areas of improvement works is most important to you? Please rank these from 1 - 4,

1 being the most important to you 4 being the least important:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Internal improvements
(Kitchen, Bathroom,
Heating, Electrics etc) | <input type="radio"/> External/Fabric improvements
(Roof, Walls, Windows, Doors, etc) |
| <input type="radio"/> Energy Efficiency
(Insulation, Solar panels,
Efficient Heating etc) | <input type="radio"/> Environmental improvements
(Gardens, Boundaries, Car-parking etc) |

Question 2 : What areas of improvement are most important to you, in your community?

Please tick  one option.

Car Parking improvements Lighting improvements
(communal areas)

Security improvements
(door entry, CCTV etc) Open Spaces
(communal gardens, green
spaces etc)



Question 3 : The Council is planning on publishing it's future improvements plans online.

Do you access any of the Council's services digitally/online? (eg. My Account, FCC Website etc)

Please tick  one option.

Yes

No

Unable to access services online

Not aware of online services



Please provide any further comments you wish to pass onto us and your thoughts with regards to how Flintshire County Council can best achieve the new standards, in your home and your area.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Your views will be taken into consideration and will help the Council develop it's future programmes of work. Please return the questionnaire by post to one of your local Flintshire Council offices or alternatively you can scan / email the form to capital.works@flintshire.gov.uk

FCC Decarbonisation Status Briefing – November 2024

Decarbonisation & Energy Efficiency

Contents

- 1. Background**
- 2. Current status**
- 3. The Business case**
- 4. Costs**
- 5. Funding Options**
- 6. ECO4**
- 7. Summary**
- 8. Recommendations/ next steps**

New build homes are not covered in this report as they are already required to be compliant with current building code requirements for energy efficiency during construction.

This report focuses specifically on the Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency of the HRA homes only, it is not the Council's overarching decarbonisation strategy.

This report relies on data and insight provided in a strategic outline case prepared on behalf of the Council by specialist consultants Capita, who worked closely with officers in preparation of a decarbonisation strategic outline.

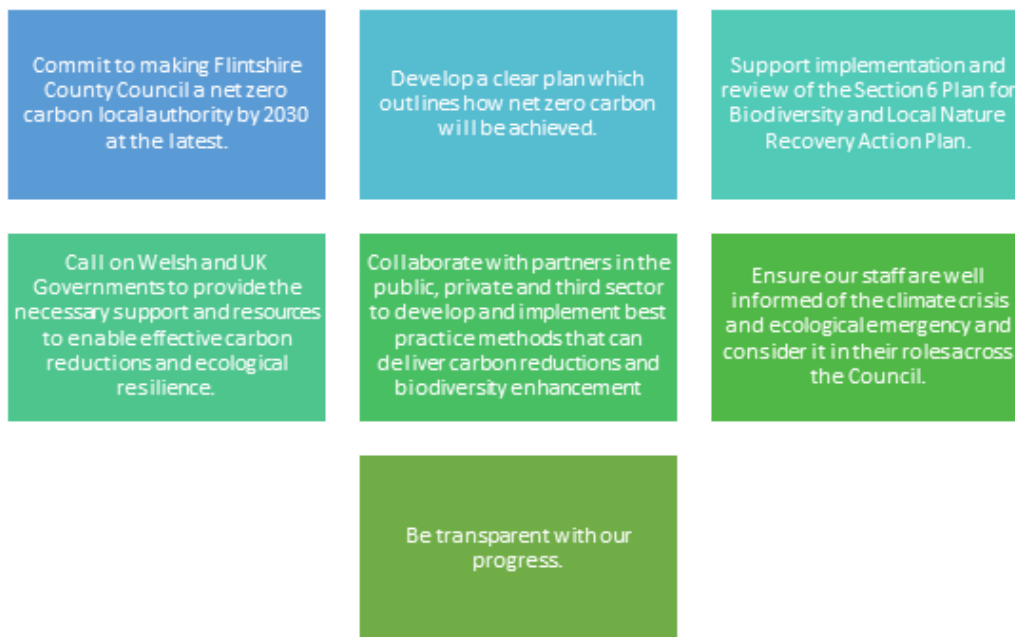


<https://gov.wales/written-statement-wales-pathway-achieve-net-zero-emissions>

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-10/working-together-to-reach-net-zero-all-wales-plan.pdf>

1. Background

- 1.1 Welsh Government (WG) have declared a climate emergency. In support of a target to have Wales carbon neutral by 2050, WG had also stated an aspirational objective to make social housing carbon neutral by 2030.
- 1.2 WG set out a legal commitment in February 2021 for Wales to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This followed recommendations by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) that the ambitions were attainable with coherent central policy and a nation-wide effort. This followed the CCC's previous advice in 2017, in response to which the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in 2019, and the Covid-19 pandemic. The report concludes that, while emissions are falling and policy is improving, there are significant strides that need to be taken to secure a cohesive strategy for achieving net-zero by 2050. At the time the report was issued, Wales was not on track for an 80% reduction target. As such, policy has shifted towards promoting a green and sustainable future, investing in net-zero programmes.
- 1.3 In response Flintshire County Council have pledged to:



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- 1.4 Carbon neutral is not a clearly defined target. There are two broad definitions relating to residential property - On Site Carbon Neutral & Carbon Neutral Ready, there are very significant cost variances in terms of these definitions.
- a) On site carbon neutral means the building is energy self-sufficient and therefore independent to the power network supply grids. Estimated costs to achieve this standard (if it is even possible) are estimated at around £80k per home or to put this in full context circa 7,300 homes at £80K each would require funding of £584m, this would be on top of the existing Council Business Plan.
 - b) Carbon Neutral Ready means the property is made as energy efficient as practical and relies on a carbon neutral grid being available at a yet to be confirmed date. The anticipated costs are a more realistic £15,000 per home in addition to Business as Usual (BAU) investment budgets.
- 1.5 As stated under the contents section. New build homes are not covered in this report as they are already required to be compliant with current building code requirements for energy efficiency during construction. The significant challenge for the Council is therefore in the context of improving the energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions in existing older homes which form the vast majority of the stock. This process is described as Retrofit.
- 1.5 Retrofit is controlled by the nationally accredited PAS 2035 process and recorded and validated via Trustmark who have been appointed by WG to ensure quality and consistency. This is a set of standards under which each property is subject to a Retrofit Assessment (RA) survey. This is a detailed survey covering the build type and current condition and the thermal performance of the existing fabric (roofs, walls, floors, windows and doors), the efficiency of the heating system and ventilation capacities.
- 1.6 Based on a property specific RA, each property has a property plan which identifies the Energy Efficiency Measures (EEM's) required to bring each property to the required standard.
- 1.7 While encouraging innovation and use of renewable technologies, WG have issued overarching instruction to first do no harm in the context of mitigating rather than exacerbating fuel poverty by taking a fabric first approach to Retrofit.
- 1.8 Fabric first is therefore fundamental to the recommended approach and delivery planning set out in this document.

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2. Current Status

- 2.1 Working with specialist consultants, Officers had been preparing this Decarbonisation (Decarb) strategy for the consideration of Cabinet. Based on WG objectives and FCC pledges, this was focussed on the reduction of Carbon Emissions as a main aim and reporting measure, this document supersedes the draft Decarb Strategy.
- 2.2 Three types of carbon emissions have been considered in the context of the Council's housing portfolio:
- a) Embodied carbon – this is the carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases produced in the creation of building fabric and the construction of the property
 - b) Operational carbon – the CO₂ produced by buildings as a result of daily use
 - c) Whole life carbon – the sum of CO₂ across the entire building life cycle, from design, throughout use and to demolition.
- 2.3 Operational carbon is the focus when looking at decarbonisation and retrofitting existing properties, as it is this metric that has a direct impact on fuel poverty.
- 2.4 During the research, development and drafting of the Strategy, world events and high volatility in the energy sector led to extraordinary energy price increases with a far-reaching impact on the levels of fuel poverty in the County and in FCC social housing in particular.
- 2.5 Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency are not necessarily the same thing but mutually complimentary. By making buildings more energy efficient it is reasonable to expect the energy used to reduce and where the property is using a fossil fuel-based energy supply then carbon emissions will be reduced. This equation is therefore fundamental to the recommended approach and delivery of the Council's decarbonisation investment.
- 2.6 The focus of this report has therefore, by necessity, realigned to meet the critical need to mitigate fuel poverty by implementation of energy efficiency measures (and therefore carbon emissions reductions) via a coordinated retrofit programme to the Council's housing stock.

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- 2.7 Delivery of this approach will significantly reduce carbon emissions/energy usage in relation to the climate crisis, alleviate fuel poverty, and embed opportunities for economic development in terms of training and employment with a focus on opportunities in the foundational economy within the delivery of the Council's programme.
- 2.8 In the draft guidance for WHQS.2, WG had set energy efficiency targets in the format of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's) and by setting goals of average EPC C by 2028, EPC B by 2030 and EPC A by 2033. These have been removed and instead it is expected that the Council will, within three years, submit programme proposals to bring the Councils residential homes to EPC A (Net Zero) by 2050 with an interim target of EPC C.
- 2.9 The EPC band is set using a point score system called the Reduced Data Standard Assessment Procedure (RDSAP). This score is calculated by nationally standardised software to model and calculate a point score for the overall energy performance of the stock. The scores equate to EPC bands, the higher the RDSAP score the higher the EPC rating, the highest being EPC A.
- 2.10 To inform the strategy, a full assessment of current RDSAP - EPC performance, and cross references to previous and planned improvements to the Councils homes has identified properties with very poor performance - EPC E and below, average performance EPC C & D, and high performing properties at EPC bands A & B.
- 2.11 The average energy rating for Council homes is currently EPC C. The majority of the stock is therefore currently within the average performance range. This is because of the successful delivery of the Council's Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme completed in December 2021.
- 2.12 Not all FCC homes have an EPC as these were only required to be carried out after renewable energy improvements or at void management stage as part of the letting process.
- 2.13 FCC is relatively well placed with a higher than average EPC coverage and officers are working towards 100% of homes having an EPC to further inform the decarbonisation / energy efficiency investment strategy and eligibility for supporting grants. With this goal in mind, officers have instructed completion of EPCs to all homes by the end of this financial year.

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- 2.14 To establish a delivery strategy, it is critical to understand the current status of the council homes in terms of energy performance in conjunction with previous investment and planned continuation of the Council's WHQS programme.
- 2.15 Including 85 leasehold flats, the Council owns and manages a total of circa 7,300 general needs and sheltered homes. In the winter of 2021 works under WHQS were completed with the Council undertaking all necessary works to bring the stock up to standard by the WG deadline. The Council completed WHQS whole house external improvements and refurbishments including key building components (chimneys, roofs, roofline, walls, structural repairs, outhouses, windows and doors) to 2,220 homes to achieve the target. This is further approximated as follows:
- There are 4,000 houses of which 1,500 have had previous external improvement works under WHQS.
 - There are therefore potentially 2,500 houses needing whole house external improvements over the next 30 years of the business plan.
 - There are 1,500 flats, of which 400 have also had external improvements completed.
 - There are therefore 1,100 flats (including leasehold) needing future external improvements over the next 30 years.
 - There are 1,800 bungalows, of which 300 have had external improvements completed.
 - There are therefore 1,500 bungalows needing future external improvements over the next 30 years.
- 2.14 In summary, 2,200 FCC homes have WHQS external improvements completed, 5,100 homes are pending future investment under WHQS.2. These totals are significant in respect of plans to achieve the new EPC performance targets set out in the draft guidance for WHQS.2 and define two linked challenges – meeting the EPC energy efficiency targets on future programmed works (WHQS.2) and retrospectively bringing the previously improved homes up to the same standards.
- 2.15 It is worth noting the energy efficiency performance target under WHQS criteria was defined under SAP 2005 to achieve SAP 65 or above equivalent to EPC D - C by 2021, FCC homes achieved this overall performance target at that time.

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3. The Business case

- 3.1 The existing investment programme is based on a stock condition survey, which estimated the timely renewal of the key external components, based on the age and condition of these elements when set against the WG guidance for the anticipated lifecycle of each key component - roof tile, pointing, windows & doors. This survey estimated the renewal dates for each property and in effect created a pathway for each property to achieve or maintain compliance with the WHQS standard.
- 3.2 The Council identifies this future investment need by means of an annually prepared 30-year business plan. The business plan details the number of homes needing improvements over the timescale of the plan multiplied by the average cost of renewal for each component. Based on current costs the average unit rate to complete external enveloping works is £18,500. This is reflected in the Council's current business plan and is considered to be the business as usual (BAU) HRA investment plan.
- 3.3 The BAU commitment was therefore a sustainable £94,350,000 for the 5,100 homes pending external refurbishment works at £18,500 per unit or £3,145,000 per annum when smoothed over the thirty years of the business plan.
- 3.4 To buffer the additional costs for the new decarbonisation / energy efficiency targets consistent with FCC pledges and WG guidance under WHQS.2, BAU budgets have been successfully utilised as match funding to attract support from WG under the eligible costs criteria for the Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) grants. Based on bids submitted by the Council, officers have been successful in securing grant funding of £7.64m which has been awarded to Flintshire via the ORP2 & ORP3 funding rounds.
- 3.5 The £7.64m has been allocated to support pilot projects integrating energy efficiency grant funded measures alongside the planned WHQS external programme. This allows the Council to invest these specifically targeted funds by blending the grant with existing BAU budgets and contracts with further efficiency in delivery by encompassing the additional works in the work of the existing staff resource, supported by specialists.
- 3.6 The integrated approach requires extensive additional enabling and monitoring under the PAS2035 (this is the retrofit survey, design, evaluation and recording standard for Wales). Assessors and Coordinators must be PAS2035 accredited.

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The PAS 2035 specialists ensure compliance with WG standards and that all costs for energy efficiency/decarbonisation enabling and measures are grant eligible.

3.7 Based on an initial FCC brief issued to expert consultants in response to the WG target to make all social housing carbon neutral by 2030. The first in depth assessments identified high costs with estimates ranging from a minimum £60k - £80k for on-site carbon neutral homes (if practical).

3.8 In a strategic outline case study, the following high value energy efficiency/decarbonisation measures were considered essential to meet the carbon neutral target:

- Ethically sourced and manufactured Solar Voltaic Panels (£3,790 average per property)
- Ethically sourced and manufactured battery storage (up to £15k per home including safe external storage facilities)
- External Wall Insulation (up to £20k - £25k per home)
- Renewable space and water heating (£10k per home) Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)
- Underfloor insulation (£5k per home not including suitable decant arrangements)
- Positive Mechanical Ventilation with Heat recovery (MVHR - £5k per home)
- 100% property coverage for the installation of Intelligent Energy Systems at £2,950 per home
- Loft Insulation (£420 average per property)
- Low energy lighting (LED Lamps) £52 per property
- PAS 2035 compliance (Retrofit Survey and Coordination) (£415 per property including final accreditation with Trustmark)
- Local energy grid upgrades (significant costs circa £30k per sub-station and currently being passed to installers) provisional sum allowance £150 per property assuming 200 properties per sub-station
- Provisional sums for heating upgrades where properties do not have the latest high efficiency condensing combi gas boilers £1,000 per property noting these are already fitted the majority of homes but are set to become unavailable after 2026 in line with current regulatory changes
- Total estimated average £68,777 per property (EEM's only)

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- 3.9 Note that of the measures listed above EWI offers a modest EPC increase compared to new CWI. While renewable heating (ASHP) and MVHR would have a negative impact on EPC ratings. Battery storage is not yet included in EPC modelling and is troublesome in terms of ethical concerns and fire safety. These high-cost measures would therefore offer little return on investment or be negative in terms of contribution to the Council meeting the WHQS.2 targets.
- 3.10 By contrast, data from the pilot projects supports a more pragmatic essential EEM's approach and a more realistic cost which is estimated at an additional £13.5k for FCC homes to be Carbon Neutral Ready. This approach has lifted the current rating for the pilot project homes from EPC D - C to EPC B - A, making them highly energy efficient and with minimum carbon emissions pending the introduction of a carbon neutral energy network.
- 3.11 The Carbon Neutral Ready approach is based on Retrofit Assessment models and actual monitoring reports (SIMAX Portal) for FCC properties in the pilot projects.

Subject to a property specific RA to every home, the following measures are proposed:

- Ethically sourced and manufactured Solar Voltaic Panels (£3,790 average per property)
- Loft Insulation (£420 average per property)
- Clean and refill with modern bead type Cavity Wall Insulation (£4,832 average per property)
- Partial External Wall Insulation (Single leaf extensions only) (£1,210 averaged over all properties)
- Low energy lighting (LED Lamps) £52 per property
- 50% property coverage for the installation of Intelligent Energy Systems at an average equivalent of £1,475 per home
- PAS 2035 compliance (Retrofit Survey and Coordination) (£415 per property including final accreditation with Trustmark)
- Provisional sums are needed for heating upgrades where properties do not have the latest high efficiency condensing combi gas boilers £1,000 per property; noting these are already fitted in the majority of homes, but are set to become unavailable after 2035, in line with current regulatory changes.

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Total average is £13,500_per property (Energy Efficiency only) based on the pilot projects. Actual costs may vary as works to different property archetypes are undertaken but is a reasonable benchmark.

4. Costs

- 4.1 Having set out the key property condition status, energy performance data and indicative costs for each energy efficiency/decarbonisation measure in the Business Case, consideration must be given to timescales and estimated overall costs. This has immensely significant implications in terms of the profile of potential Council expenditures.
- 4.2 4.2.1 It is critical to note that while the WHQS.2 draft guidance, that defined the timescale to achieve the target of all homes achieving EPC A by 2033, has been removed. It is replaced by concerns that with the Council's existing business plan set against a 30-year cycle of investment this implies a requirement for some tenants (Contract Holders) to wait 30 years for energy efficiency improvements. This approach might hit the overarching energy efficiency and decarbonisation target set by WG; however, serious consideration needs to be given to public opinion with reputational and social concerns being major risks alongside a potential long-term running cost inequity in terms of quality of homes on offer.
 - 4.2.2 10 years may be more palatable as a cycle of decarbonisation investment to tenants. In effect this would compress the Councils planned external refurbishment expenditures from the 30 years anticipated in the business plan to 10 years. In addition, the EPC A target also means previously completed work under WHQS will now fail the EPC target and, therefore fail WHQS 2023.
- 4.3 Two main streams of work emerge from the business case data. For the purposes of this report these are identified as WHQS Retrofit and WHQS.2 respectively.
- 4.4 To mitigate additional costs for site establishment (preliminary costs made up of site storage, welfare, site management and scaffolding) it is critical to integrate the EEM's works with the WHQS external works programme. In addition, efficiencies can be made, for example, by integrating solar panels in the roof covering, reducing the amount of slate or tile if this approach is taken. If the solar panels are fitted first they would need to be removed and reinstated after the roof is renewed doubling the fitting costs.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-wales-pathway-achieve-net-zero-emissions>

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-10/working-together-to-reach-net-zero-all-wales-plan.pdf>

- 4.5 Based on the integrated approach and the above business case estimates, funding requirements are as follows based on a ten-year spending profile:
- WHQS.2 building refurbishments - £94,350,000 (£9,435,000 per annum)
 - Matching Decarb/EEM's - £68,850,000 (£6,885,000 per annum)
 - WHQS.2 Retrofit building refurb - £7,700,000 (£770,000 per annum)
 - Retrofit Decarb/EEM's - £29,700,000 (£2,970,000 per annum)
- 4.6 WHQS.2 & WHQS Retrofit will therefore require combined expenditures of £200,600,000. This equates to £20.6m per annum for each of the next ten years for blended refurbishment and decarbonisation works.
- 4.7 The Council has identified an average of £5.9m per annum in the short term for external refurbishments leaving an annual shortfall of £14.16m if this work is integrated in the business as usual expenditures and operations of the programme and becomes a strategy supported by the Council.
- 4.8 Housing and assets would not be able to deliver the programme with the existing staff structure, however, if the current allowance of 6% of capital expenditures, which supports the salaries and costs for Housing and Assets were extended to reflect the revised capital expenditure forecasts, then this fee would cover any necessary recruitment and interim expansion of staff resources. Currently estimates at two additional teams each comprising of a contract surveyor, a contract inspector and a tenant liaison officer.

5. Funding Options

- 5.1 The shortfall in anticipated budgets is set out in the previous costs section. Discussions with WG have so far been limited to pilot projects and WG capacity to support EEM's as a form of match funding to the Council's investment programme BAU expenditures with WG's Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP).
- 5.2 This initial funding approach is not viable in the long term. So far the Council has been successful in being awarded two allocations of grant. An initial £2.94m under the ORP2 programme and a further £4.6m over the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.
- 5.3 Further discussions are planned with WG to review opportunities for additional grant to match the limited existing BAU budgets and to maintain the momentum of the pilot projects.

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5.4 In order to implement the retrofit solutions discussed above, the funding approach needs to be considered. There are several options available to the Council, namely:

- Option 1 – 100% Grant Based Funding Solution, Matching Zero Carbon Timeline
- Option 2 – 100% Grant Based Funding Solution, Aligned with Business Plan
- Option 3 – Private Funding Solution and Grants
- Option 4 – Private Funding Solution with New Build Support

5.5 A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the potential funding solutions is set out below:

Funding Option	100% Grant Funding by 2030	100% grant funding but business plan alignment	Private funding + grants	Private funding + grants + new build support
Requirements	PAS 2035 certification			
	ORP Reward of £2.985m for 196 properties, scaled up for entire housing stock required £105.8m at £30.5k per dwelling (assuming 50% match funding)	Based on ORP reward but on a delayed timeline would result in a required grant funding allowance of £52.9m with 50% match funding	Private placement solution from eco-lender Fund covers costs of development in exchange for leasehold over the properties across a fixed period of time	As with previous but with a privately funded new build housing introduced to generate additional income for the programme, supplementing grant and private monies for retrofit solutions while also meeting new build housing targets
Strengths	Reduced risk for FCC as backed by Welsh Government directly across the stock		Strong appetite in the funding market to support Standard RP practice	Additional supplementary income from new build development Standard RP Practice
Weaknesses	Unlikely to achieve based on rate of grant funding currently available. Still reliant on match funding by Flintshire to deliver	Will not reach net zero by 2030 as staggered slower pacing of retrofit measures	Risk to the Council putting their covenant on the line during the construction period if costs overrun	Additional costs for new-build development
Opportunities			Right to repurchase the lease for the	Meet wider housing delivery targets that are

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			properties at the end of the period, returning rental income to the council	also zero carbon; potential to use new build properties to decant residents where necessary during intrusive works
Threats (Risks)	Risk of not being awarded funding	Risk of not being awarded funding	Reputation – thorough background check of funder required	Reputation

Option 1 – 100% Grant Funding Solution 2030

- i) In order to pursue a 100% grant funded solution and for grant to be awarded PAS 2035 certification is required. Assuming a similar rate of a grant reward to the ORP pilot programme, £2.985m was awarded for 196 properties, with match funding from Flintshire to total £5.970m. Scaling this up for the entire housing stock on the basis of £31k per dwelling, grant funding of £105.8m would be required over the next 10 years, assuming 50% match funding from the Council (this would further increase if additional retrofit measures and further fabric work was implemented [to achieve onsite net zero], with cost per dwelling increasing to a potential £80k the grant funding requirement would steeply increase to £284m for the entire stock).
- ii) Based on the current rate of grant funding opportunities in Wales, assuming ORP levels of funding and assumed success of Flintshire in being awarded all monies, this would take 35 years, making it highly unlikely the stock would be able to reach EPC A by 2050. Net Zero would only be practical with a carbon neutral energy supply grid.

Option 2 – 100% Grant Funding, Business Plan Timescale

- i) As a means to reduce grant funding requirements the Flintshire Housing Revenue Account Business Plan¹ has been reviewed to determine the rate of retrofit interventions projected over the next few years. The HRA has a programme of works to ensure FCC's stock continues to maintain the current Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), improving properties at a rate of c.300 dwellings per annum.

¹ Flintshire Housing Revenue Account: Annual Business Plan and 30 Year Financial Forecasts, Flintshire County Council, 2020-21

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- ii) As such, at 300 dwellings per annum less than 2,000 properties would be retrofitted by 2030. While this reduces the strain on grant funding requirements it results in not achieving the Welsh Government target of reaching net zero by 2030 or the WHQS.2 target of EPC A by 2050. Again, Net Zero would only be practical with the transformation to a carbon neutral energy supply grid.

Option 3 – Private Funding and Grant

- ii) An alternative to 100% grant funding solution is to also pursue a private placement solution from eco-lender where the fund covers the costs of the development in exchange for a leasehold over the properties across a fixed period of time.
- iii) The Council would enter into a bond arrangement with a funder, having tendered the process competitively. The Council would receive a range of capital sums locked in at a fixed rate of interest across a period of 25-40 years and could defer the taking of funds to suit its development programme and capacity. The bond would be serviced by income from the housing rental receipts.
- iv) Initial anonymous conversations with potential funders have shown strong appetite in the market to back a large scale retrofit solution across housing stock that match the scale of Flintshire's social housing.
- v) The main source of funding being privately placed reduces the overreliance on grant funding. Assuming the ORP funding rate per annum is made available by Welsh Government, by 2030 c.£23.88m could be awarded. This would help support 780 properties at £31k per dwelling, as per the interventions noted within the ORP application, or c.300 properties based on the c.£80k per property outlined within the indicative upgrade path above.
- vi) Further scoping is required to understand the potential ratios between grant and private funding in the case of the retrofit strategy and modelling to ascertain the ability to service the borrowing. However, this combined approach is deemed to be the most deliverable funding solution given the commitment to 2033 (in terms of and acceptable cycle of investment), based on grant funding and the strong appetite in the financial markets to support council-led retrofit housing programmes.

Option 4 – Private Funding, Grant, and New-Build

- i) There is an additional option to supplement income with the delivery of zero carbon new-build homes as a means to meet housing demand, with the option to decant tenants into the new build properties during any intrusive works that may arise.

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- ii) This would be the least viable option due to complexity and uncertainty of delivery and therefore the unreliability of cost modelling.

6. ECO 4

- 6.1 The business case above sets out the context for the financial and resource efficiency of accelerating and enhancing Energy Efficiency and Decarb works as an addition to the business-as-usual committed budgets and resources in a programme linked to the FCC stock condition survey and planned WHQS programme. The planned programme is a pathway to broad compliance with the WHQS targets. To date it has not been linked to EPC performance so this strategy does not need to include EPC status as a factor in prioritising properties in the running order, instead as discussed above, all homes will reach the WHQS standard upon completion of the programme.
- 6.2 It should be noted that current EPC data has so far identified an initial 321 FCC homes below the stock average EPC C-D. These are considered to be the worst performing homes in terms of energy efficiency and carbon emissions. Priority for EEM's is therefore necessary under both fuel poverty and emissions reduction targets.
- 6.3 Noting the urgency to improve the 321 homes as quickly as possible a further grant opportunity has been identified. Recently implemented and funded from the energy providers Green Levy this is the ECO4 initiative. This is immediately available and is specifically targeted to all FCC homes with an EPC status of E or below, this is the ECO4 grant.
- 6.4 ECO4 applies to all homes including social housing homes but only at EPC E or lower, it is intended to appoint the incumbent Heating and Renewables contractor to manage and deliver ECO4 funded works including the property grant applications under the supervision of FCC's Energy Team.
- 6.5 Utilising the existing links to the private sector developed by the FCC Energy Team and the Heating and Renewables Contractor, the ECO4 initiative will be extended to private homes and private sector social housing landlords operating in Flintshire.
- 6.6 By appointing the Heating and Renewables Contractor as managing agent for ECO4 mitigates any risk to the Council in terms of the grant applications, non-compliant applications can be declined. Obtaining the correct level of grant to fund the EEM's will be at the contractors' risk in what is a highly complex and precise process.

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- 6.7 The overall strategic delivery, scope and performance of the ECO4 funded works will be managed and monitored by Council energy officers under the recently procured heating and renewables contract.
- 6.8 It should be noted that the ECO4 grant funding is estimated against the future household energy usage and the amount of savings energy efficiency measures will deliver over the life of the energy efficiency improvements. The majority of properties will save more on energy than the cost of the measures to supply and install, particularly in the private sector where the equation is more generous. All of these surplus grant funds will be passed to the Council to offset any shortfall on grant to Council homes. In practice therefore the ECO4 programme is expected to be entirely self-funding with any surplus being available to invest in further EEM's to the Council homes.

7. Summary

- 7.1 WG have declared a climate emergency and a legally binding commitment to the decarbonisation of Wales. The decarbonisation and optimum energy efficiency of the Councils housing stock presents a significant technical, logistical and funding challenge.
- 7.2 This report sets the context of these challenges on the basis of existing stock condition, carbon emissions & energy performance, the new targets being set by WG and the cost to the Council in terms achieving the targets and compliance with WHQS targets and related regulations.
- 7.3 Subject to a suitable funding solution being identified, blending the energy efficiency improvements with an accelerated WHQS programme including retrofit of properties already completed, offers a pragmatic and cost-effective route to compliance with the EPC targets.
- 7.4 The current availability of public funding means it is unlikely that a wholly grant funded solution would be achievable. As such, a combined approach of Council BAU budgets, government grant money and private financing is the recommended way forward; based on advice there is ample support in the market.

8. Recommendations / next steps

- 8.1 Officers are authorised to extend the principles being established on the pilot projects to the external improvements programme utilising the Councils BAU budgets to match fund WG decarbonisation-based grants in the short term.
- 8.2 Officers are authorised to explore and develop funding options as set out in this paper in more detail.

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- 8.3 Officers are authorised to utilise the incumbent Heating and Renewables contractor as managing agents for the ECO4 initiative.
- 8.4 Void standards are reviewed to establish if EEM's can be incorporated to mitigate disruption to tenants and allow for disruptive measures, sub-floor insulation being the best example.
- 8.5 Procurement of related training for the Tenant Federation, relevant Members, Housing Assets and Maintenance and the wider Housing portfolio.

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 17th December, 2024
Report Subject	Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2024/25 (Month 7)
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value
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 2024/25 financial year for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account and presents the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 7.

The projected year end position is as follows:

Council Fund

- An operating deficit of £6.375m (this reduces to £3.375m with the utilisation of the budget risk reserve of £3m agreed when setting the budget) which is an adverse movement of £0.566m from the deficit figure of £5.809m reported at Month 6.
- A projected contingency reserve balance as of 31 March 2025 of £0.783m (after taking account of previously approved allocations – this will reduce to £0.381m if the recommended use for illegal tipping costs is approved).

This significant projected overspend (and impact on our available reserves) continues to be of major concern and needs to continue to be addressed urgently to bring expenditure back in line with the approved budget. Based on current projections the council still has a very low level of contingency reserve which it uses to deal with any significant in-year unforeseen events. It should also be noted that there are still a number of risks identified in the report that could lead to further deterioration of the Council's financial position.

As required by Financial Procedure Rules - Action Plans have been compiled by Social Services, Streetscene and Transportation and Housing and Communities which detail the measures being put in place to improve the position by the end of the financial year and these plans have been referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Our ability to mitigate pressures and risks during the financial year will again predominantly centre on review and challenge of non-essential spend and maximising income streams and grant funding. The moratorium on non-contractually committed spend and vacancy management process put in place during 2023/24 continues throughout 2024/25 and is being applied with rigour. Appendix 2 details the split of the moratorium savings to date.

Housing Revenue Account

- Net in-year revenue expenditure is forecast to be on budget.
- A projected closing balance as of 31 March, 2025 of £4.451m

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.00	<p>That Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note and comment on the report and the estimated financial impact on the 2024/25 budget 2) Approve funding from the Contingency Reserve for illegal tipping costs as detailed in section 1.20. 3) Support the measures being put in place to improve the financial position by the end of the financial year.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25
1.01	<p>This monthly report provides the latest detailed overview of the budget monitoring position for the 2024/25 financial year for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account and presents the position, based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 7.</p> <p>The projected year end position is as follows:</p> <p>Council Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operating deficit of £6.375m (this reduces to £3.375m with the utilisation of the budget risk reserve of £3m agreed when setting the budget) which is an adverse movement of £0.566m from the deficit figure of £5.809m reported at Month 6. • A projected contingency reserve balance as at 31 March 2025 of £0.783m (after taking account of previously approved allocations – this will reduce to £0.381m if the recommended use for illegal tipping costs is approved).

	<p>Housing Revenue Account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net in-year revenue expenditure is forecast to be on budget. • A projected closing balance as of 31 March, 2025 of £4.451m 																																																																				
1.02	<p>Table 1. Projected Position by Portfolio</p> <p>The table below shows the projected position by portfolio:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Portfolio/Service Area</th> <th>Approved Budget £m</th> <th>Projected Outturn £m</th> <th>In-Year Over / (Under) spend £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Social Services</td> <td>92.047</td> <td>96.418</td> <td>4.372</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of County Placements</td> <td>19.299</td> <td>21.025</td> <td>1.726</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education & Youth (Non Schools)</td> <td>10.148</td> <td>10.227</td> <td>0.079</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>117.302</td> <td>117.138</td> <td>(0.164)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Streetscene & Transportation</td> <td>42.695</td> <td>44.495</td> <td>1.799</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning Env & Economy</td> <td>7.682</td> <td>7.726</td> <td>0.044</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People & Resources</td> <td>4.290</td> <td>4.202</td> <td>(0.089)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governance</td> <td>12.066</td> <td>11.684</td> <td>(0.382)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assets</td> <td>11.403</td> <td>11.366</td> <td>(0.037)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing & Communities</td> <td>18.161</td> <td>20.451</td> <td>2.289</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive</td> <td>1.641</td> <td>1.619</td> <td>(0.022)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central & Corporate Finance</td> <td>31.372</td> <td>28.131</td> <td>(3.241)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>368.106</td> <td>374.481</td> <td>6.375</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Utilisation of Budget Risk Reserve</td> <td>(3.000)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total – Revised Overspend</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3.375</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Portfolio/Service Area	Approved Budget £m	Projected Outturn £m	In-Year Over / (Under) spend £m	Social Services	92.047	96.418	4.372	Out of County Placements	19.299	21.025	1.726	Education & Youth (Non Schools)	10.148	10.227	0.079	Schools	117.302	117.138	(0.164)	Streetscene & Transportation	42.695	44.495	1.799	Planning Env & Economy	7.682	7.726	0.044	People & Resources	4.290	4.202	(0.089)	Governance	12.066	11.684	(0.382)	Assets	11.403	11.366	(0.037)	Housing & Communities	18.161	20.451	2.289	Chief Executive	1.641	1.619	(0.022)	Central & Corporate Finance	31.372	28.131	(3.241)					Total	368.106	374.481	6.375	Utilisation of Budget Risk Reserve			(3.000)	Total – Revised Overspend			3.375
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1.03	<p>Appendix 1 shows all monthly movements of £0.025m since Month 6 with relevant narratives. In addition, the reasons for the projected variances are summarised within Appendix 2 and shows the detail of all variances over £0.050m and a summary of minor variances for each portfolio.</p>																																																																				
	<p>Significant Movements at Month 7</p>																																																																				
1.04	<p>Social Services £0.762m</p> <p><u>Older Peoples Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localities – £0.617m. Demands for Older People services are leading to increased costs. This includes pressures from ensuring 																																																																				

	<p>safe hospital discharges and this pressure will likely increase during the winter period. Residential care service costs have increased by £0.288m and domiciliary care costs by £0.320m. Minor variances account for the balance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources & Regulated Services (£0.052m). There has been an overall decrease in the projected outturn due to changes to projected workforce costs to deliver in-house care services. Homecare costs have reduced by (£0.054m), residential care increased by £0.023m and Extra Care reduced by (£0.022m). <p><u>Adults of Working Age</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources and Regulated Services £0.362m. There was an increase in costs in the Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment (PDSI) service of £0.167m due to an additional placement. In-house Supported Living service costs have increased by £0.034m and Learning Disability service costs have increased by £0.172m due to changes to care packages. Day service costs reduced by (£0.011m). Residential Placements (£0.098m). This is due to a reduction in care package costs following review. <p><u>Children's Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years and Family Support (£0.144m). Service Balances have been drawn upon to offset eligible expenditure. Professional Support £0.169m – There has been an additional agency worker required within the Childrens First Contact team. Contributions from external funding has reduced as there is less slippage on grant funded schemes than originally anticipated. <p><u>Safeguarding and Commissioning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charging Policy Income (£0.070m). This is due to an increase in the anticipated income received through contributions to care. <p>There is a net (£0.022m) in minor movements across the portfolio.</p>
1.05	<p>Out of County Placements £0.308m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Services £0.555m – Due to an increased number of new placements, causing a significant adverse variance of £0.555m. Education & Youth (£0.247m) – A number ending Education Day placements have been removed from the current placement caseload, causing a (£0.247m) favourable movement.
1.06	<p>Education and Youth (Non Schools) – (£0.070m)</p> <p>The positive movement is as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion and Progression (£0.026m) – This is due to funding claw back from schools, as a result of permanent exclusions of (£0.018m). The remaining (£0.008m) relates to additional income received and a reduction in forecasts across all service areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Improvement Systems (£0.033m) – Favourable movement of (£0.024m) within Early Entitlement service which primarily relates to the maximisation of Early Years Pupil Development Grant against core expenditure. Favourable movement of (£0.009m) within the School Improvement Service. The amount calculated for the GwE recharge was estimated based on the service reduction of 10%. Actual recharge amount has now been confirmed. <p>Minor movements across the Portfolio account for the remainder of (£0.011m).</p>
1.08	<p>Governance – (£0.069m)</p> <p>A number of minor movements across the Portfolio account for the positive movement at Month 7, each less than £0.025m.</p>
1.09	<p>Housing and Communities – (£0.155m)</p> <p>Housing Solutions - A positive movement of (£0.155m) as a result of additional Housing Support Grant (£0.133m) plus (£0.022m) of minor variances across the service.</p>
1.10	<p>Central and Corporate Finance – (£0.091m)</p> <p>A previous commitment of £0.091m to fund the on-going clean-up from the impact of illegal tipping at land adjacent to the Riverside Site, Queensferry has been removed as this expenditure is now recommended to be funded from Contingency Reserve (see para 1.20).</p>
1.11	<p>Cumulative minor variances across the Council of (£0.119m) account for the remainder of the total monthly movement.</p>
1.12	<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>
1.13	<p>Council Tax Income</p> <p>Council Tax collections remain stable and on track. As at the end of October, in-year collections were 65.82%, compared to 66.08% in the previous financial year. In recently published benchmarking data, the Council's in-year collections for 2024/25 remain in the upper quartile across Wales, despite a marginal reduction in collections at Month 7.</p>
1.14	<p>Pay Awards (Teacher and Non-Teacher)</p> <p><u>Teachers Pay</u></p> <p>The 2024/25 budget provides additional funding for a 5% pay award from September 2024. The Independent Wales Pay Review Body (IWPRB)</p>

	<p>had recommended a 4.3% increase, but Welsh Government increased this to 5.5% due to the “no detriment” principle, which means that teacher pay rises in Wales keep pace with those in England. In September 2024, the First Minister accepted the recommendations of the Independent Pay Review bodies for 2024-25.</p> <p>It is anticipated that additional funding will be received from Welsh Government to meet the in-year shortfall, but this is yet to be confirmed. The ongoing pressure from 2025/26 also remains a risk.</p> <p>Confirmation is still awaited on funding for additional Teacher Pay employer pension costs and negotiations are ongoing between UK Government and Welsh Government – no provision was included in the budget. There is a risk that the costs may not be met in full, both in-year and on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><u>NJC (Green Book)</u></p> <p>The pay offer for NJC (Green Book) employees for the current year (2024/25) was agreed nationally on 22 October 2024 covering the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.</p> <p>The pay award comprises £1,290 (pro-rata for part-time employees) on all NJC points 2 to 43 inclusive and 2.50% on all pay points above the maximum of the national pay spine (in Flintshire this relates to SCP 45-61).</p> <p>As a result, there is an in-year benefit to the budget of £0.755m and the Pay Award were disseminated across service pay budgets during November.</p> <p><u>Pay Modelling</u></p> <p>No figures are currently included for any impact of the pay modelling review which is intended to help address the problems being encountered by the Council in the ongoing recruitment and retention of staff.</p>
1.15	<p>Out of County Placements</p> <p>As in previous years there is potential for significant numbers of new placements. The service areas within this pooled budget 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>
1.16	<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 (WG) 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 previously been confirmed.</p>

	<p>The statutory recycling targets were also not achieved in 2022/23 and 2023/24, which means that further infraction fines of £0.356m and £0.184m respectively could be levied. Therefore, the financial risk across all three financial years currently totals £1.203m.</p> <p>WG officials have now provided their advice for the Minister on the 2021/22 Infraction Charges. We are hopeful we will know the outcome of this in the coming weeks. However, they are yet to start considering the 2022/23 or 2023/24 Infraction Charges so further updates will be provided as details become available.</p>
1.17	<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 when changes in policy by Welsh Government were implemented and has accelerated markedly since the start of 2023.</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 2024/25 allocation is currently £0.423m and a grant for £0.112m to assist with the early release of prisoners. 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 £0.573m.</p>
1.18	<p>Storm Ashley and Storm Bert</p> <p>In October the County was hit by severe flooding and storm damage due to Storm Ashley. In November, Storm Bert also brought further flooding to the County. The response and subsequent clean-up from these storms are currently being assessed and the financial implications will be included in future reports.</p>
1.19	<p>Winter Maintenance</p> <p>Heavy snowfall in November has led to additional Winter Maintenance costs being incurred and 1,700 tonnes of additional salt being required for spreading over the six days, at a cost of £0.120m. The outturn for this service is already projected to be £0.370m over budget at Month 7, so costs will be closely monitored through the winter period and any variation to the current projected outturn reported in future reports.</p>
1.20	<p>Illegal Tipping Costs</p>

	<p>Costs associated with illegal tipping on Council land adjacent to the Riverside Site, Queensferry are estimated to be £0.402m. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have approved the engagement of the waste contractors and carriers, and the waste volume is in the region of 1,200 tonnes. The matter is being investigated by external agencies with those responsible likely to be pursued through legal channels. The cost of the clean-up operation will be pursued as part of any legal action. It is recommended that the cost of this is funded from Contingency Reserve in 2024/25.</p>
1.21	<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>
1.22	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Impact</p> <p>Cabinet considered the latest projection for the MTFS in September which showed a revised budget requirement of £38.420m.</p> <p>Further work has been undertaken on options for solutions to meet the budget requirement and an update on the latest position is detailed in a separate report on this agenda.</p> <p>The Council is expecting to be advised of its Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement allocation on 11 December.</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>
1.23	<p>Benefits</p> <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) – Based on current demand, costs are currently projected to be £0.765m over budget, although this will be monitored closely throughout the year due to the potential for growth. There is continued high demand across the whole of the Benefits service which is expected to remain the case for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Other pressures within the service such as meeting income targets for recovery of overpayments and related bad debt provision increases are also expected to remain. The £0.765m can be fully mitigated by use of the Reserve previously set aside.</p>
1.24	<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 has provided some funding towards these costs. There are currently 319 live employment</p>

	<p>tribunal claims in respect of this. The next preliminary hearing is scheduled for 8th May 2025.</p> <p>It is hopeful that we will get to a position where we could seek to settle on a without prejudice basis, but there is some further work to undertake first. There is also a risk that it will cost considerably more than the £0.254m currently held in reserves.</p>
1.25	<p>Achievement of Planned In-Year Efficiencies</p> <p>The 2024/25 budget contains £14.921m of specific efficiencies which are tracked and monitored throughout the year. The Council aims to achieve a 95% rate in 2024/25 as reflected in the MTFS KPI's and fully achieved all efficiencies in the previous financial year.</p> <p>It is projected that 95% of efficiencies will be achieved in 2024/25 and further details can be seen in Appendix 3.</p>
1.26	<p>Unearmarked Reserves</p> <p>The final level of Council Fund Contingency Reserve brought forward into 2024/25 was £2.972m as detailed in the 2023/24 outturn report (subject to audit) elsewhere on this agenda.</p> <p>The Base Level Reserves have been increased to £8.985m by using the remaining balance of £3.216m of the COVID-19 Hardship Fund Reserve from 2023/24.</p> <p>As per section 1.20, it is recommended that £0.402m of estimated costs associated with illegal tipping are approved to be funded from Contingency Reserve, with the intention that recovery of these costs is made in the future from the organisation responsible for the illegal tipping.</p> <p>Taking into account the current projected final outturn and previously agreed allocations the contingency reserve available is £0.783m – this will reduce to £0.381m if the recommended use for illegal tipping costs is approved.</p> <p>As required by Financial Procedure Rules all Portfolios will be expected to identify solutions in-year to mitigate the risks and potential overspends identified in the report.</p>
1.27	<p>Summary and Conclusion</p> <p>The significant projected overspend (and impact on our available reserves) continues to be of major concern and needs to be addressed urgently in an attempt to bring expenditure back in line with the approved budget. Based on current projections the Council still only has a contingency reserve of £0.783m (which will reduce to £0.381m if the recommended allocation is approved) available to deal with any significant in-year unforeseen events. It should also be noted that there are also still a number of risks identified in the report that could further worsen the Council's financial position.</p>

	<p>As required by Financial Procedure Rules - Action Plans have been compiled by Social Services, Streetscene and Transportation and Housing and Communities which detail the measures being put in place to improve the position by the end of the financial year and these have been referred to relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p>Our ability to mitigate pressures and risks during the financial year will again predominantly centre on review and challenge of non-essential spend and maximising income streams and grant funding. The moratorium on non-contractually committed spend and vacancy management process put in place during 2023/24 will continue throughout 2024/25 and needs to be applied with rigour.</p>
1.28	<p>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</p> <p>The 2023/24 Outturn Report to Cabinet on 23rd July 2024 showed an un-earmarked closing balance at the end of 2023/24 of £3.512m and a closing balance of earmarked reserves of £2.471m.</p>
1.29	<p>The 2024/25 budget for the HRA is £42.166m which includes a movement of (£0.193m) from reserves.</p>
1.30	<p>The projected outturn for the HRA shows an in-year revenue expenditure at the same level as the Annual Budget with a closing un-earmarked balance as at 31st March, 2025 of £4.451m.</p> <p>The adverse movement of £0.222m from Month 6 is explained as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income (£0.104m) movement on the Bad Debt Provision and movement on Voids • Estate Management (£0.010m) minor movements • Landlord Service Costs (£0.134m) movement in salaries and usage of Garden Reserve (£0.112m) and minor variances (£0.012m) • Repairs and Maintenance £3.966m resulting from the drive to reduce the backlog of void properties within the HRA. An additional £3.5m CERA has been introduced to meet the overspend. The balance has been met from underspend within the service. • Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA) transfer of (£3.500m) <p>Minor variances account for the remainder £0.002m.</p>
1.31	<p>The budget contribution towards capital expenditure (CERA) is £10.967m.</p>

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 6 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	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. Council Fund: the fund to which all the Council’s revenue expenditure is charged. Financial Year: the period of twelve months commencing on 1 April.

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.

Projected Outturn: projection of the expenditure to the end of the financial year, made on the basis of actual expenditure incurred to date.

Regional Integration Fund (RIF): Funding provided by Welsh Government to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Council Fund Variances**MONTH 7 - SUMMARY**

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
Social Services		
Older People		
Localities	0.617	Demands for Older People services are leading to increased costs. This includes pressures from ensuring safe hospital discharges and this pressure will likely increase further during the winter period. The residential care service has increased by £0.288m and domiciliary care by £0.320m. Minor variances account for the balance.
Resources & Regulated Services	-0.052	There has been an overall decrease in the outturn due to changes to projected workforce costs to deliver in-house care services. Homecare has reduced by (£0.054m), residential care increased by £0.023m and Extra Care reduced by (£0.022m).
Minor Variances	0.001	
Adults of Working Age		
Resources & Regulated Services	0.362	There was an increase in the Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment (PDSI) service of £0.167m due to an additional placement. The in-house Supported Living service costs have increased by £0.034m and the Learning Disability service costs increased by £0.172m due to changes to care packages. Day service costs reduced by £0.011m.
Residential Placements	-0.098	Care package costs have reduced following reviews
Minor Variances	-0.008	
Children's Services		
Early Years & Family Support	-0.144	Service Balances have been drawn upon to offset eligible expenditure.
Professional Support	0.169	There has been an additional agency worker required within the Childrens First Contact team. Contributions from external funding have been reduced as there is less slippage on grant funded schemes expected than originally anticipated.
Minor Variances	-0.024	
Safeguarding & Commissioning		
Charging Policy income	-0.070	Increased projected contributions from service users towards their care costs
Minor Variances	0.010	
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	0.762	
Out of County		
Children's Services	0.555	An increased number of new placements were captured at Month 7, causing a significant adverse variance of £0.555m in comparison to Month 6.
Education & Youth	-0.247	A number of ending Education Day placements have been removed from the current placement caseload, causing a £0.247m favourable movement in comparison to Month 6.
Total Out of County	0.308	
Education & Youth		
Inclusion & Progression	-0.026	Favourable movement of (£0.026m). This is due to the calculation of funding to claw back from schools, as a result of permanent exclusions for (£0.018m). The remaining (£0.008m) relates to additional income received and a reduction in forecasts across all service areas.
School Improvement Systems	-0.033	Favourable movement of (£0.024m) within Early Entitlement service which primarily relates to the maximisation of Early Years Pupil Development Grant against core expenditure. Favourable movement of (£0.009m) within the School Improvement Service. The amount calculated for the GwE recharge was estimated based on the service reduction of 10%. Actual recharge amount has now been confirmed.
Minor Variances	-0.011	
Total Education & Youth	-0.070	

MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Movement between Periods (£m)	Narrative for Movement between Periods greater than £0.025m
Schools	0.002	
Streetscene & Transportation		
Highways Network	0.039	Increased Streetlighting and Drainage costs.
Transportation	-0.052	Mix of Moratorium Vacancy savings and reduced transport costs in Social Services.
Regulatory Services	-0.060	Moratorium Vacancy Savings
Other Minor Variances	0.020	
Total Streetscene & Transportation	-0.053	
Planning, Environment & Economy		
Development	0.031	Revised Planning Fee Income shortfall projected to March, 2025
Regeneration	-0.025	Maximisation of Grant Income - staff costs reallocated against Shared Prosperity Fund Grant at a higher percentage than previously applied
Minor Variances	-0.007	
Total Planning & Environment	-0.000	
People & Resources		
HR & OD	-0.017	
Corporate Finance	0.028	Successful recruitment to 2 posts resulting in additional staff costs committed to March, 2025
Total People & Resources	0.011	
Governance		
ICT	-0.024	Minor favourable movements across the service
Minor Variances	-0.045	Cumulative minor movements across the portfolio
Total Governance	-0.069	
Assets		
Property Holdings	-0.042	Additional Wayleaves income received for (£0.030m) and R&M costs capitalised of (£0.012m).
Minor Variances	-0.006	
Total Assets	-0.048	
Housing and Community		
Housing Solutions	-0.155	Additional HSG Funding of (£0.133m) and minor variances of (£0.022m).
Total Housing and Community	-0.155	
Chief Executive's	-0.006	
Central & Corporate Finance	-0.115	A previous commitment of (£0.091m) to fund the on-going clean-up from the impact of illegal tipping at land adjacent to the Riverside Site, Queensferry at a cost of £0.091m that includes the machine hire, transport and manpower related to the necessary works, has now been removed as the overall cost has increased and it is recommended all of this expenditure is funded from Contingency Reserve. In addition, an improvement on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) of (£0.040m) from reduced short term borrowing costs and increased income from investments.
Grand Total	0.566	

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium Month 7 (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services								
Older People								
Localities	23.879	26.116	2.237	1.619			Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £1.196m for this service. This amount is net of client income from property recharges and reimbursements for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.958m overspent due to high demand. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.062m and day care is overspent by £0.021m. There is a significant risk that costs will continue to escalate as pressure to minimise stays in hospital continues. This risk will increase over the winter period.	To mitigate expected escalating costs a number of policies are being reviewed and amended to maximise financial benefit and reduce costs.
Resources & Regulated Services	9.999	9.857	-0.143	-0.091			In-house residential care is projecting an overspend of £0.361m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by (£0.498m), demand is high but recruitment challenges mean the demand cannot be fully met. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.104m from employee costs and day care will underspend by (£0.109m).	
Minor Variances	1.511	1.529	0.019	0.018				
Adults of Working Age								
Resources & Regulated Services	36.005	36.535	0.529	0.167			The Physical Disability and Sensory Impaired (PDSI) budget is reporting a £0.080m overspend due to costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living service is £0.424m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disabilities services is a £0.033m overspend. The Learning Disability and Work Provision service is (£0.114m) underspent.	Any requests for increases to care packages are reviewed by a panel. Current care packages are being reviewed to ensure the right level of care is provided.
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.848	1.051	0.203	0.209			This is the cost of care packages for young adults transferring from Childrens Services to Adult Social Care services. Care packages are usually new within the financial year and initial estimates are made for the costs. When care packages are agreed there can be variances against the initial estimate. This year some confirmed care packages have already been confirmed as higher than the initial estimate.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.423	0.322	-0.101	-0.100	-0.012	-0.101	The underspend is due to in-year staff vacancies.	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.894	0.842	-0.052	-0.045	-0.052	-0.052	Vacancies are the cause of the projected underspend.	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	-0.101		-0.100	Additional Supporting People funding is expected this year.	
Residential Placements	2.729	2.618	-0.111	-0.013			This is the underspend for mental health care packages. Care packages are being reviewed more frequently and some costs have reduced as a result.	
Minor Variances	3.153	3.110	-0.043	-0.048				
Children's Services								
Early Years & Family Support	0.338	0.192	-0.146	-0.001			Some service balances have been drawn upon to offset eligible spend and reduce the overall projected outturn.	
Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.733	0.450	0.460			Legal costs are overspent by £0.235m 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 £0.138m and Direct Payments are overspent by £0.077m.	

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium Month 7 (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Professional Support	6.228	7.884	1.656	1.487			To support adequate levels of child protection the established structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies try to be minimised where possible and temporary posts are sometimes required to be able to continue meeting the challenges and demands of Childrens Services. Two managed agency teams were contracted to support the service, one of these teams has ceased and the other is planned to finish later this year. The associated costs are £0.931m. This is being partly mitigated by underspends, mostly vacancies and assumed external funding, of (£0.027m). The Leaving Care budget which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.5360m due to increased care leavers which includes unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). The costs of some external contracts are £0.074m overspent due to inflationary pressures. Costs of Direct Payments to provide support to children with disabilities are £0.118m overspent because of demand.	Alternative accommodation for UASC is being explored and cheaper rates have been negotiated with an alternative accommodation provider.
Minor Variances	5.796	5.874	0.078	0.091				
Safeguarding & Commissioning								
Charging Policy income	-2.650	-2.860	-0.210	-0.140			This is income from service users who financially contribute towards their care	
Vacancy Management	-0.622	-0.552	0.071	0.066			This budget holds in-year portfolio efficiency targets for vacancy savings and grant maximisation. There is a target set for these efficiencies and this target is not currently being achieved this financial year.	
Minor Variances	3.619	3.655	0.036	0.031				
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	92.047	96.418	4.372	3.610	-0.064	-0.252		
Out of County Placements								
Children's Services	13.795	15.590	1.795	1.240			Detailed projections show a significant overspend within the Out of County pooled budget as a result of the following:- an increase in the number of new placements agreed in-year and fees incurred to external providers. The overspend includes no further contingency and is projected based on current caseload only.	
Education & Youth	5.504	5.436	-0.068	0.178			Positive movement at Month 7 as a number of ending Education Day placements have been removed from the current placement caseload	
Total Out of County Placements	19.299	21.025	1.726	1.418		0.000		
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)								
Inclusion & Progression	5.650	5.881	0.231	0.257			Previous in-year pressure of £0.252m against the EOTAS (Education Other than at School) service has reduced by £0.018m due to the calculation of funding to claw back budget from schools as a result of permanent exclusions. The service have also used £0.100m from the ALN grant to mitigate some of this pressure. This now leaves the service with an in year pressure of £0.134m. The remaining variance relates to Canolfan Enfys. Pupil numbers have increased which has led to the need for an increase in staff.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.918	0.856	-0.062	-0.059	-0.007	-0.062	Recruitment delays, enabling grant utilisation against trainee costs. Income generation increases on room hire.	
School Planning & Provision	0.625	0.535	-0.090	-0.075	-0.015	-0.090	Reduction in expenditure from transition budget due to delayed Capital Projects and reduction in the number of mobile classrooms.	
Minor Variances	2.956	2.956	0.000	0.026		-0.010		

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium Month 7 (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.148	10.227	0.079	0.149	-0.022	-0.162		
Schools	117.302	117.138	-0.164	-0.166			Free School Meals (FSM) budget - (£0.096m) underspend, due to meal take up and levels of eligible FSM children. The Unallocated budget containing Added Years and Copyright Licenses indicates a (£0.124m) underspend. The above underspends are offset by a number of insignificant adverse variances within Primary and Secondary non-delegated, totalling £0.055m.	
Streetscene & Transportation								
Service Delivery	8.617	9.635	1.018	1.000			Significant variance of £0.400m in highways maintenance costs, £0.200m Alltarni depot running costs increased. Budget efficiency pressure of £0.400m in total related to HRCs (charging and trade waste) implementation date later than initially planned. Income from Workplace Recycling Regulations legislative changes lower than anticipated.	
Highways Network	11.671	12.179	0.508	0.470			Winter Maintenance costs of £0.370m are anticipated to escalate for the provision of equipment, labour and salt, which have seen significant year-on-year inflation, plus fleet hire costs for gritters are higher than the previous contract arrangements. We continue to investigate options to reduce procurement costs and ensure appropriate income/funding in preparation for the start of the season. A report was presented to Cabinet in September 2024, which approved the delivery of efficiencies relating to decision making for marginal weather forecasts. Additional Street-lighting energy costs of £0.131m are forecast as prices continue to rise.	
Transportation	10.976	11.138	0.162	0.214	-0.020	-0.140	School Transport significant variances due to transport contractor costs increasing driven by inflation and cost of living (fuel, energy, insurance, wages). Additional routes for increased demand for ALN transport is also having an impact. Social Services Transport costs increased due to recent procurement and additional adult social services and childrens services requests for transport, which has been raised with the client portfolio Bereavement Services reporting a pressure of £0.057m, with public health burials increasing year on year	
Regulatory Services	11.432	11.541	0.109	0.169	-0.057	-0.109	The overspend variance is mainly due to increasing volumes of residual waste being collected along with gate fee indexation inflation, increased tipping and gate fees for some recyclable waste, together with the reduction in income levels for both recyclable materials and electricity generation from gas and solar at the former landfill sites.	
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.000				
Total Streetscene & Transportation	42.695	44.495	1.799	1.853	-0.077	-0.249		
Planning, Environment & Economy								
Business	2.327	2.149	-0.179	-0.175	-0.008	-0.179	Part year vacancy savings as the recruitment process has commenced	
Development	-0.200	0.040	0.239	0.208			Fee income estimated shortfall in Building Control, Land Charges and Planning	
Access	1.591	1.729	0.138	0.129			Commitment for the cost Ash Die Back tree works £0.120m projected to March, 2025	
Regeneration	0.711	0.640	-0.071	-0.046			Maximisation of Grant Funding - reallocating staff costs against the eligible grant	
Management & Strategy	1.897	1.792	-0.105	-0.098	-0.009	-0.105	Part year vacancy savings	

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium Month 7 (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Minor Variances	1.355	1.377	0.022	0.026		-0.015		
Total Planning & Environment	7.682	7.726	0.044	0.045	-0.017	-0.299		
People & Resources								
HR & OD	2.211	2.258	0.047	0.065			Historic Efficiency for DBS Checks unrealised together with additional legal fees paid.	
Corporate Finance	2.080	1.944	-0.136	-0.164		-0.104	Part year vacancy savings	
Total People & Resources	4.290	4.202	-0.089	-0.099	0.000	-0.104		
Governance								
Customer Services	0.985	0.859	-0.126	-0.116	-0.005	-0.035	Part year vacancy savings and fee income over recovery in Registrars	
Revenues	0.371	0.203	-0.168	-0.159			Potential Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	10.710	10.622	-0.088	-0.039	-0.015	-0.055		
Total Governance	12.066	11.684	-0.382	-0.313	-0.020	-0.090		
Assets								
Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Total Assets	11.403	11.366	-0.037	0.010		0.000		
Housing and Communities								
Housing Solutions	4.309	6.600	2.291	2.446			Temporary accommodation net costs anticipated to be £2.136m overspent, with £0.155m minor variances across the service.	
Minor Variances	13.852	13.851	-0.002	-0.002	-0.002	-0.004		
Total Housing and Communities	18.161	20.451	2.289	2.445	-0.002	-0.004		
Chief Executive's	1.641	1.619	-0.022	-0.016	-0.006	-0.022		
Central & Corporate Finance	31.372	28.131	-3.241	-3.126			The Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) for the 2024/25 indicates an increased underspend of (£0.510m) as the trend from previous years continues with reduced short term borrowing costs and income from investments in line with current bank interest rates. This is mitigated by potential shortfalls in Corporate windfall income targets based on actual receipts to date. As a result of the refinancing of Enfinium Group Ltd into Enfinium Parc Adfer Ltd, there is a gainshare benefit to all partner authorities within the North Wales Residual Waste Partnership. Flintshires estimated gainshare from this undertaking is £2.108m, net of fees. The 2024 Pay Award has now been agreed at a level that has resulted in a favourable movement of £0.755m compared to what was originally budgeted for. A previous commitment of (£0.091m) to fund the on-going clean-up from the impact of illegal tipping at land adjacent to the Riverside Site, Queensferry at a cost of £0.091m has now been removed as the overall cost has increased and it is recommended all of this expenditure is funded from Contingency Reserve.	
Grand Total	368.106	374.481	6.375	5.809	-0.208	-1.182		

2024/25 Efficiencies Outturn Tracker - Month 7

Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Efficiency - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
		2024/25 £m	2024/25 £m	2024/25 £m		R A G		
Portfolio								
Corporate								
Actuarial Review	Portfolio budget reductions	Gary Ferguson	4.000	4.000	0.000	C	G	
Central Loans and Investment Account	Increased income/reduced borrowing	Chris Taylor	1.000	1.000	0.000	C	G	
Additional Income from Fastrack Project	Portfolios	Debbie Griffiths	0.018	0.018	0.000	O	G	
Total Corporate Services			5.018	5.018	0.000			
Assets								
Strategic Funding		Damian Hughes	0.028	0.028	0.000	O	G	
Rent Review - Commercial Assets		Damian Hughes	0.021	0.021	0.000	O	G	
Valuation & Estates	Restructure	Damian Hughes	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	
			0.059	0.059	0.000			
Assets - ADMs								
ADM Budget	Reduction in ADM Budget	Rachael Corbelli	0.065	0.065	0.000	O	G	
Review of External Partners		Rachael Corbelli	0.087	0.087	0.000	O	G	
Total Assets - ADMs			0.152	0.152	0.000			
Chief Executives								
Executive Office	Reduction in Promotions Budget	Joanne Pierce	0.010	0.010	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
IT - Mobile Phone contract	Chief Executive's element	Joanne Pierce	0.001	0.001	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Total Chief Executives			0.011	0.011	0.000			
People & Resources								
Corporate Finance	Reduction in Staffing	Gary Ferguson	0.104	0.104	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Feasibility Study budget	Reduction in Budget	Gary Ferguson	0.050	0.050	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
HR & OD	Reduction in TU facilities budget	Sharon Carney	0.030	0.030	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Flintshire Trainees	Recruitment Freeze 2024/25	Sharon Carney	0.138	0.138	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Total People & Resources			0.322	0.322	0.000			
Governance								
RSA Tags	Governance element	Gareth Owen	0.003	0.003	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Registration Services	Increased income from 2023 Review	Gareth Owen	0.002	0.002	0.000	C	G	Fee Income expected to meet target
Discretionary Rate Relief		Gareth Owen	0.004	0.004	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Internal Audit	Removal of Vacant Posts	Gareth Owen	0.104	0.104	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
IT - Equipment reduction in requirements		Gareth Owen	0.018	0.018	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
IT - Mobile Phone contract	Governance element	Gareth Owen	0.015	0.015	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Contact Centre	Reduction in budget	Gareth Owen	0.010	0.010	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Single Person Discount Review 24/25		Gareth Owen	0.250	0.250	0.000	C	G	Achieved
Procurement	Reduction in contribution	Gareth Owen	0.009	0.009	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
HRA Recharging	Management Costs Apportionment	Gareth Owen	0.027	0.027	0.000	C	G	Recharge at increased rate agreed with HRA
Granicus	GovDelivery	Gareth Owen	0.025	0.025	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Registration Services		Gareth Owen	0.040	0.040	0.000	C	G	Fee Income expected to meet target
Graphic Design		Gareth Owen	0.039	0.039	0.000	C	G	Removal of posts Sept 2024
Total Governance			0.546	0.546	0.000			
Planning, Environment & Economy								
Fees & Charges Review 2023	Increased income from 2023 Review	Andrew Farrow	0.050	0.050	0.000	O	A	Dependant on actual fee income levels received in year
Fees & Charges Review 2024	Increased income from 2024 Review	Andrew Farrow	0.017	0.017	0.000	O	A	Dependant on actual fee income levels received in year
IT - Mobile Phone contract	PE&E element	Andrew Farrow	0.008	0.008	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Planning Fee Income	Fee Income Target Increase	Andrew Farrow	0.295	0.201	(0.094)	O	A	Dependant on actual fee income levels received in year
Ambition North Wales Contribution	Budget Saving	Andrew Farrow	0.035	0.035	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Wales Rally GB	Budget Saving	Andrew Farrow	0.030	0.030	0.000	C	G	Budget Removed
Total Planning, Environment & Economy			0.435	0.341	(0.094)			
Streetscene & Transportation								
Cash in Transit - reduced costs	Part of transition to Card and App payments at car parks	Katie Wilby	0.012	0.012	0.000	O	G	Efficiency originated by Revenues but operated by S&T
Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Green Waste	Increased income from 2023 Review	Katie Wilby	0.099	0.099	0.000	O	G	
Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Car Parking	Increased income from 2023 Review	Katie Wilby	0.063	0.063	0.000	O	G	
Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Bersavement Services	Increased income from 2023 Review	Katie Wilby	0.033	0.033	0.000	O	G	
Fees & Charges Review 2024 - Bersavement Services	Increased income from 2024 Review	Katie Wilby	0.012	0.012	0.000	O	G	
IT - Mobile Phone contract	S&T element	Katie Wilby	0.011	0.011	0.000	C	G	
Part time opening of HWRC's		Katie Wilby	0.250	0.225	(0.025)	O	A	HWRC sites open over part of the week rather than the full 7 days e.g. Friday to Monday. Savings would come from labour. Security of sites could become an issue when they are closed, which could incur additional costs. Fly tipping could increase as a result of the part-time closure (as happened during the pandemic) and there may be an impact on residual waste tonnages as residents seek to divert the waste to other collection methods. Started on 6th May hence £25k shortfall of Efficiency pressure.
Review/reduce service standards	Grass cutting etc.	Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Range of grass cutting and grounds maintenance operations in place, which vary from external contracted services on highway verges, roundabouts and central reservations, weed spraying, tenant gardens and school grounds to our own in-house service delivery for amenity areas and public open spaces, such as car parks, cemeteries, leisure centres, libraries, Council offices and housing estates, town centres, sheltered housing, bus stops and play areas and playing fields, nature conservation areas. This proposal would see all grass cutting operations externalised through a contract.

Efficiency Description		Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Efficiency - Based on (see below) High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
			2024/25 £m	2024/25 £m	2024/25 £m		R A		
Portfolio									
Review/reduce service standards	Cemetery maintenance	Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Discretionary service - savings would come from reduction in labour, plant and materials. Likely to generate complaints from members of the public. Previously considered transferring responsibility to Town/Community Councils, but no appetite or capacity to take this on.	
Introduce Night Working		Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Streetscene introduced an evening shift in 2012. A small number of people work through the night (365 days a year) dealing with emergencies and small amounts of planned works. The proposal will see this level of work increase with operations such as gully emptying, town centre sweeping etc. carried out during the evening and overnight period. The saving will be generated by a reduction in plant and equipment. Impact on communities due to evening and night working. Workforce/Trade Union support will be required. There was a lack of appetite to continue when previously introduced and unable to recruit or maintain staff on a night time shift, due to the unsociable hours	
Reduce cleansing standards and enforce zero balance for littering		Katie Wilby	0.030	0.030	0.000	O	G	Potential consequential impact on littering and fly tipping, which would require additional resources for enforcement.	
In-house services e.g. weed spraying, traffic management		Katie Wilby	0.035	0.035	0.000	O	G	Cost-benefit assessment to be undertaken to assess whether in-house provision would be more cost efficient than a contracted service	
Full cost recovery for supporting community events		Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Introduce a charge for providing support for community events for road closures, such as fairs, festivals, street parties etc. Currently, costs are approx. £25k per annum. The charge would help to mitigate the cost.	
Reduce non essential services on Bank Holidays (x5)		Katie Wilby	0.077	0.077	0.000	O	G	Stand 85% of Grounds, Highways, Streetlighting, Cleansing on 5 Bank Holidays per year. Currently, operations for these services continue on public holidays. Savings would come from the reduction in overtime.	
Charging for DIY Waste streams at HWRC's		Katie Wilby	0.300	0.075	(0.225)	O	A	A number of local authorities charge for DIY waste streams, such as soil, rubble, plasterboard and waste wood, as these waste streams are costly to treat and dispose, which is no longer sustainable or affordable. Charging would ensure cost recovery of these non-household waste streams.	August Implementation Date - Further delayed
Remove vacancies for Schools Crossing Patrols		Katie Wilby	0.084	0.084	0.000	O	G	The portfolio currently has vacancies for crossing patrol officers within the road safety team, which could be given up.	
Remove Officer vacancies across the Portfolio		Katie Wilby	0.294	0.294	0.000	O	G	2 x Transport Strategy Officers; 1 x Road Safety Officer; 1 x Business Manager; 1 x Support Services Officer; 1 x Enforcement Officer; 1 x Waste Disposal Manager.	
Charge for Trade Waste at one HRC site		Katie Wilby	0.200	0.050	(0.150)	O	A	A number of local authorities currently provide a facility for commercial traders and businesses to dispose of their waste through a chargeable service. There is the potential to designate one of the Council's HRC sites for trade waste only for the receipt of other chargeable recyclable materials (wood, soil, rubble, green waste etc) from businesses.	August Implementation Date - Further delayed
Increase fees for Bulky Waste		Katie Wilby	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	Currently charge for bulky waste collections. The fee could be increased in line with inflation (by £5 per collection).	
Reduce SmartClient for Technical Support		Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	ground surveys. Reduce budget available.	
Winter Maintenance Review of Weather Stations for 2024/25		Katie Wilby	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G	Review is already underway for the use of route-based forecasting or domain-based forecasting instead of the current approach	
Total Streetscene & Transportation			1.644	1.244	(0.400)				
Social Services									
Fees & Charges Review 2023	Increased income from 2023 Review	Craig Macleod	0.063	0.063	0.000	O	G		
Fees & Charges Review 2024	Increased income from 2024 Review	Craig Macleod	0.021	0.021	0.000	O	G		
RSA Tags	Social Services element	Craig Macleod	0.002	0.002	0.000	O	G		
IT - Mobile Phone contract	Social Services element	Craig Macleod	0.046	0.011	(0.035)	O	A	The efficiency is a high proportion of the total cost of mobile units in 2023/24 and unlikely it will be achieved in full	
Newydd Cleaning Contracts	Reduction to contract with Newydd	Craig Macleod	0.100	0.000	(0.100)	C	R	Negotiations with Newydd have not yielded any efficiencies and therefore will not lead to cost reductions in 2024/25.	
Reduce Regional Contribution	Reduction to in-year contribution to Regional Team	Craig Macleod	0.025	0.025	0.000	O	G		
Extra BCUHB contribution to Marleyfield	Additional income from BCUHB for hospital discharge beds	Craig Macleod	0.040	0.040	0.000	O	G		
Service Review	Reduction in posts		0.075	0.035	(0.040)	O	A	This is dependent on natural wastage of posts which can then be deleted. This will occur within the financial year and so the efficiency will not likely be achieved in full this financial year.	
Vacancy Management	In-year vacancy savings	Craig Macleod	0.100	0.100	0.000	O	G		
Increase to Income budget	Older People Commissioning	Craig Macleod	0.050	0.050	0.000	O	G		
Disability Day Service	Reduced budget	Craig Macleod	0.040	0.040	0.000	O	G		
Appointeeship service charging	Increased income	Craig Macleod	0.050	0.025	(0.025)	O	A	There will be a requirement for a consultation with stakeholders meaning the efficiency will be unable to be implemented at the start of the financial year and will likely be towards the midway point.	
Additional Contributions for residential care from BCUHB	Additional income from BCUHB for hospital discharge beds	Craig Macleod	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G		
Efficiencies to Planned Contracts with Third Sector	Reduced expenditure	Craig Macleod	0.020	0.020	0.000	O	G		
Grant Maximisation		Craig Macleod	0.100	0.100	0.000	O	G		
Reduced NEWCES contribution	Reduced expenditure	Craig Macleod	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G		
Grant funding for Adult Social Services	2024/25 only	Craig Macleod	0.100	0.100	0.000	O	G		
Disability services	Charging for college placements pending financial assessments	Craig Macleod	0.020	0.020	0.000	O	G		
Total Social Services			0.872	0.672	(0.200)				
Housing & Communities									
RSA Tags	Housing & Communities element	Vicky Clark	0.001	0.001	0.000	O	G		

Efficiency Description	Accountable Officer	Efficiency Target	Projected Efficiency	(Under)/Over Achievement	Efficiency Open/Closed (O/C)	Confidence in Achievement of Efficiency - Based on (see below) R = High Assumption A = Medium Assumption G = Figures Confirmed	Reason for variation	Mitigating Action if Amber or Red
Portfolio		2024/25	2024/25	2024/25		R		
		£m	£m	£m		A		
IT - Mobile Phone contract	Housing & Communities element	Vicky Clark	0.009	0.009	0.000	C	G	Use of the Reserve in 2024/25 instead of base budget pressure
CTRS Reduction	Budget Reduction	Vicky Clark	0.254	0.254	0.000	O	G	
Total Housing & Communities			0.264	0.264	0.000			
Education & Youth								
Fees & Charges Review 2023 - Integrated Youth Service	Increased income from 2023 Review	Claire Homard	0.001	0.001	0.000	O	G	
Fees & Charges Review 2024 - Integrated Youth Service	Increased income from 2024 Review	Claire Homard	0.001	0.001	0.000	O	G	
RSA Tags	Education & Youth element	Claire Homard	0.007	0.007	0.000	O	G	
IT - Mobile Phone contract	Education & Youth element	Claire Homard	0.005	0.005	0.000	C	G	
GWE - Reduction in Contribution	Education & Youth element	Claire Homard	0.099	0.099	0.000	O	G	
Early Entitlement	Reduced numbers accessing Early Entitlement	Claire Homard	0.075	0.075	0.000	O	G	
Adult Community Learning	Income generation	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	
Youth Services	Buildings Asset transfer of some buildings	Claire Homard	0.032	0.032	0.000	O	G	
Business Support Review		Claire Homard	0.032	0.032	0.000	O	G	
School Planning & Provision	Mobile Classrooms	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	
School Planning & Provision	Transition Funding	Claire Homard	0.010	0.010	0.000	O	G	
Inclusion & Progression	Contribution towards PEP Caseworker	Claire Homard	0.020	0.020	0.000	O	G	
Total Education & Youth			0.302	0.302	0.000			
Schools								
Utility Costs		Claire Homard	0.600	0.600	0.000	O	G	
School Demography		Claire Homard	0.675	0.675	0.000	O	G	
3% Reduction in Delegated Funding		Claire Homard	3.273	3.273	0.000	O	G	
Remove Schools Deficit Subsidy for 1 year		Claire Homard	0.750	0.750	0.000	C	G	
Total Schools			5.298	5.298	0.000			
Total 2024/25 Budget Efficiencies			14.921	14.228	(0.694)			

	%	£
Total 2024/25 Budget Efficiencies	100	14.921
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	-5	(0.694)
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	95	14.228
Total 2024/25 Budget Efficiencies (Less Previously agreed Decisions)	100	0.000
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Efficiencies Underachieved	0	0.000
Total Projected 2024/25 Budget Efficiencies Achieved	0	0.000

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Movements on Council Fund Unearmarked Reserves

	£m	£m
Total Reserves as at 1 April 2024	15.271	
Less - Base Level	(8.985)	
Total Reserves above base level available for delegation to Cabinet		6.286
Less - Children's Services Legal Costs		(0.142)
Less - Approved "Budget Risk" Reserve 2024/25		(3.000)
Less - Approved Time Limited Pressures 2024/25		(0.172)
Add - Transfer to Reserve Budget 2024/25		0.437
Add - Reimbursement from Aura Leisure and Libraries		0.200
Less - Cambrian Aquatics approved funding		(0.200)
Less - Provision of Free School Meals payment to eligible children during the summer school holidays		(0.277)
Add- Review of Earmarked Reserves at Month 5		0.167
Add- Review of Earmarked Reserves at Month 6		0.859
Less - Month 7 projected outturn		(3.375)
Total Contingency Reserve available for use		0.783 *

*Currently Excludes Cabinet recommendation of £0.402m for Illegal Tipping Costs

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Budget Monitoring Report
Housing Revenue Account Variances

MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Housing Revenue Account						
Income	(42.166)	(42.144)	0.022	0.126	There is a net pressure relating to void properties of £0.094m. 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 forecasting a reduction in the requirement to top up the Bad Debt Provision of (£0.075m). Other minor variances of £0.003m.	
Capital Financing - Loan Charges	6.845	6.845	0.000	0.000	£3.500m Reduction in the contribution required to the HRA Capital Programme which will be utilised to offset the voids spend. This has been agreed by the Capital Asset and Programme Board.	
Estate Management	3.206	2.996	(0.209)	(0.199)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.172m) which is being offset by agency costs of £0.086m. Additional allocation of Housing Support Grant (£0.125m). Other minor variances of £0.002m.	
Landlord Service Costs	1.798	1.663	(0.134)	0.000	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.186m) which is being offset by agency costs of £0.104m. Material increased costs of £0.029m. Reduced electricity costs (£0.102m). Other minor variances of £0.021m.	
Repairs & Maintenance	12.741	16.690	3.949	(0.017)	Adverse variance of £3.949m resulting from the drive to reduce the backlog of void properties within the HRA. An additional £3.500m CERA has been introduced to meet the overspend.	
Management & Support Services	2.787	2.660	(0.127)	(0.132)	Projected vacancy savings of approximately (£0.096m). Reduction in Support Recharge (£0.068m). Other minor variances of £0.037m.	
Capital Expenditure From Revenue (CERA)	14.467	10.967	(3.500)	0.000		
HRA Projects	0.130	0.130	(0.000)	0.000		
Contribution To / (From) Reserves	0.193	0.193	0.000	0.000		
Total Housing Revenue Account	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.222)		

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value
Report Author	Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25 (attached as Appendix 1).

As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 25th November 2024 where officers responded to questions to the satisfaction of the Committee and there are no specific issues to bring to the attention of Cabinet.

It is recommended that the report be presented to County Council on 28th January 2025 for final approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet recommends the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25 to County Council on 28 th January for final approval.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.0	EXPLAINING THE MID YEAR REPORT
1.01	The Council has nominated the Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies. The Governance and Audit Committee has previously agreed to include treasury management as a standing item on each quarterly agenda to receive an update.
1.02	On 20 th February 2024, the Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, following the recommendation of the Cabinet and consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee.
1.03	<p><u>Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25</u></p> <p>The draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2024/25 is attached as Appendix 1 for review. As required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the report was reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee on 25th November 2024 where officers responded to questions to the satisfaction of the Committee and there are no specific issues to bring to the attention of Cabinet.</p> <p>It is recommended that the report be presented to County Council on 28th January 2025 for final approval.</p>
1.04	<p><u>Summary of Key Points</u></p> <p>UK headline consumer price inflation remained around the Bank of England (BoE) target in quarter 2, falling from an annual rate of 3.2% in March to 2.0% in May and then rebounding marginally to June, to 2.2% in July and August, as was expected, due to base effects from energy prices. Core and services price inflation remained higher at 3.6% and 5.6% respectively in August.</p> <p>The UK economy continued to expand between April and October 2024, albeit slowing from the 0.7% gain in the last quarter of the 2023/24 financial year to 0.5% (downwardly revised from 0.6%) in the first quarter of 2024/25.</p> <p>Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rates would steadily fall from the 5.25% peak, with the first cut in August being followed by a series of further cuts, with November 2024 the most likely next cut, taking the Bank Rate down to around 3% by the end of 2025.</p>
1.05	<p>A total of £15.861m PWLB loans were taken out during the period. Of these, £0.861m have been on-lent to NEW Homes, the Council's wholly owned subsidiary, to fund the building of affordable homes in Flintshire.</p> <p>The Council continues to regularly review the position on its long-term borrowing requirement in conjunction with advice from Arlingclose.</p> <p>The borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.</p>

	Section 4 provides more information on borrowing and debt management during the period.
1.06	The average investment balance for the period was £41.9m and the average rate of return was 5.15%, generating investment income of £1.09m. Section 5 of the report provides more information on the Council's investments.
1.07	The treasury function has operated fully within the limits detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Financial implications are addressed in the report.

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

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

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	1. Draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Chris Taylor - Strategic Finance Manager Telephone: 01352 703309 E-mail: Christopher.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Authorised Limit: A statutory limit that sets the maximum level of external debt for the Council.</p> <p>Balances and Reserves: Accumulated sums that are held, either for specific future costs or commitments (known as earmarked) or generally held to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure.</p> <p>Bank Rate: The official interest rate set by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and what is generally termed at the "base rate".</p> <p>Basis Point: A unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in the value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent). In most cases, it refers to changes in interest rates and bond yields. For example, if interest rates rise by 25 basis points, it means that rates have risen by 0.25% percentage points.</p> <p>Bond: A certificate of debt issued by a company, government, or other institution. The bond holder receives interest at a rate stated at the time of issue of the bond. The price of a bond may vary during its life.</p> <p>Capital Expenditure: Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of capital assets.</p> <p>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR): The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes representing the cumulative capital expenditure of the local authority that has not been financed.</p> <p>Certificates of Deposits (CD's): A savings certificate entitling the bearer to receive interest. A CD bears a maturity date, a specified fixed interest rate and can be issued in any denomination. CDs are generally issued by commercial banks. The term of a CD generally ranges from one month to five years.</p> <p>Consumer Price Index (CPI): The UK's main measure of inflation (along with Retail Price Index or 'RPI') The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England set the Bank Rate in order to try and keep CPI at or close to the target set by the Government. The calculation of CPI includes many items of normal household expenditure but excludes some items such as mortgage interest payments and Council Tax.</p> <p>Corporate Bonds: Corporate bonds are bonds issued by companies. The term is often used to cover all bonds other than those issued by governments in their own currencies and includes issues by companies, supranational organisations and government agencies.</p> <p>Cost of Carry: The "cost of carry" is the difference between what is paid to borrow compared to the interest which could be earned. For example, if one takes out borrowing at 5% and invests the money at 1.5%, there is a cost of carry of 3.5%.</p> <p>Counterparty List: List of approved financial institutions with which the</p>

Council can place investments.

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

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

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

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

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

IFRS: International Financial Reporting Standards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT TREASURY MANAGEMENT

MID YEAR REPORT 2024/25

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.00 BACKGROUND

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

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

- 2.05 In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issues guidance on local authority investments that requires the Council to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year.
- 2.06 This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.
- 2.07 The Council approved the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy at its meeting on 20th February 2024.

3.00 ECONOMIC & INTEREST RATE REVIEW APRIL – OCTOBER 2024.

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

Economic background: UK headline consumer price inflation remained around the Bank of England (BoE) target later in the period, falling from an annual rate of 3.2% in March to 2.0% in May and then rebounding marginally to June to 2.2% in July and August, as was expected, due to base effects from energy prices. Core and services price inflation remained higher at 3.6% and 5.6% respectively in August.

The UK economy continued to expand over the period, albeit slowing from the 0.7% gain in the first calendar quarter to 0.5% (downwardly revised from 0.6%) in the second. Of the monthly figures, the economy was estimated to have registered no growth in July.

Labour market data was slightly better from a policymaker perspective, showing an easing in the tightness of the job market, with inactivity rates and vacancies declining. However, a degree of uncertainty remains given ongoing issues around the data collected for the labour force survey by the Office for National Statistics. Figures for the three months to July showed the unemployment rate fell to 4.1% (3mth/year) from 4.4% in the previous three-month period while the employment rate rose to 74.8% from 74.3%.

Over the same period average regular earnings (excluding bonuses) was 5.1%, down from 5.4% in the earlier period, and total earnings (including bonuses) was 4.0% (this figure was impacted by one-off payments made to NHS staff and civil servants in June and July 2023). Adjusting for inflation, real regular pay rose by 2.2% in May to July and total pay by 1.1%.

With headline inflation lower, the BoE cut Bank Rate from 5.25% to 5.00% at the August Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. The decision was finely balanced, voted by a 5-4 majority with four members preferring to hold at 5.25%. At the September MPC meeting, committee members voted 8-1 for no change at 5.00%, with the lone dissenter preferring Bank Rate to be cut again to 4.75%. The meeting minutes and vote suggested a reasonably hawkish tilt to rates, with sticky inflation remaining a concern among policymakers.

The latest BoE Monetary Policy Report, published in August, showed policymakers expected GDP growth to continue expanding during 2024 before falling back and moderating from 2025 to 2027. Unemployment was forecast to stay around 4.5% while inflation was shown picking up in the latter part of 2024 as the previous years' energy price declines fell out of the figures before slipping below the 2% target in 2025 and remaining there until early 2027.

Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would steadily fall from the 5.25% peak, with the first cut in August being followed by a series of further cuts, with November 2024 the likely next one, taking Bank Rate down to around 3% by the end of 2025.

The US Federal Reserve (the Fed) also cut interest rates during the period, reducing the Federal Funds Rate by 0.50% to a range of 4.75%-5.00% at its policy meeting in September. The forecasts released at the same time by the central bank suggested a further 1.00% of easing is expected by the end of the calendar year, followed by the same amount in 2025 and then a final 0.50% of cuts during 2026.

Having first reduced interest rates in June, the European Central Bank (ECB) held steady in July before cutting again in September, reducing its main refinancing rate to 3.65% and its deposit rate to 3.50%. Unlike the Fed, the ECB has not outlined a likely future path of rates, but inflation projections remain in line with the central bank's previous forecasts where it will remain above its 2% target until 2026 on an annual basis.

Financial markets: Sentiment in financial markets continued to mostly improve over the period, but the ongoing trend of bond yield volatility remained. The general upward trend in yields in the early part of the period was reversed in the later part, and yields ended the half-year not too far from where they started. However, the volatility in response to economic, financial and geopolitical issues meant it was a bumpy ride for bond investors during that time.

Over the period, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield started at 3.94% and ended at 4.00% but hit a high of 4.41% in May and a low of 3.76% in mid-September. While the 20-year gilt started at 4.40% and ended at 4.51% but hit a high of 4.82% in May and a low of 4.27% in mid-September. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 5.12% over the period to 30th September.

Credit review: Arlingclose maintained its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list at 100 days.

Having had its outlook increased by Fitch and ratings by S&P earlier in the period, Moody's upgraded Transport for London's rating to A2 from A3 in July.

Moody's also placed National Bank of Canada on Rating Watch for a possible upgrade, revising the outlook on Standard Chartered to Positive, the outlook to Negative on Toronto Dominion Bank, and downgrading the rating on Close Brothers to A1 from Aa3.

S&P upgraded the rating on National Bank of Canada to A+ from A, and together with Fitch, the two rating agencies assigned Lancashire County Council with a rating of AA- and A+ respectively.

Credit default swap prices were generally lower at the end of the period compared to the beginning for the vast majority of the names on UK and non-UK lists. Price volatility over the period was also generally more muted compared to previous periods.

Financial market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Council’s counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

Outlook for the remainder of 2024/25

The MPC held Bank Rate at 5.00% in September. It will continue to cut rates to stimulate the UK economy but will initially be cautious given lingering domestic inflationary pressure. Arlingclose see another rate cut in 2024 (Q4), but more significant monetary easing in 2025, with Bank Rate falling to a low of around 3%.

The upside risks to inflation remain, which could limit the extent of monetary easing.

Long term gilt yields have fallen alongside US monetary policy expectations. Arlingclose’s central case id for yields to be volatile around a relatively narrow range, reflecting the likelihood for monetary policy loosening in the Eurozone, UK and US.

	Current	Dec 24	Mar 25	Jun 25	Sept 25	Dec 25	Mar 26	Jun 26	Sept 26	Dec 26	Mar 27	Jun 27	Sept 27
Upside Risk (%)	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Interest Rate (%)	5.00	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Downside Risk (%)	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50

4.00 BORROWING

4.01 CIPFA’s 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily

related to the functions of the Council. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.

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

BORROWING STRATEGY & ACTIVITY

4.02 Borrowing Strategy

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

After substantial rises in interest rates since 2021 many central banks have now begun to reduce rates, albeit slowly. Gilt yields were volatile over the 6-month period and have reduced slightly between April and September 2024. Much of the downward pressure from lower inflation figures was counteracted by upward pressure from positive economic data. Data from the US continues to impact global bond markets including UK gilt yields.

The PWLB certainty rate for 10-year maturity loans was 4.80% at the beginning of the half year and 4.79% at the end. The lowest available 10-year maturity rate was 4.52% and the highest was 5.18%. Rates for 20-year maturity loans ranged from 5.01% to 5.57% during the half year, and 50-year maturity loans from 4.88% to 5.40%.

Whilst the cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities spiked to around 7% in late March 2024, primarily due a dearth of LA-LA lending/borrowing activity during the month, as expected shorter-term rates reverted to a more normal range and were generally around 5.00% - 5.25%.

The PWLB HRA rate which is 0.4% below the certainty rate is available up to June 2025. This discounted rate is to support local authorities borrowing for the Housing Revenue Account and for refinancing existing HRA loans, providing a window of opportunity for HRA-related borrowing. The Council borrowed £5m using this lower rate in August 2024.

The Council submitted its application for access to PWLB lending 2024/25

(including access to HRA and certainty rates) in April 2024.

During the period April – September 2024, the following loans were taken out –

Start Date	Maturity Date	Amount	Rate	Loan Type
20 June 2024	20 June 2064	£0.118m	5.42%	Annuity
05 Aug 2024	05 Aug 2064	£0.743m	5.63%	Annuity
14 Aug 2024	14 Aug 2035	£5m	4.15%	EIP
23 Sept 2024	23 Sept 2034	£10m	4.32%	EIP

The annuity loans have been lent on to New Homes, the Council's wholly-owned subsidiary, to fund the building of affordable homes in Flintshire.

Existing loans of £0.696m were allowed to mature without replacement. This strategy enabled the Council to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk.

4.03 The long-term borrowing outstanding at 30th September 2024 totalled £315.63m.

4.04 Loans with the Public Works Loans Board are in the form of fixed rate (£292.58m). £18.95m is variable in the form of LOBOs (Lender's Option, Borrower's Option) and £4.1m are interest free loans from government. The Council's average long-term borrowing rate is currently 4.49%.

	Balance 01/04/2024 £m	Debt Maturing £m	New Debt £m	Balance 30/09/2024 £m
Long Term Borrowing	297.97	(2.30)	15.86	311.53
Government Loans	4.34	(0.24)	0.00	4.10
TOTAL BORROWING	302.31	(2.54)	15.86	315.63
Other Long Term Liabilities *	2.43	0.00	0.00	2.4313
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	304.74	(2.54)	15.86	318.067
Increase/ (Decrease) in Borrowing £m				13.32

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

4.05 Short-term borrowing was undertaken as necessary. The total short-term borrowing as at 30th September 2024 was £10m, with an average rate of 4.63%

4.06 On 1st April 2024 the Council held £18.95m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate and terms or to repay the loan at no additional cost.

As market interest rates rose, it increased the probability of call options on the LOBOs being exercised by lenders. All of LOBO loans had semi-annual call option dates during the six-month period to September 2024, no LOBO loans were called.

The LOBO loans have call dates within the next 12 months. The Council has liaised with treasury management advisors Arlingclose over the likelihood of the options being exercised. If the option is exercised and an increased rate proposed, the Council plans to repay the loan at no additional cost as accepting the revised terms would mean the Council would still have refinancing risk in later years. If required, the Council will repay the LOBO loans with available cash or by borrowing from other local authorities or the PWLB.

4.07 Debt Rescheduling

The continuing rise in gilt yields since early 2022 resulted in some of the Council's PWLB loans being in or close to a discount position if repaid early. However, as the prepaid loans would need to be replaced by new loans at higher interest rates, this was not a cost-effective option for the Council.

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

5.0 **INTERIM INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

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

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

- 5.02 The maximum investments the Council had on deposit at any one time totalled £66.7m. The average investment balance for the period was £41.9m and the

average rate of return was 5.15%, generating investment income of £1.09m.

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

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

- 5.04 Up to 30th September, investments were made in the Debt Management Office Deposit Account, banks, other local authorities and money market funds.
- 5.05 The average of long-term borrowing was £302.92m generating interest payable of £6.784m, in line with budget forecasts to date.

	Investments		Long Term Borrowing		Short Term Borrowing	
	Interest received £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %
2024/25 Apr - Sept	1,089	5.15	6,784	4.49	580	4.63
2023/24 Apr - Sept	1,112	4.58	6,659	4.51	0	n/a
Difference	(23)		125		580	

Year-end projections are as follows:

	Investments		Long Term Borrowing		Short Term Borrowing	
	Interest received £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %	Interest paid £k	Interest rate %
2024/25 est.	1,890	4.80	13,773	4.49	1,245	4.75
2023/24 act	2,180	4.87	13,461	4.49	425	5.46
Difference	(290)		312		820	

- 5.06 Credit Risk (security)

Counterparty credit quality was assessed and monitored with reference to credit ratings (the Council's minimum long-term counterparty rating for institutions defined as having "high credit quality" is A- across rating agencies Fitch, S&P and Moody's);

credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press.

5.07 Liquidity

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

5.08 Yield

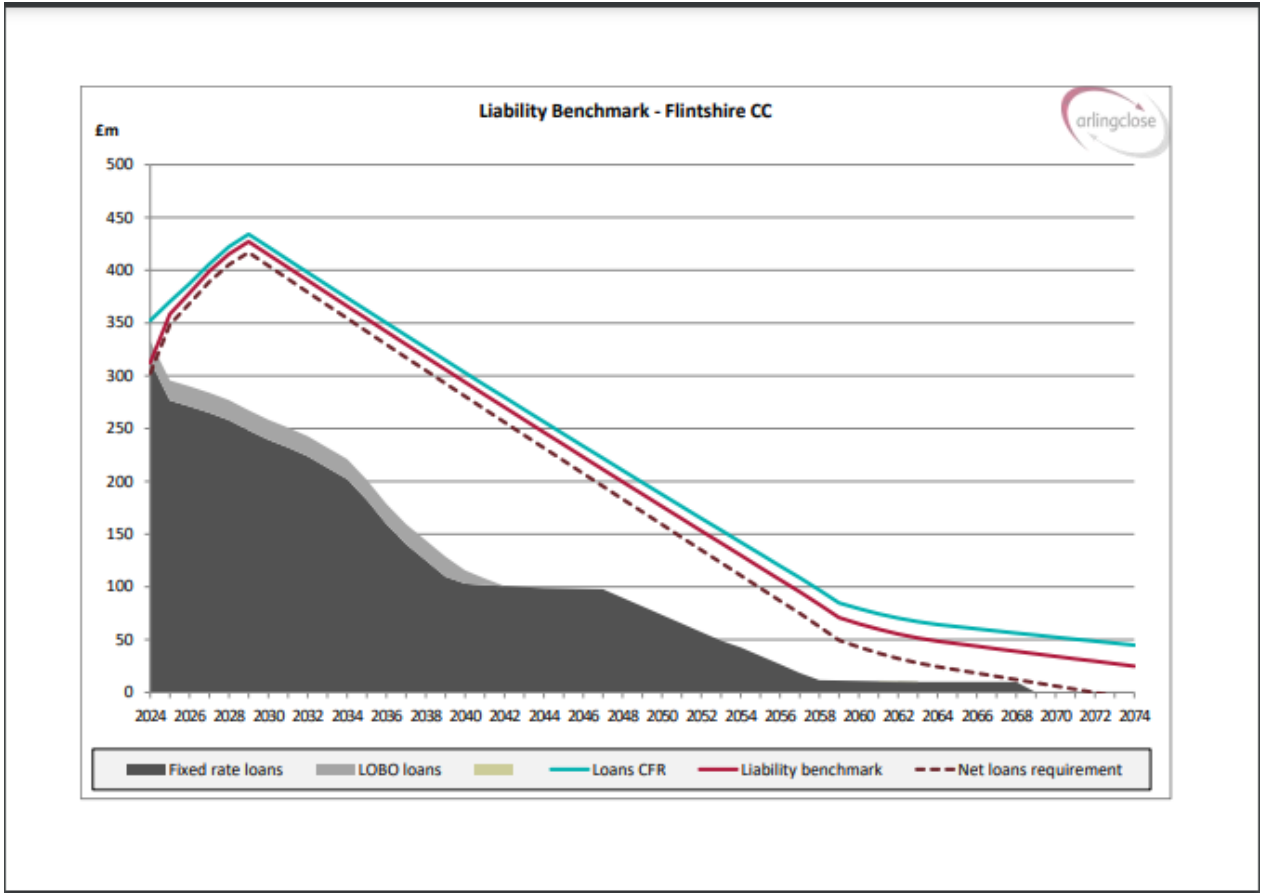
The Council sought to optimise returns commensurate with its objectives of security and liquidity. The Council's investment yield is outlined in paragraph 5.0.2.

6.00 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

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

6.01 Liability Benchmark

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



6.02 Interest rate exposures

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

Interest rate risk indicator	30.06.24 £'000	30.09.24 £'000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	(48)	(60.0)
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	177	206.0

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

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

6.03 Maturity structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing will be:

	Lower	Upper	Actual as at 30.09.24
Under 12 months	0%	20%	2.76%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	20%	3.39%
24 months and within five years	0%	30%	7.99%
Five years and within 10 years	0%	50%	17.76%
10 years and above	0%	100%	68.10%

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

6.04 Long-term treasury management investments:

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

Price risk indicator	2024/25 Limit	30.09.24 Actual
Limit on total principal invested beyond year end	£5m	£0m

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

6.05 Borrowing Limits

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

	2024/25 Limit	30.09.24 Actual
Operational Boundary	£485m	£397m
Authorised Limit	£520m	£397m

7.00 OTHER ITEMS

7.01 Other treasury management related activities that took place during April – September 2024 included:

- Statutory override: In April 2023 the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government published the full outcome of the consultation on the extension of the statutory override on accounting for gains and losses on pooled investment funds. The override has been extended for 2 years until 31st March 2025 but no other changes have been made; whether the override will be extended beyond the new date is unknown but commentary to the consultation outcome suggests not.
- The Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24 was reported to Governance and Audit Committee on 24th July 2024, Cabinet on 25th September 2024 and will be reported to Council on 21st November 2024.
- The Quarter 1 Treasury Management update was reported to the Governance and Audit Committee.

8.00 COMPLIANCE

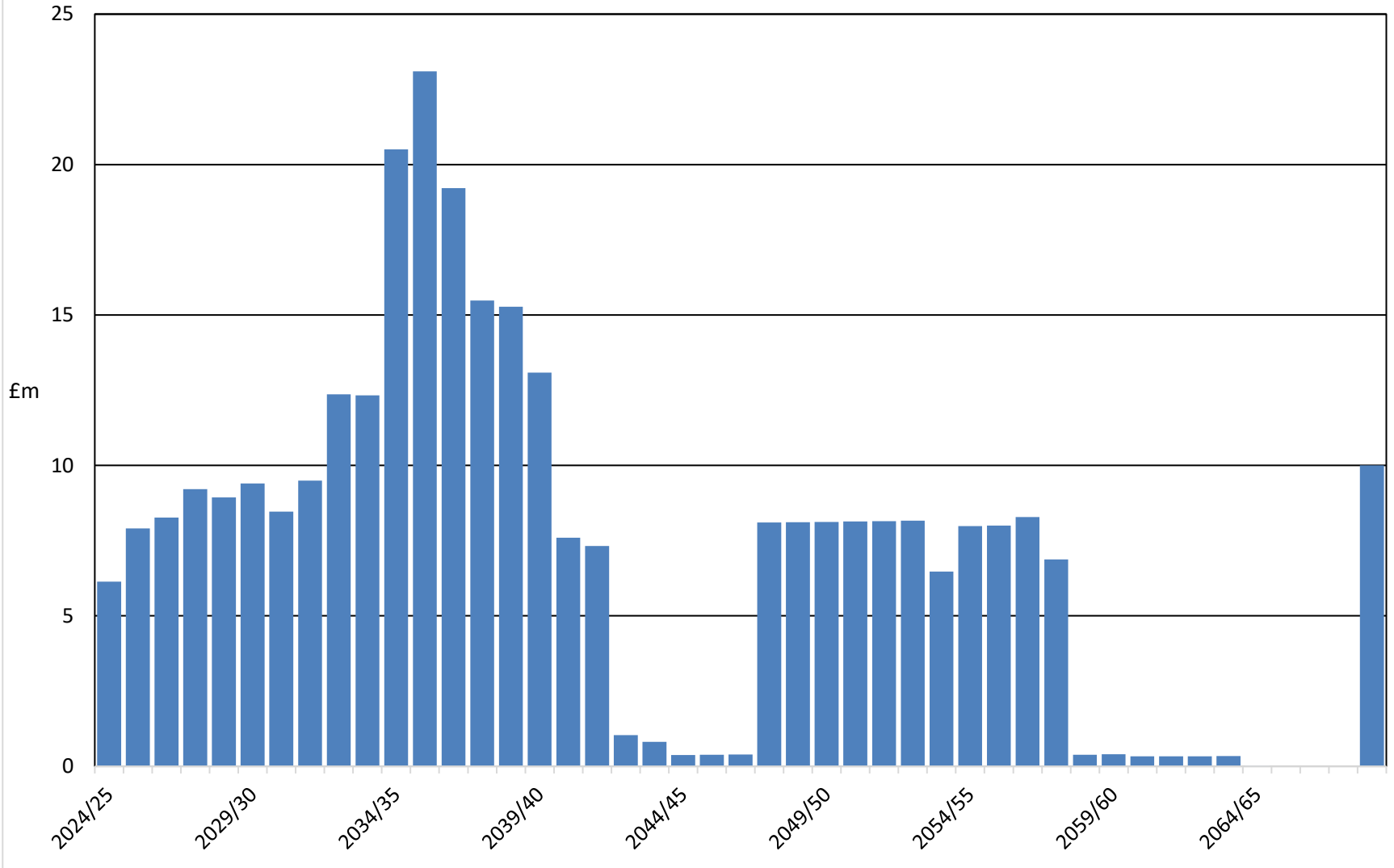
8.01 The Corporate Finance Manager reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the quarter complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Section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

8.00 CONCLUSION

8.01 In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice this report provides Members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during the first half of 2024/25.

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

Debt Maturity Profile - September 2024



APPENDIX A NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS

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

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

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

1.02 Wholly Owned Companies

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

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

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

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

Yield (net profit)

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

1.03 Investment Properties

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

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

Fair Value of Investment Properties

	31.03.2024 £m	31.03.2023 £m	31.3.2022 £m	31.3.2021 £m	31.3.2020 £m
Fair Value Inv. Properties	29.3	29.1	27.6	25.2	25.0

Yield (net profit)

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

Proportionality of Investment Properties

	2023/24 Actual £m	2024/25 Budget £m	2025/26 Budget £m
Net Revenue Budget	352.121	368.106	368.106
Net Investment income	1.71	1.67	1.67
Proportion	0.49%	0.45%	0.45%

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Business Rates – Write Off
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For individual bad debts more than £25,000, Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) stipulates for Cabinet to approve recommendations to write off debts.

A Business Rates debt for Cineworld Cinemas Limited, at Broughton Shopping Park, totalling £30,427.45 is deemed to be irrecoverable as the company has been subject to a Part 26a Restructuring Plan agreement which has been sanctioned by a High Court decision – this includes a period of the business rate liability to which this debt refers. This amount is therefore deemed as non-recoverable and is required to be written off.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Approve the Business Rates write off totalling £30,427.45 for Cineworld Cinemas Limited.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE WRITE OFF
1.01	Cineworld Cinemas Limited is a multiplex cinema chain and which trades from many sites across the UK, including the site at Unit 23 Broughton Shopping Park, Chester Road, Broughton.
1.02	The company have traded from Broughton Retail Park since May 2015 and have paid more than £1.3m in business rates during this period.
1.03	Cineworld Cinemas Limited, one of the companies within the Cineworld Group, has incurred financial challenges for several years, which were intensified by the global pandemic. The group was subject to a reorganisation under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in 2022 and 2023, however, the UK part of the group faced ongoing continued financial issues, which were magnified by the 2023 writers' and actors' strikes which limited film releases and footfall into cinemas.
1.04	Despite the company facing unprecedented financial challenges Cineworld have paid their business rates liability in Flintshire in full and on time throughout their period of occupation until 18 th June 2024.
1.05	<p>The company proposed a Part 26a Corporate Restructuring Plan in the High Court of Justice in September 2024 as it faced significant quarterly rent and insurance obligations. If it had not taken this course of action, it may have filed for insolvency.</p> <p>The High Court accepted evidence from Cineworld that under the relevant alternative, unsecured creditors (including landlords under the leases, general property creditors and business creditors) would either receive a nil or de minimis amount.</p>
1.06	The terms of the Restructuring Plan included all Business Rates arrears from 1 July to 30 September 2024 owed by the company being irrevocably and unconditionally compromised, released, and discharged in full. To summarise, this deems business rate arrears equating to £30.4k as non-recoverable.
1.07	It is reassuring to note that Cineworld Cinemas Ltd have subsequently contacted the Council confirming plans to recommence payments for the business rates liability from 1 st October 2024 to 31 st March 2025 and the company have commenced these payments.
1.08	The Council have submitted a proof of debt form for £30,427.45 for the period of business rates liability 1 st July to 30 th September 2024 that has been compromised.
1.09	The Restructuring Plan agreed by the High Court is an alternative tool to insolvency and will hopefully provide the company opportunity to continue trading, including from the site in Broughton.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no direct financial implications for the Council or local taxpayers by writing off this debt as business rates losses are borne by the National Collection Pool for Wales. As the Collection Pool is supported by Welsh Government, non-payment of rates does though have a wider impact on the Welsh taxpayer.
2.02	Writing off the business rates debt, amounting to a £30.4K loss of income to the National Collection Pool, is being recommended as a last resort as there is no prospect of recovering this debt.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>For those businesses who fail to pay, recovery action is usually taken at the earliest opportunity to secure payment. Measures include taking legal action to secure a Liability Order at the Magistrates Court.</p> <p>On this occasion, these recovery measures have not been taken to recover this balance in this case, nor would they have been appropriate to be so. This is due to the restructuring of the business and the subsequent decision of the High Court that the liability for Business Rates for the period 1st July 2024 to 30th September 2024 have been compromised and cannot be pursued or recovered.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	All write offs must be approved by the Corporate Finance Manager, but in the case of write offs over £25,000, Cabinet must be consulted before a decision is taken.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Finance Act 1988 Financial Procedure Rules (section 5.2) Companies House – Cineworld Cinemas Limited – Company Number 01915767 High Court of Justice, Business and Property Courts of England and Wales (EWHC 2475 of 2024) https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/UK-Commercial-Property-Finance-v-Cine-UK-and-Cineworld.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: David Barnes, Revenues & Procurement Manager</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 703652</p> <p>E-mail: david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Business Rates: are a property based local tax on businesses calculated on the rateable value of the property. Although the rate of tax is set by Welsh Government, rates are administered and collected locally by each local authority and paid into a national collection pool for Wales.</p> <p>National Collection Pool for Wales: all business rates are collected and paid into the Welsh Government’s Non-Domestic Rates Collection Pool. Councils in Wales receive a redistributed share based on a formula set by Welsh Government called the Local Government Funding Formula. The formula makes a theoretical comparative judgement on what each council needs according to its population size, its wealth and poverty, and its rurality.</p> <p>Part 26A Restructuring Plan: are available only to companies that have encountered or are likely to encounter financial difficulties to affect their ability to carry on business as a going concern. They are different from other processes under the Insolvency Act 1986 in that there is no need for the company to be insolvent to propose a Part 26A plan, and a company can indeed propose a Part 26A plan in order to avoid becoming insolvent.</p>



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Housing Rent Income Service – Change in Reporting Portfolio
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) Chief Officer (Governance)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To adapt to evolving business needs and deliver on WG policy intentions of tenancy sustainment and “no evictions into homelessness”, Cabinet approval is sought to relocate the Housing Rent Income service from the Governance portfolio to the Housing & Communities portfolio.

This transfer will enhance the service delivery to housing tenants. It will also enable earlier interventions with contract holders and deliver a more joined up approach across the wider housing teams to address and respond to issues of non-payment of rent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	For Cabinet to transfer the Housing Rent Income service from the Governance portfolio to the Housing & Communities portfolio.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR THE SERVICE REALIGNMENT																																																																																																																																							
1.01	The Rent Income service has significantly improved collection rates over the past two years, despite the aftereffects of the global pandemic and subsequent cost-of-living crisis. This has resulted in a reduction of overall rent arrears.																																																																																																																																							
1.02	The recent improvements in rent collections have played a significant part in reducing the number and value of write offs. Consequently, there is now a much lower budget provision set aside to fund the cost of write offs.																																																																																																																																							
1.03	<p>The table below illustrates the latest position for 2024-25, along with full year comparisons for previous years. Rent arrears in week 28 are around £490k lower than at the same point in the previous year, and overall rent arrears are now aligned at levels last seen in 2017/18.</p> <div data-bbox="320 831 1377 1417" data-label="Figure"> <p style="text-align: center;">Arrears Comparisons (2021/22 - 2024/25)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated Weekly Arrears Data (2021/22 - 2024/25)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Week</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> <th>2024/25</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Week 1</td><td>2,000,000</td><td>2,100,000</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>1,800,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 3</td><td>2,100,000</td><td>2,200,000</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>1,850,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 5</td><td>2,000,000</td><td>2,100,000</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>1,800,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 7</td><td>2,100,000</td><td>2,200,000</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>1,850,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 9</td><td>2,200,000</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>1,900,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 11</td><td>2,100,000</td><td>2,200,000</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>1,850,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 13</td><td>2,200,000</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>1,900,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 15</td><td>2,100,000</td><td>2,200,000</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>1,850,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 17</td><td>2,200,000</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>1,900,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 19</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 21</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 23</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 25</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 27</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 29</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 31</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,800,000</td><td>2,200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 33</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 35</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,800,000</td><td>2,200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 37</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 39</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,800,000</td><td>2,200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 41</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 43</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,800,000</td><td>2,200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 45</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 47</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,600,000</td><td>2,800,000</td><td>2,200,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 49</td><td>2,400,000</td><td>2,500,000</td><td>2,700,000</td><td>2,100,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Week 51</td><td>2,000,000</td><td>2,100,000</td><td>2,300,000</td><td>1,900,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Week	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Week 1	2,000,000	2,100,000	2,300,000	1,800,000	Week 3	2,100,000	2,200,000	2,400,000	1,850,000	Week 5	2,000,000	2,100,000	2,300,000	1,800,000	Week 7	2,100,000	2,200,000	2,400,000	1,850,000	Week 9	2,200,000	2,300,000	2,500,000	1,900,000	Week 11	2,100,000	2,200,000	2,400,000	1,850,000	Week 13	2,200,000	2,300,000	2,500,000	1,900,000	Week 15	2,100,000	2,200,000	2,400,000	1,850,000	Week 17	2,200,000	2,300,000	2,500,000	1,900,000	Week 19	2,300,000	2,400,000	2,600,000	2,000,000	Week 21	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 23	2,300,000	2,400,000	2,600,000	2,000,000	Week 25	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 27	2,300,000	2,400,000	2,600,000	2,000,000	Week 29	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 31	2,500,000	2,600,000	2,800,000	2,200,000	Week 33	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 35	2,500,000	2,600,000	2,800,000	2,200,000	Week 37	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 39	2,500,000	2,600,000	2,800,000	2,200,000	Week 41	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 43	2,500,000	2,600,000	2,800,000	2,200,000	Week 45	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 47	2,500,000	2,600,000	2,800,000	2,200,000	Week 49	2,400,000	2,500,000	2,700,000	2,100,000	Week 51	2,000,000	2,100,000	2,300,000	1,900,000
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1.04	<p>Over recent times the service has also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernised working practices. • Invested in Mobyssoft ‘Rent Sense’. • Introduced text messaging technology. • Developed management reporting. • Placed more emphasis on early contact with contract holders by telephone and digital channels. 																																																																																																																																							
1.05	<p>There is no room for complacency. To adapt to evolving business needs for those contract holders who find it difficult to pay and who want to engage, there is a growing need signpost and make referrals to specialist teams in the Housing and Communities portfolio.</p> <p>Early engagement with contract holders, and working collaboratively to discuss, support and resolve complex cases at housing panel meetings,</p>																																																																																																																																							

	helps to reduce the number of cases owing unpaid rent and reduce number of evictions.
1.06	Expenditure on homeless accommodation is a high-risk area for the Council. Costs have increased significantly in recent years as demand has grown and covid related hardship grants from Welsh Government (WG) have reduced.
1.07	The Revenues Rent Income service is currently part of the Governance portfolio. It does not work in a vacuum. It is acutely aware of the need to avoid evictions where possible because a greater number of evictions will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead to increased homelessness; • greater budget pressures falling on the Council General Fund; and • increased numbers of void properties and potential repairs.
1.08	There is now an opportunity to build on the successes, and to re-consider the way in which the service is delivered to meet future demands and ensure more cohesive working arrangements to meet WG policy intentions of 'no evictions into homelessness'. The intention, therefore, is to transfer the service from the Governance portfolio to the Housing and Communities portfolio. This is supported by both chief officers.
1.09	The transfer will improve case coordination within the housing service and support early interventions to support contract holders.
1.10	Ultimately, this will provide an opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide better levels of service to contract holders, • enhance the working relationships and synergies between housing teams, and • improve collection rates even further. <p>By re-aligning the Rent Income team to the Housing and Communities portfolio, the proposals will also improve service resilience across the housing service and address skills gaps and recruitment issues in the Rent Income team.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The existing Rent Income Team, fully funded by the HRA, and consisting of 9 FTE's will simply transfer from the Governance portfolio to the Housing and Communities portfolio. There will be no reductions in head count or changes to job roles and job descriptions.
2.02	The Rent Income service will be re-located from County Hall to County Offices, Flint, in quarter four, as part of the planned decommissioning of County Hall.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The existing Rent Income team, and their expertise, will simply transfer from the Governance portfolio to the Housing and Communities portfolio. Service continuity will therefore be maintained, as will the day-to-day managerial oversight.
3.02	The deployment of the Mobyssoft 'Rent Sense' software, fully funded by the HRA, will continue to be deployed in the Housing and Community portfolio to control rent arrears and to ensure resources are targeted effectively. Rent Sense enhances income collection operations. It eliminates the guesswork for housing and rent income officers, clearly indicating cases that require interventions to keep payment of rent on track.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>An informal consultation with the Rent Income Team has been undertaken and all team members are in support of the proposed transfer from the Governance portfolio to the Housing and Community portfolio.</p> <p>Officers in the Rent Income team, and service managers across both portfolios, recognise the importance and value of working closely with other colleagues in the Housing portfolio, particularly when coordinating recovery of rent and dealing with wider tenancy issues. Relocating the Rent Income service to County Offices, Flint will also assist in developing face-to-face working relationships with colleagues undertaking like-minded, and often cross cutting work, in the Housing and Communities portfolio.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officers: David Barnes, Revenues & Procurement Manager Jen Griffiths, Service Manager, Housing Welfare and Communities</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 704848, 01352 702929</p>

	E-mail: david.barnes@flintshire.gov.uk Jen.griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk
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8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Housing Revenue Account: The Council is required to keep a HRA to record all income and expenditure relating to the provision of local authority housing. All rental income, including arrears, must be held with a ring fenced HRA account. This means that income can only be used for council housing purposes and not general expenditure. This also allows rental income to be invested locally to help improve and maintain council owned homes and build new council homes.</p>

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Commissioning / Re-tendering Housing Support Grant funded Floating Support Services
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Communities)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the current floating support provision in Flintshire funded by the Housing Support Grant (HSG) and the changes the Housing Support Team are proposing to make.

The Housing Support Grant is a Welsh Government funded programme which provides housing related support services to people over the age of 16. It is an early intervention programme to support activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation. Increasingly support also enables people to exit homelessness by identifying and addressing unmet support needs, offering a range of support including helping people to explore their housing options. The funding available also enables the delivery of a wide range of supported housing schemes across the county.

Support offered is person centred and trauma informed. It is aimed at supporting people to secure and maintain sustainable housing by addressing problems they may face to ease pressures on statutory services within the homeless system and other statutory services such as health, social care, and probation services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet approve the re-commissioning / re-tendering of Flintshire's Floating Support Services funded by the Housing Support Grant.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	FLINTSHIRE'S CURRENT FLOATING SUPPORT PROVISION FUNDED THROUGH THE HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT					
1.01	<p>Due to the impact of the pandemic and capacity with the Contracts and Commissioning Team in homelessness services all HSG contracts have been extended for long periods of time. Additional capacity has been recruited with two new Contracts and Reviewing Officers commencing in post. This has allowed the review and re-tendering of all Housing Support Grant (HSG) contracts. The HSG team have completed tenders on Domestic Abuse Provisions, Family support provision, Complex Needs Supported Accommodation and Housing First provision. The HSG Team are now tendering the floating support contracts.</p> <p>Flintshire's Housing Support Team currently have 8 longstanding external floating support contracts across Flintshire. These include 1 x young person's floating support service, 2 x criminal offending floating support services, 1 x older persons floating support service, 3 x generic floating support service and 1 x mental health liaison support service.</p> <p>After consultation with all the current floating support services, service users, stakeholders and an analysis of the data it was decided FCC will progress the tender as five lots of floating support services detailed in the table below. The value of the five lots exceeds £2m over the proposed term of the contracts and therefore requires Cabinet approval. In accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Proposed new provision:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Lot 1 – Young Person's Floating Support Project (35 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lot 2- Criminal Offending Floating Support Project (60 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lot 3- Older Persons Floating Support Project (55 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lot 4- General & Complex Needs Floating Support Project (88 units)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lot 5- Early Prevention Project (20 units)</td> </tr> </table>	Lot 1 – Young Person's Floating Support Project (35 units)	Lot 2- Criminal Offending Floating Support Project (60 units)	Lot 3- Older Persons Floating Support Project (55 units)	Lot 4- General & Complex Needs Floating Support Project (88 units)	Lot 5- Early Prevention Project (20 units)
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Lot 4- General & Complex Needs Floating Support Project (88 units)						
Lot 5- Early Prevention Project (20 units)						

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Detailed below are the cost implications associated with the delivery of the housing related support to be provided by the Floating Support services.</p> <p>Revenue: The Housing Support Grant like any other Grant regime is subject to review by Welsh Government. Although there is a strong commitment to the principles and objectives of the grant there is always a risk that the grant funding will reduce subject to budgetary considerations of Welsh Government. The Housing Support Grant received an uplift of 7.8% in 2024/25 with an indication that the budget will remain the same for</p>

	<p>2025/26. Local Authorities usually receive their indicative Housing Support Grant Allocation in December.</p> <p>Capital: There are no capital implications.</p> <p>Human Resources: HSG funding provides significant staffing capacity across a range of services. TUPE implications have been included in the specifications for this procurement exercise.</p>
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	<p>Risk: Failure of not having the correct Floating Support services in Flintshire to support with early interventions in homelessness.</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with workforce and extensions of contracts of employment progressing. • Ensure packages of training and development opportunities in order to attract, develop and retain appropriately skilled workforce if needed. • Ensuring that contract prices are desirable to providers. <p>Risk: Failure to maximise take up of our award of Housing Support Grant</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A robust delivery plan aligned to the Housing Support Programme and Needs Assessments. • Prompt commissioning and varying of services as required to meet local needs within budget as is case here. <p>Risk: Reduction in Housing Support Grant in future years as a result of redistribution and/or budget cuts at Welsh Government</p> <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal mitigations and part of service delivery continues to be reliant on grant funding regimes. • Lobby Welsh Government on the importance of HSG funding and showcase positive examples of service delivery to evidence impact through spend to save principles
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3.02	Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact	
	Long-term	Positive – Increase in targeted support and alternative delivery methods to ensure services are inclusive for all.
	Prevention	Prevention - Preventing homelessness through ensuring there is adequate support to cater for a range of people’s needs.
	Integration	Positive – Increased integration between services and partner organisations

	Collaboration	Positive – Increased collaboration between services, partner organisations and service users
	Involvement	Positive – Service user involvement to help shape effective services so that support is timely and person centred
3.03	Well-being Goals Impact	
	Prosperous Wales	Positive – Retain staff to deliver housing related support on a greater scale within Flintshire.
	Resilient Wales	Positive – Creating services that are prevention focused and build resilience to avoid households becoming homeless.
	Healthier Wales	Positive – Reduction in homelessness, overcoming health inequalities associated with homelessness and poor housing conditions and investment to increase targeted support for people with housing issues and mental ill-health.
	More equal Wales	Positive – Services are delivered in a way that are inclusive for all. Consideration has been given to local and regional gaps in provision for often marginalised communities such as the homeless, those with mental health or substances issues and the LGBTQ+ community.
	Cohesive Wales	No Impact
	Vibrant Wales	No impact
	Globally responsible Wales	No impact

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The Housing Support Team have carried out numerous consultations with service users, staff and stakeholders of current services. The consultations carried out have resulted in the proposed changes to the current provision so support can be provided to the most complex members of the community. Ensuring that people with a range of support needs can access support.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Housing Support Grant Guidance https://gov.wales/housing-support-grant-practice-guidance</p> <p>Flintshire's HSP Strategy 2022-2026 https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Housing/Housing-Support-Strategy/Housing-Support-Programme-Strategy-2022-26.pdf</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Martin Cooil – Housing & Prevention Service Manager Telephone: 07880 423234 E-mail: martin.cooil@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Floating Support Floating support means support not linked to accommodation and not normally provided by a person's landlord. Irrespective of a person's housing situation a person might need support with issues such as budgeting, life skills, drug or alcohol misuse, mental health etc. A floating support provider can offer this as a stand-alone service without providing or arranging accommodation linked to the support.</p> <p>TUPE - TUPE stands for 'Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006' and its amendment in 2014. This happens when staff transfer from one employer to another.</p>

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Policy for Supporting Events on or Impacting the Highway, Including Cost Recovery
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The approved budget set by the Council for 2024/25 included full cost recovery for public events on or impacting the highway. This report sets out the methodology for achieving full cost recovery to achieve the approved budget.

It is recognised that well managed and safe events can bring significant benefit to local towns and communities. Event organisers, such as Town and Community Councils, charities and local interest groups often organise public events across the county, and a number of these events currently requires operational support from Flintshire County Council's Streetscene and Transportation portfolio.

Public events such as civic parades, bonfire displays, festive celebrations and community fairs take place throughout the year, and in many instances the burden to control traffic falls on the local authority, with the assistance of North Wales Police, although their availability to support events has been reduced over recent years.

We currently support all non-profit making (charitable) events with assistance for the design of traffic management plans and provision of necessary signage across the county, in addition to waste disposal, and in some instances, transportation provision. The report provides an overview of the level of support provided by the portfolio to enable public events to be held.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	<p>That in order to achieve the savings target set within the budget for 2024/2025 by Council, Cabinet approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the introduction of a formalised policy; and ii) the methodology for achieving full cost recovery for public events impacting or on the highway.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND FOR THE SUPPORT CURRENTLY OFFERED FOR PUBLIC EVENTS IMPACTING OR ON THE HIGHWAY
1.01	Well managed and safe events can bring significant benefit to local towns and communities. As the Traffic Authority for Flintshire, we aim to minimise disruption to traffic and residents and maximise traffic safety. Flintshire County Council is the Traffic Authority for most roads in Flintshire. The exceptions are the A55 and A494, which are Trunk Roads and managed by the North and Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA).
1.02	The Traffic Management Act 2004 placed a statutory network management duty on Traffic Authorities such as Flintshire County Council to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic, which included the need to ensure that actions of others, e.g. event organisers, did not cause unnecessary disruption to the travelling public. There are, on average, 30 public events held on Flintshire’s road network each year and most require some form of temporary traffic control to enable them to take place, such as road closures.
1.03	<p>Currently, as the Traffic Authority, we carry out a number of operational responsibilities to assist event organisers, which includes the provision of traffic management and the manning of road closure, the cost of which to do so is nearly £18,000 per year. Additionally, there are often further costs incurred for the removal of waste, waste disposal, diversion of bus routes, car parking and transportation provision amounting to more than £4,000 per year.</p> <p>These costs are ‘absorbed’ across various service areas within the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio, for which there is no budget, and the total cost to provide this level of service is in excess of £22,000 per year. As an Authority, we are under no statutory obligation to provide these services; however, we recognise the benefits that public events can bring to local communities, but this needs to be balanced with ensuring that events are carefully planned to minimise traffic congestion and risks to safety on the highway.</p>
1.04	<p>In addition to the financial costs, there is also an impact on daily service delivery within the service. The Council does not have designated traffic management teams and, therefore, when providing traffic management support for public events, other scheduled services such as grass cutting, highway repairs and cleansing operations must be suspended so that operatives can be redeployed. In addition to the services provided that are detailed within this report, there is an increasing demand for community-based services for public events such as grass cutting, highway maintenance and cleansing that are not captured as part of this report.</p> <p>Additionally, many events are often held in the evenings or at weekends, which incurs additional costs for out of hours support, as well as hidden costs, as resources are displaced from their daily shifts within normal working hours. Clearly, in the current financial climate, these avoidable costs are unsustainable, and the Council approved full cost recovery for supporting public events affecting the highway as part of the budget setting process for 2024/2025.</p>

1.05	<p>It is proposed that the Council will maintain current levels of support and continue to provide the traffic management needed to facilitate events on the public highway. This will be limited to current support levels, and requests to provide support for new events will be considered and supported on a case-by-case basis if resources allow.</p> <p>Although the cost for continuing to provide this support to event organisers is likely to be in excess of £22,000 per annum, we recognise that the benefits of continuing to do this will provide knock-on benefits in terms of the continuity for insurance cover for the management of events, a standardised approach to traffic management and ensuring duty of care for waste disposal.</p>
1.06	<p>The approved budget set by the Council for 2024/2025 included full cost recovery for public events on or impacting the highway and in order to achieve this and ensure that the resources provided by the Authority are not adversely impacted, we intend to introduce a charge for staffing costs for large public events. The proposed methodology for achieving full cost recovery is detailed within the attached policy (see Appendix 1) for consideration.</p>
1.07	<p>No charge is proposed for small events as detailed within the policy or for national commemoration events, such as Remembrance Sunday. The Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewed the proposed policy document at its meeting on Tuesday, 10th December 2024, and requested that the reference to Remembrance Sunday and national commemoration events are specifically included and worded in the policy, which has been amended for Cabinet's approval.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Cost recovery will ensure that the approved budget set by the Council for 2024/2025 is achieved.</p>
2.02	<p>Cost recovery is intended to have a positive impact on resources within the service, allowing a more efficient distribution of resource with revenue income used to cover the costs of service delivery.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>All events are assessed dependent on their scale, with large public events subject review by the Authorities Safety Advisory Group. The current risk management regime will continue.</p>
3.02	<p>This is an operational report and, as such, does not require a full integrated impact assessment.</p>
3.03	<p>The impact of not implementing the recommendations of this report will result in a budget pressure of more than £22,000 per annum and will not achieve the approved budget set by the Council for 2024/2025.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation.
4.02	Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee 10 th December 2024.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Policy for Events on or Impacting the Highway.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	As detailed within Appendix 1.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Barry Wilkinson (Highway Network Manager) Telephone: 01352 704656 E-mail: barry.wilkinson@flintshire.gov.uk
7.02	Contact Officer: Sam Tulley (Area Manager, Central & Road Space) Telephone: 01352 704810 E-mail: sam.tulley@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None.



EVENTS ON OR IMPACTING THE HIGHWAY

December 2024

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Types of Events
3. Legislation
4. Application Process
5. Considerations
6. Insurance
7. Post-event
8. Costs
9. Notes
10. Accessible Documents

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Flintshire County Council recognises that well managed and safe events can bring significant benefits to local communities. An event, from very small through to very large, whether it takes place on the highway or off the highway, or in an adjoining premises or field, can have an effect upon the highway.

1.2 Flintshire County Council regularly receives requests to prohibit or restrict traffic along its highway network in order to facilitate events. An event is classed as any sporting, social event or entertainment, if the Council is satisfied that traffic on a road should be prohibited for the purpose of:

- Facilitating the holding of an event.
- Enabling member of the public to watch a relevant event or
- Reducing the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by a relevant event.

2. TYPES OF EVENTS

2.1 Small Self-Organised Events (e.g. street parties and fêtes):

- usually for residents on the street or road/neighbours only (less than 50 people)
- only affect residents' traffic e.g. cul-de-sacs (no bus routes or through traffic affected)
- diversionary routes will not be necessary for any road closures
- publicity only to residents
- no licences necessary if music incidental and no selling is involved
- no liability insurance required for road closures, but advisable
- no formal risk assessment needed, but recommended
- self-organised

2.2 Large public events:

- anyone can attend (or a large, residents only, gathering e.g. more than 50 people)
- affects through traffic (for example bus routes and other through routes)
- road closures are likely to need diversionary routes
- it is publicised (for example in newspapers)
- licences are needed (for fireworks display, entertainment, alcohol sales, food provided late at night)
- liability insurance legally required for road closures
- risk assessment and event/traffic plan required
- usually arranged by professional/skilled organisers

2.3 What's the difference between a street party and any other public event?

Street parties	Other public events
For residents/ neighbours only	Anyone can attend
Publicity only to residents	External publicity (such as in newspapers)
In a quiet residential road or street	In buildings, parks etc
Self-organised	Professional/ skilled organisers
Insurance advisable	Insurance required

Risk assessment required	Risk assessment required
No licences normally necessary unless the sale of alcohol is involved	Licence usually required

3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1 Local Traffic Authorities, in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004, have a duty to manage traffic on the authority's public highway network. Managing the network assists with keeping traffic moving and reducing congestion.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Council may by Order prohibit or restrict temporarily the use of the road or part of the road by vehicle, class of vehicle or pedestrians, to such extent and subject to such conditions or exceptions it considers necessary or expedient. These Orders allow for the implementation of temporary traffic management on the public highway.
- 3.3 The Council will ensure prior to making an Order that it is not reasonably practicable for the event to be held otherwise than on a road.
- 3.4 It should be determined if a road closure is really necessary. Flintshire County Council will only agree to close a road or part of a road if there is no other feasible safe alternative measure to facilitate the event.
- 3.5 Any event that has the potential for disruption must consult with the Traffic Authority. Early engagement will assist the Traffic Authority to prevent problems on the network, helping organisers minimise the impact of their event on the highway.
- 3.6 The public highway encompasses all roads, bridleways, footways, footpaths and public rights of ways (PROW).
- 3.7 As the Traffic Authority for Flintshire, Flintshire County Council aims to minimise disruption to traffic and residents and maximise traffic safety. Flintshire County Council is the Traffic Authority for most roads in Flintshire.
- 3.8 The exceptions are the A55 and A494, which are Trunk Roads and are managed by the North and Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency (NMWTRA).

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 If a road closure is deemed necessary, then the following documentation should be provided to the Council along with your application.
 - Full risk assessment with regard to traffic matters
 - Programme of work and method statements, including evidence that a road closure is necessary;
 - Coordination checks via the Road Space Manager to ensure that a road closure will not affect or be affected by other works/events in the locality
 - Details of any proposed alternative route, which must be agreed beforehand by the Council to cater for, displaced traffic.
 - Details of any Road Traffic Regulation Orders that may need to be suspended e.g. speed restrictions, one-way etc.

- Full maps showing the extent of the closure and alternative routes.
- Evidence that public liability to the value of £10,000,000 for any one event is in place for the event.
- Details showing the Public Transport Services/School Transport Services, which may be disrupted. The party requesting the closure must finance any alternative provisions.
- A draft of the events residents' letter-drop (bilingual Welsh and English), along with details of all consultees and households that will receive a notification letter drop.

Early engagement is always encouraged, as it allows time for plans to be amended and issues overcome.

5. CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Event organisers need to consider the potential impact on the local community and on the immediate and surrounding road network. For instance, think about how people are likely to get to the event and, once they arrive, how will visitors and their vehicles be managed, or other methods of transport, such as bus services.
- 5.2 Events should be timed to avoid clashing with peak traffic times wherever possible, such as school journeys or “rush hour,” and should be planned to minimise the impact on access for residents, businesses and services.
- 5.3 Ideally, event organisers should discuss their plans with local representatives and businesses to ensure that the local community is aware of the event and that any concerns they may have are addressed.
- 5.4 If you are planning to hold a party or a non-commercial event on a public highway for example a fun run, Christmas light switch-on or a small community event, you may need to apply for a road closure.
- 5.5 If the event location is on council-owned land or involves a street / highway, please contact the Council as soon as possible.
- 5.6 The council will support applications for a road closure to enable an event to be held as long as the location is suitable for such an event – for example, a cul-de-sac or a minor road with a low level of traffic.
- 5.7 If you are applying for events on these roads, you will need to engage with the street works team in plenty of time before the event date, a minimum 4 weeks.
- 5.8 It is the responsibility of the Event Organiser to consider the overall management of the event.

6. INSURANCE

- 6.1 The Applicant must have a Public Liability Insurance cover, which should be made available for inspection, and a copy must be provided with the Road Closure Application.
- 6.2 The minimum cover to be £10 million with clear clarification of indemnity.

- 6.3 The cover must indemnify the Highway/Traffic Authority from and against all actions, claims, losses and expenses whatsoever in respect of loss of life or personal injury or damage to property, howsoever caused arising out of or in any way attributable to the road closure or the activity.

7. POST EVENT

- 7.1 It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that prior to the road closure being removed, all activity for the event has finished including the removal of waste, litter etc from site.
- 7.2 Where cleaning, or repairs to the street or street furniture are considered necessary by the County Council to restore the street / road to its condition prior to the event, the works may be undertaken, and the costs may be recovered from the event organiser.
- 7.3 Any costs for disposing and clearing up waste or litter that remains on site post-event will be recharged to the event organisers.
- 7.4 All signs used for the road closure and diversion route will be removed as soon as the road is clear and safe for traffic.

8. COSTS

8.1 Small Street Parties

- A. In accordance with the guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in August 2010, it is not proposed to charge for road closures to enable small street parties and “not for profit” events in certain circumstances.
- B. The circumstances when a charge will not be applied are as follows:
- The event affects a cul-de-sac rather than a through road
 - Vehicle movements are below 50 per day.
 - The closure is of a small residential road where the diversion route is considered to be obvious to local motorists and diversion signage is not required.
 - The event is organised by residents of the street and is not a commercial event organised for financial gain or the event is organised by a non-profit making group (registered Charity)
 - Residents/traders affected by the event have been consulted and agree to the closure
 - The police have raised no objection
- C. Please note that the above events will still need to be agreed by the Traffic Authority.
- D. The decision on whether a formal closure is required for an event will be taken by the Road Space Manager, in the capacity of the Council’s designated Traffic Manager, Traffic Management Act 2004.

- E. No charge is proposed for small events as detailed within the policy or for national commemoration events, such as Remembrance Sunday.

8.2 Large Public Events

A Closure by Town Police Clauses Act 1847 granted and charges will apply in the following circumstances: -

- Suitable alternative routes for affected traffic available
- Residents/traders affected by the event have been consulted and agree to the closure
- The police have raised no objection

8.3 Staff Costs

For all events we reserve the right to charge for staffing costs. Communication of staffing costs occurs during the application process.

	Working Week	Out of Hours (Including Weekends)
Cost Per Operative (Hourly Rate)	£18.44	£36.88
Cost Per Supervisor (Hourly Rate)	£27.23	£27.23
Cost per Vehicle	£21.94	£21.94
Traffic Management Equipment Cost	£20.00	£20.00

All charges are subject to annual review by the Council through the review of fees and charges, and subject to annual staff pay review.

Additional costs will apply if specialist traffic management equipment is required.

In circumstances when road closures are required on non-traffic sensitive streets, consideration will be given as to whether there is a requirement to marshal the closure for the duration of the event. When such instance occurs, and closures can remain in place without marshals, the charges will only apply for the installation and removal of the traffic management.

When a road closure is required on a traffic sensitive street, it may be necessary to marshal the closure for the duration of the event. The Council will determine whether this is necessary. Typically, the closure of one road would require the presence of two Operatives.

For example, an event on a road such as the B5121 Greenfield Street between Holywell and Greenfield for a 3-hour event on a weekend would require the presence of two Operatives and one Supervisor for the duration of the event. The cost to facilitate this would be £344.91.

8.4 Parking Services – Suspension of Parking for events

a) The overall aims of Civil Parking Enforcement are to: -

- Maintain and, where possible, improve the flow of traffic thereby making the county a more pleasant and environmentally safe place to live and visit.

- Take into account the needs of local residents, shops and businesses, thereby sustaining economic growth.
 - Actively support the needs of disabled people bearing in mind that, in some cases, they are unable to use public transport and are entirely dependent upon the use of a car. This will ensure that people with disabilities are able to have equal access to all facilities within the area.
 - Actively discourage indiscriminate parking that causes obstruction to other motorists, public transport, pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities.
- b) The Council manages a large number of locations both on the highway (on-street) and in public car parks (off-street) where the public are permitted to park. Individuals, groups and organisations can apply to the Council to have these parking places suspended for a defined period of time in line with the powers under the Traffic Regulation Order in place.
- c) For requests to use of a car park for any other purpose than to park vehicles, the Council reserves the right to place a charge and reclaim its costs from the event organiser or business.
- d) Flintshire County Council will provide two free uses of one long-stay car park to Town and Community Councils per annum to support community events taking place. For business and commercial enquiries please contact:- streetsceneadmin@flintshire.gov.uk
- e) The charging structure for utilising an area of the carpark will be calculated as follows:
- Up to 50% of the car park – number of spaces used x long stay tariff x number of days
 - Over 50% of the car park – total number of spaces in the car park x long stay tariff x number of days.
- For both of the above there would also be a £100+VAT administration fee which includes pre and post inspections of the car park.
- f) Placement of a compound within a car park area will be charged from a minimum of £220+VAT per week, dependant on the size of area required.
- g) To support an event Flintshire County Council requires sight of public liability insurance, risk assessments and any required licences drafted before supporting events to take place on its land.
- h) It is required that the car park is left in a clean and tidy condition as any damage or cleansing of the car park after use will be recharged on to the organiser.
- i) It is the responsibility of anyone utilising the car park to stand the costs of any signs, barriers, insurances, waste disposal etc. that are associated with the proposed event or works.

9. NOTES

If you wish to hold an ad-hoc event in Wales, you must also give a temporary event notice (TEN) to your local licensing authority no later than ten working days before the event. If the premises where the event is to be held is in areas governed by two or more local authorities applications must be made to each.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Business/Licences-and-permits/Temporary-event-notice.aspx>

10. LIST OF ACCESSIBLE DOCUMENTS

Flintshire useful documents: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Arts-Culture--Events/Events---Organisers-Guide.pdf>

UK Government documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-traffic-signs-for-special-events>

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CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th December 2024
Report Subject	Proposals by the Law Commission to Reform Burial and Cremation Legislation
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 3rd October 2024, the Law Commission released a consultation paper outlining background information and their proposals to reform the law governing burial and cremation. The Law Commission is seeking to reform the law of burial in England and Wales, which they state is piecemeal, complex, and outdated.

The main areas of proposed reform relate to the following:

- Regulation of Burial Grounds (including maintenance standards)
- Re-Use and Reclamation of Old Graves
- Disused Burial Grounds
- Cremation

The Law Commissions draft proposals are currently open for Public Consultation, which closed on 9th January 2025.

The purpose of this report is to outline the Law Commission's consultation paper and detail the Council's proposed response to the consultation, whilst also providing an overview of the legislative reform proposals and the potential risks and impacts on the local authority in terms of additional duties, costs, and resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet notes the proposed changes to burial and cremation law that are being consulted upon by the Law Commission.
2	Cabinet approves the submission of the proposed response to the public consultation on behalf of Flintshire County Council.

REPORT DETAILS

<p>1.00</p>	<p>EXPLAINING THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED REFORMS TO THE BURIAL AND CREMATION LAWS BY THE LAW COMMISSION</p>
<p>1.01</p>	<p>On 3rd October 2024, the Law Commission published a consultation paper containing their provisional proposals, and open questions on issues relating to law reform on burials and cremation. A link to the full consultation paper is included within this report and a summary document of the consultation paper is available in Appendix 1.</p> <p>The closing date for responses is 9th January 2025.</p>
<p>1.02</p>	<p>Burial law is governed by a complex patchwork of legislation, some of which dates to the 1850s. There are different laws in place for burial grounds which are operated by local authorities, the Church of England, the Church in Wales, and private burial grounds. This has emerged as a result of historical development, and it means that there are gaps in the safeguards which protect the dignity of the people who are buried in burial grounds.</p> <p>Burial space is running out across England and Wales, with the situation worse in some urban areas. Grave reuse has been proposed as a solution to this problem, but reform to permit the reuse of graves must include sufficient safeguards to maintain public support.</p>
<p>1.03</p>	<p>The consultation paper contains provisional proposals for reform on a number of issues. We consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the regulation of burial grounds; • grave reuse and reclamation; • closed and disused burial grounds, and exhumation; • the rights granted to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; and cremation law. <p>The Law Commission intends to use the responses to the consultation to develop their final recommendations for reform, which ultimately will be published in a report, which they expect to be published towards the end of 2025.</p>
<p>1.04</p>	<p>There are several reforms proposed by the Law Commission to the existing legislation covering both burials and cremations, and the consultation looks at the funerary methods which are currently regulated in England and Wales.</p> <p>Flintshire County Council will only be affected by those relating to burials, as the Council does not manage a crematorium, and these are managed externally by a third-party organisation. However, we have sought to answer questions in relation to cremation where relevant.</p> <p>A full list of the proposals that would impact Flintshire can be viewed in detail within Appendix 2. These have been categorised in a RAG colour-coded “green,” “amber” and “red” depending on their impact and risk to the council.</p>

1.05	<p>Green indicates those proposals that officers believe can be supported, as they will not impact the Council’s services operationally or financially and could help to improve how we currently manage the service and standardise the approach for local authorities and other burial ground operators.</p> <p>Amber indicates that the proposals could have an impact on the Council’s delivery of services, or the proposal is likely to be contentious or sensitive.</p> <p>Red indicates that the proposals are likely to negatively impact the Council’s services either operationally, financially or reputationally, and these have therefore been detailed below along with the corresponding suggested responses to the consultation.</p>
1.06	<p>More details are given below around specific proposals within the reforms that are being consulted upon by the Law Commission, which are likely to have a significant impact on local authorities, in terms of financial costs, resources and risks of liability, as well as potential reputational risks.</p> <p>a) <u>Grave Re-Use</u> The re-use of graves is currently only permitted in London. The operation known as ‘lift and deepen’ requires the existing remains to be exhumed and then placed back in the grave at a greater depth allowing for two further interments to take place above this level in the same grave.</p> <p>This is a significant change to the burial process and the Law Commission’s proposals in this area are that any grave reuse powers should apply to common or public graves, and to those where exclusive rights of burial have expired, as well as those where exclusive rights of burial have been extinguished.</p> <p>b) <u>Closure of Burial Grounds</u> The Law Commission’s draft proposals relating to the closure of burial grounds would include the Church in Wales being able to transfer the responsibility for maintaining its churchyards and burial grounds to the community council or county council, on the same model that is in place in England.</p> <p>Flintshire currently has eight closed churchyards (burial grounds), which are under the council’s management and were transferred to the authority via a Closure Order and then via either a Parish or Community Council. Adopting the same approach as England would come with significant risks of an influx of closed churchyards, which, in turn, would incur associated additional costs of maintenance and liabilities.</p> <p>If this proposal is approved, it would be essential that additional budget be made available to local authorities to cover the additional costs incurred. Additionally, if the proposal for grave reuse was approved then the local authority could re-open a closed churchyard and receive the revenue obtained from that reuse.</p>
1.07	<p>Comments were sought from members of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the proposed response to the consultation and a number of comments were received, which have been captured and included in the attached response document shown in Appendix 2.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: Grave re-use has the potential to bring in additional revenue from graves that had ceased to contribute revenue through years of non-use. However, the proposal to give churches the power to transfer maintenance responsibility to either community councils or Welsh county councils is likely to create a significant additional cost pressure on Welsh local authorities, which are already under financial constraints and for which no funding exists within council budgets.</p> <p>Capital: Grave re-use has the potential to reduce the amount of capital expenditure required to extend cemeteries as their operational life span could be extended through this re-use of graves (although there would be a revenue burden).</p> <p>Human Resources: There is potential for additional resource to be required through the demands of a minimum maintenance standard for cemeteries if a statutory code of practice is introduced, and also, through the additional maintenance requirements of closed churchyards, should additional sites be passed over to local authorities.</p> <p>Technology: Changes would be required to our Cemetery Management System to accommodate grave re-use and also the potential addition of more closed churchyards. This would have an associated cost.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The significant risk with the proposals being explored by the Law Commission is the increase in associated costs and resource requirements for additional maintenance requirements through the introduction of a minimum standard and additional closed churchyards being passed to the local authority to maintain. The Council would also carry additional risks in terms of third-party claims on the churchyards.
3.02	Additional budget would need to be allocated to the service to meet these additional demands.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Public consultation on the proposed reforms to burial and cremation legislation is currently being undertaken by the Law Commission. This consultation opened on 3 rd October 2024 and closes on 9 th January 2025.
4.02	<p>The full consultation documents can be viewed at:</p> <p><u>Law Commission consultation on burial and cremation - Ministry of Justice - Citizen Space - https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation/</u></p>

4.03	Consultation undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation via the portfolio Programme Board
4.04	Consultation with the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10 th December 2024.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Summary document of all proposals likely to affect Flintshire County Council
5.02	Appendix 2 – Flintshire’s proposed response to the consultation

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Law Commission Consultation Papers can be accessed at the following web address: <u>Burial and Cremation - Law Commission</u> https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation/

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Richard Blake, Bereavement Services Manager Telephone: 01352 703360 E-mail: richard.blake@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
(1)	The Law Commission - In England and Wales, the Law Commission is an independent statutory body set up by Parliament by the Law Commissions Act 1965 to keep the laws of England and Wales under review and to make recommendations for reforms. The organisation is headed by a chairman and four Law Commissioners.






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Burial and Cremation

Summary of the Consultation Paper

This consultation

<p>Who we are?</p> 	<p>The Law Commission of England and Wales is an independent body established by statute to make recommendations to government to reform the law.</p>
<p>What are we doing?</p> 	<p>Conducting a public consultation on our provisional proposals to reform the law governing burial and cremation.</p>
<p>What is it about?</p> 	<p>The law relating to burial and cremation.</p>
<p>Why are we consulting?</p> 	<p>We are seeking views on our provisional proposals and asking questions. Your views will be carefully considered when we decide on our final recommendations.</p>
<p>Who do we want to hear from?</p> 	<p>We are keen to receive responses from as many stakeholders as possible. That includes those who operate burial grounds or crematoria, those who use them, funeral directors, and those with an interest in what happens to our bodies after we die.</p>

<p>What is the deadline?</p> 	<p>The consultation runs for 14 weeks and closes on 9 January 2025.</p>
<p>What happens next?</p> 	<p>After reviewing all responses, we will decide on our final recommendations for law reform, which we will publish in a report at the end of 2025.</p>

This summary

This summary does not summarise all of the provisional proposals and questions set out in our detailed Consultation Paper. Instead, it explains what the project is about, provides some context, and then highlights significant issues discussed in the Consultation Paper. This summary only provides an overview of those significant issues. There are Consultation Questions in the Consultation Paper which are not discussed in this summary.

Before responding, you are encouraged to read our full Consultation Paper, or the relevant parts of it. You do not have to respond to all the questions in our consultation. References in this summary are to the chapters of the Consultation Paper.

The Consultation Paper does not contain any final recommendations for reform of the law. Rather, it makes provisional proposals. We will analyse the responses we receive and consider what recommendations we make to Government in our report. It will then be for Government to decide how to take them forward, and for Parliament to pass any new Acts needed to change the law.

Responding to our consultation

The full Consultation Paper is available on our website at: <https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/burial-and-cremation/>. The deadline for responses is 9 January 2025.

We encourage you to submit your response using the online form available at the link above. If possible, please use this method.

Alternatively, you can send your comments:

- by email to bcnfm@lawcommission.gov.uk; or
- by post to Burial and Cremation project, Property, Family and Trust Law team, Law Commission, 1st Floor, 52 Queen Anne's Gate.

If you send your comments by post, it would be helpful to also send them electronically if possible.

When providing responses, we ask consultees if they could avoid including personal identifying information in the text of their response, particularly where this may reveal other people's identities.

Some of our Consultation Questions ask for consultees' views on a provisional proposal, where we think that the evidence is sufficient for us to advocate a particular way forward. Others ask open questions, inviting consultees to share their views where we do not make a provisional proposal.

Why is reform needed?

Approximately half a million people die in England and Wales each year, and each death will affect the lives of many other people. Almost all of the bodies of those who die will be buried or cremated, and so this area of law affects how each of us grieves and commemorates our losses. This area of law impacts us not just as individuals, but also as members of different communities and faiths. The respect which we show to the dead is of significance to the whole of society.

This project makes provisional proposals for reform to the law governing burial and cremation. It represents a key opportunity for significant reforms to the law in these two areas. Some of the law on burial has remained unchanged since the 1850s, while the main piece of legislation on cremation dates to 1902. Aspects of the law in its current state offer too little protection to people who bury or cremate their family and friends. Research also shows that there is a risk of burial space running out in the future, which is an issue that law reform could help to address.

Regulation of burial grounds

Burial law has evolved over the centuries, moving from being solely the responsibility of the Church of England to the diverse burial sector we see today. As a result, different laws apply to the burial grounds which are operated by local authorities, the Church of England, the Church in Wales, and to different kinds of private burial grounds.

“Private” burial grounds

When we refer to “private” burial grounds in this Consultation Paper, we include burial grounds operated by private companies. But we also include all burial grounds which are not operated by local authorities or the Church of England (or the Church in Wales, in some contexts). That includes, for example, burial grounds run by charities or other religious faiths.

Some of the law that applies to burial grounds is over 170 years old, and it is not fit for the twenty-first century. The varied development of burial law also means that it features significant gaps. In many private burial grounds and in Church of England churchyards there is nothing in place to govern how bodies should be buried. There are different standards to which burial grounds should be maintained, and none which apply to many private cemeteries. In the rare cases where there are problems in private cemeteries, that can result in it being difficult for Government to take action to enforce standards. Other rules are inconsistent, such as those governing the rights to a grave space which can be purchased, or the extra protections afforded to burials of members of the armed forces who died in service in the two World Wars.

Reusing and reclaiming old graves

Grave reclamation is when the space above existing burials in a grave is used to make further burials. It is already possible in circumstances where nobody owns the right to a grave, and our proposed reforms would not change this. Grave reuse is when remains in an old grave are disinterred, reburied, and the grave is used again. Reuse is commonly practised and

understood in many countries. While its use in England and Wales is less common and it is less widely known, it is far from novel. Grave reuse has been used in Church of England churchyards since time immemorial, and is also permitted in London local authority cemeteries, and three other cemeteries as a result of private Acts of Parliament.

The available evidence suggests that grave space is running out in many parts of the country. Reusing and reclaiming old graves could help address this problem, provided the law enabling it included sufficient safeguards to ensure public support. But in local authority cemeteries outside London, and in private and non-Church of England religious cemeteries, grave reuse is not permitted by law. Another means to create more burial space could be to reopen for reuse burial grounds, particularly Church of England churchyards, which were closed in the past – in some cases, well over a century ago. But the law does not permit this either.

Disused burial grounds

Where a burial ground is no longer in use, there may come a time where it is preferable for the land to be put to an alternative use. At present there is a general prohibition on building over disused burial grounds. However, this prohibition is not absolute and in Church of England churchyards, other private religious burial grounds, and in burial grounds which have been compulsorily purchased or appropriated for development by a public authority, the law offers an exception to this ban. If the burial ground owner follows certain safeguards, they are able to develop the land which was formerly used for burials. In Church of England and private religious burial grounds, that includes a period of 50 years during which the family of those buried in the burial ground can veto any development.

That leaves other private burial grounds and local authority cemeteries without such provision, meaning that other uses of that land in the future are not possible.

Cremation

The regulations governing cremation have been subject to more recent reform than burial law. However, there are a number of areas of law which cause problems for those working in the sector, or where the law may be argued to no longer serve the purpose for which it was passed.

For example, there are currently a significant number of sets of ashes from cremation which funeral directors have received from the crematoria, but which are then left uncollected by family or friends of the deceased person. But while crematoria have permission to scatter ashes which are left in their care, there is no provision to enable funeral directors to deal with them.

Similarly, funeral directors must ensure that pacemakers are removed from the bodies of deceased people before cremation, otherwise they cause damage to equipment at the crematorium. But due to a feature of Department for Health guidance on pacemakers, funeral directors do not have the legal right to dispose of them, leading to them retaining large numbers of the devices.

Cremation law also includes a rule that crematoria must be constructed at least 200 yards from a home and 50 yards from a highway. That rule was put in place when there were concerns about the public health impacts of emissions from crematoria. Given the effect of modern technology in reducing those impacts, stakeholders have raised questions as to whether that rule is needed in the modern age.

The overall project

This Consultation Paper is part of an overall project called **Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods**. That project exists because stakeholders told us, in response to an open public consultation as part of our 13th Programme of Law Reform in 2017, that the law which governs how we deal with the bodies of dead people is out of date and not fit for purpose.

Because the issues involved are so broad, we have split the project into three parts. As well as this one, on **Burial and Cremation**, there are two others:

1. **New Funerary Methods**, which will identify an appropriate regulatory framework for new methods such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, which are in use in other jurisdictions. This part is currently in process; and
2. **Rights and Obligations Relating to Funerals, Funerary Methods, and Remains**, which will look at whether decisions you make about your body after death should be binding, and how disputes over funerary methods and remains should be resolved. This part will begin at the end of 2025.

Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods

Burial and Cremation

- Subject of this consultation
- Report in 2025
- Draft Bill at the end of the Rights and Obligations part of the project
- Considers the law governing existing funerary methods

New Funerary Methods

- Currently in progress
- Consultation in 2025
- Report and draft Bill in spring 2026
- Considers regulation of new methods

Rights and Obligations in Relation to Funerals, Funerary Methods and Remains

- Begins end of 2025
- Report at the end of 2027
- Considers whether funeral wishes should be binding, and how to resolve disputes
- Draft Bill at the end of this strand, also covering Burial and Cremation

Some issues which relate to this area of law are outside the scope of the project. These include, among others, death registration, the regulation of funeral directors, and planning and environmental law.

Burial and cremation law are matters on which the Senedd, the Welsh devolved legislature, has the power to make new laws. Enacting any reforms that need new primary legislation would require either an Act of the Senedd, or for the Senedd to give consent to the Westminster Parliament legislating.

This summary first sets out how burial and cremation law have evolved over time, and some issues which are relevant to this area of law as a whole. It then addresses the significant issue of grave reuse, and other issues which relate to the future availability of burial space and sustainability of burial grounds. We then look at the regulation of burial grounds, and, finally, cremation law.

The development of burial and cremation law

The table below shows how burial and cremation law have developed over the centuries.

	Burial	Cremation
Pre-1800s	The Church of England is responsible for burials. Burial grounds from other faiths, and Protestant Christian dissenters, begin to develop.	Cremation is not typically practised in the UK.
1800s	First, private cemetery companies are established, often by Acts of Parliament. The Cemeteries Clauses Act 1847 establishes a template for such Acts. Then, successive Burial Acts provide for public cemeteries run by Burial Boards, and some regulation of burials, including powers to close burial grounds.	Some in society begin advocating for cremation as a more sanitary funerary method. The case of <i>R v Price</i> [1884] establishes that cremation is not unlawful. Local Acts of Parliament enable councils or corporations to establish crematoria.
1900s	The Welsh Church (Burial Grounds) Act 1945 resolves the position of Church in Wales churchyards following disestablishment. The Local Government Act 1972 and Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 replace much of the Burial Acts with simpler powers for parish and district councils to provide cemeteries.	The Cremation Act 1902 is passed, enabling local authorities to establish crematoria, with regulations made under that Act governing how cremation should be conducted in all crematoria. Cremation becomes commonplace by the second half of the twentieth century.
Today	The result of the development of burial law over the centuries is that burial is now a diverse sector, with broadly a tripartite division between Anglican, local authority and private burial grounds.	Rise of direct cremation, where cremation takes place without a funeral service at the same time.

Ecclesiastical law

The Church of England is the established church in England, meaning that it has a formal relationship with the state. One element of that relationship is that the Church of England has its own courts. One such type of court, the consistory court, can hear applications for a type of decision called a “faculty”. A faculty is needed in order to permit many types of changes to churchyards.

The Church in Wales

The Church in Wales was created in 1920 when the role of the Church of England as the established church in Wales was ended. Following disestablishment, it retained the duty to bury all parishioners without discrimination which the Church of England has in England.

Faith and cultural perspectives on burial and cremation

Different faiths and cultures have different approaches to burial and cremation. The two major Christian denominations, the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church, do not require one or the other. They do require that ashes are buried or strewn (laid on the ground and covered with soil) on consecrated ground. Islam places a prohibition on cremation. So does Orthodox Judaism, but not the Liberal or Reform traditions, and we have heard that some Caribbean and African communities in the UK have a strong preference for burial. Hinduism and Sikhism require cremation.

Reusing and reclaiming old graves

The need for reuse and reclamation of old graves

Surveys have found that burial space is running out. A 2007 Ministry of Justice survey found that local authority cemeteries had on average 30 years’ space left, with less time in urban areas. Other studies have suggested that burial authorities have found strategies to release further space, such as using space which had not been intended for burials, but this approach may not be sustainable in the long run.

It is difficult to establish a causal link between the availability of space in cemeteries, and the cost of a funeral, which will include a range of services. Nevertheless, the cost of funerals is rising. The most recent annual SunLife *Cost of Dying* report found that the cost of a basic funeral rose from £3,953 to £4,141 from 2022 to 2023, and had increased 126% over 20 years. We have heard from stakeholders that the cost of burial in some London cemeteries, particularly private ones, can be close to £10,000.

New burial grounds can be developed to meet this need. For burial ground operators, that represents a significant cost, usually running into the millions. Requiring new land for burials means that it cannot be used for other purposes, which at a time of significant public debates around the availability of land for housing may represent a lost opportunity. When each burial plot in a cemetery is only used once, over the course of time the cemetery ceases to serve its original purpose and risks falling into disrepair and becoming a site for anti-social behaviour.

Grave reuse and reclamation offer a potential solution to the problems arising from a shortage of burial space.

Current law

Exclusive burial rights are the rights to control a grave space: to determine who is buried in it and to place any memorial over it. There are two types of burial grounds which have powers to extinguish burial rights early:

1. London local authority cemeteries; and
2. cemeteries which have obtained their own Acts of Parliament for the purpose (namely Highgate Cemetery, New Southgate Cemetery, and Bishop's Stortford Cemetery).

These cemeteries also have the power to reuse graves, which is when remains in an old grave are disinterred and reburied, and the grave is used again. Later in this section, we set out the different steps required by law to extinguish burial rights and then to reuse graves, in these cemeteries.

In Church of England churchyards, grave reuse has been permitted since time immemorial, and a faculty is required if reuse involves moving memorials or remains. We do not propose any changes to grave reuse in relation to the Church of England.

Grave reclamation is when the space above existing burials in a grave is used to make further burials. Under the current law, a grave can be reclaimed if there are no exclusive burial rights in relation to it. That may be because they have expired, because there never were any, or, in the cemeteries which have such powers, because they have been extinguished. Our provisional proposals would not change this position. They would however permit more burial grounds to extinguish burial rights in graves, after which they could then reclaim them.

Extinguishing burial rights

The same rules when it comes to extinguishing burial rights apply whether the grave is then reused, or reclaimed. For burial rights to be extinguished in a grave, there must have been no burials made for at least 75 years. The burial ground operator must publish a notice and serve it on the registered owner of the grave. After a minimum of six months the rights are extinguished. Any tombstone may be removed, and may be destroyed if it is not collected after three months.

If any objection is made by the owners of the burial right within the six-month period, then the right will not be extinguished. Any other objections also stop the process, unless the Secretary of State provides their consent. There are provisions for a registrar to resolve any disputes as to ownership, for details of any tombstones to be recorded and deposited with the Registrar General, and for compensation for any extinguished right to be paid if a claim is made within six months. The power to extinguish burial rights early does not apply to any rights which were granted after these provisions came into force.

Once burial rights have been extinguished in a grave and any memorials dealt with, the law does not require any further steps under the law before a grave can be reclaimed.



Reusing graves

Once any exclusive burial rights have been extinguished, additional steps must be taken before a grave can be reused. The starting point for grave reuse is that moving human remains requires either an exhumation licence from the Ministry of Justice or, if the remains are on ground consecrated by the Church of England, a faculty from the ecclesiastical courts. The Acts of Parliament which permit grave reuse provide an exception to the requirement for a licence (but not for a faculty).

A grave can be reused by removing remains already within it, and reintering them either at a deeper level (known as the “lift and deepen” method), or in another grave (“lift and rebury”). Only lift and deepen is permitted in London council cemeteries, but lift and rebury is permitted in the cemeteries which have obtained private Acts of Parliament.

There are safeguards in place for grave reuse, which are similar to those for extinguishing exclusive burial rights. Only graves where the last remains were interred at least 75 years ago can be reused. Notices must be served by the burial ground operator, and if the owner of the burial right or the relatives of the deceased person objects to the reuse, no further attempt can happen for another 25 years.

Reform to the law

The law as it currently stands risks us running out of burial space; risks the cost of burial continuing to rise; has a particular impact on religious and cultural communities that require burial; risks anti-social behaviour as cemeteries fall into disrepair; and exposes burial ground operators to the cost of new burial grounds. It creates significant inconsistency in the tools to deal with these problems between different types of burial ground, and different parts of the country.

For these reasons, we think that an extension of grave reuse and reclamation powers is desirable. We acknowledge that reuse of old graves is a sensitive issue. Our provisional proposals would introduce two stages of safeguards. First, a burial ground operator would have to consult the local community before obtaining reuse and reclamation powers for the cemetery. Then, there would be protections in place before any particular grave could be reused or reclaimed.

Obtaining reuse and reclamation powers

It is important to note that no burial ground operator would be required to reuse or reclaim graves. Our proposed reforms would only give them the option to do so.

In order to obtain grave reuse and reclamation powers, we provisionally propose that burial ground operators should be required to apply for a decision to the Secretary of State. They would need to submit the results of a public consultation, and a grave reuse and reclamation plan including information about the graves affected, a conservation plan, and any mitigation steps identified through the consultation.

We acknowledge that these requirements are burdensome and would take time and cost money to comply with. They could reduce the extent to which graves are reused. However, the costs involved will be less than the effort and expense of securing a private Act of Parliament, and this approach would provide reassurance to the public.

Safeguards for the reuse or reclamation of any specific grave

We provisionally propose that expanded grave reuse and reclamation powers for all types of burial ground should have broadly the same safeguards as those in place where it is already permitted. Therefore, an objection from relatives of the deceased person or the grave owner should result in the process being stopped for 25 years.

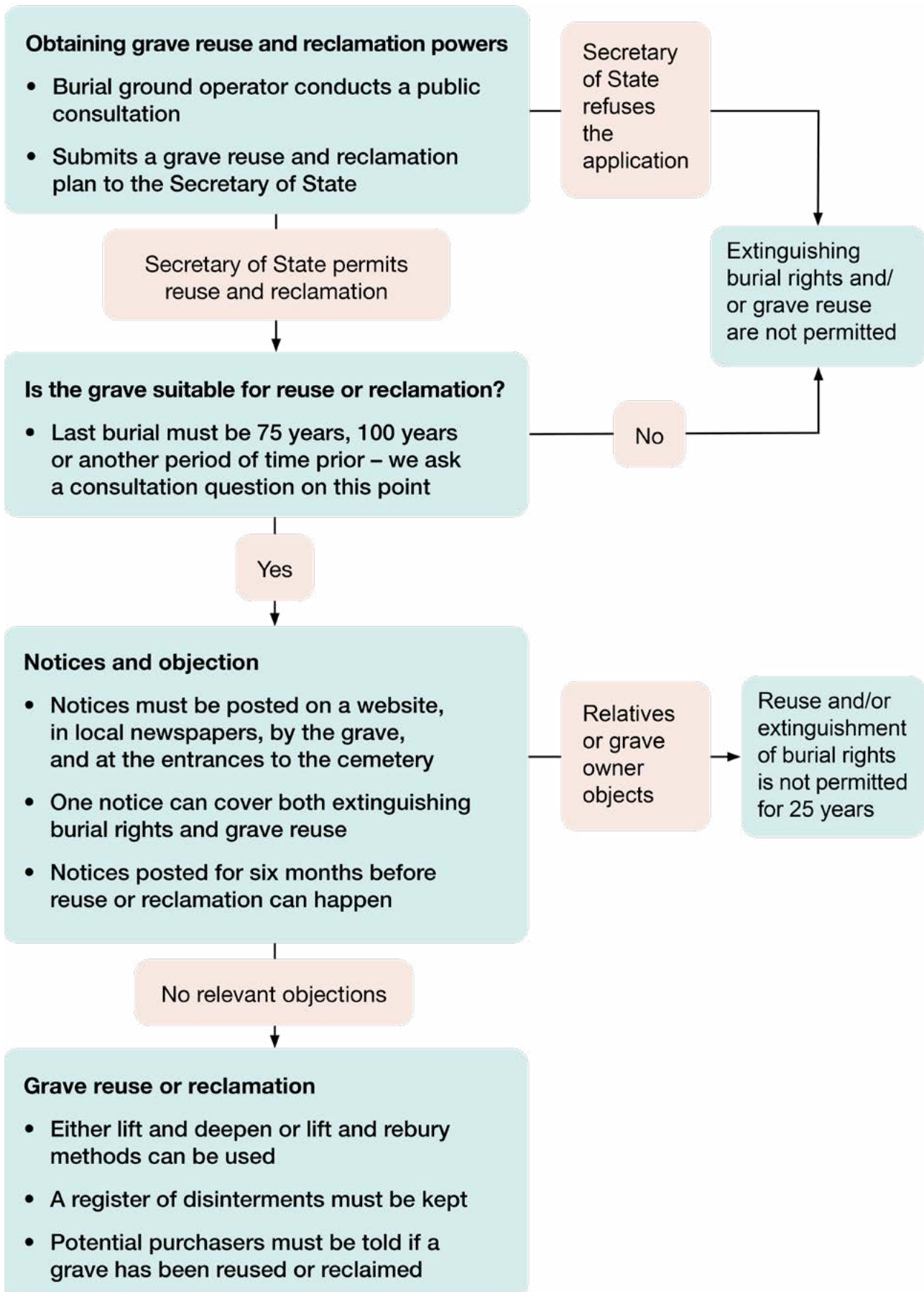
The burial ground operator should be required to tell a potential purchaser that a grave they are considering buying an exclusive right to burial in is one that is being reused or reclaimed.

A key question on which we consult is how long the period should be between the last burial in a grave, and the point at which it can be reused or reclaimed. The current period before reuse or reclaimed is permitted is 75 years. Two main considerations are cited when it comes to how long that period should be: the time it naturally takes for a body to decompose, and ensuring that graves are not reused or reclaimed during the lifetime of someone who knew the deceased person. On that basis, we ask an open question consulting on a period of 75 years, 100 years, or another period.

We provisionally propose that both lift and deepen and lift and rebury methods should be permitted when reusing a grave. We ask whether there should be a requirement that a grave must not be reused if it still contains significant remains from a previous burial. We also ask whether the Secretary of State should be able to permit grave reuse after a shorter period of time in exceptional circumstances.

See Consultation Questions 18 to 24. Chapter 6 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Our provisional proposals for grave reuse and reclamation



Closed and disused burial grounds

Closed burial grounds

Under the current law, all burial grounds can be closed to further burials by an Order in Council. Orders in Council are a legal instrument issued by the Sovereign on the advice of the Privy Council. In the case of closing burial grounds, the Secretary of State makes an application to seek one. The law governing this area was introduced in the 1850s to address the perceived public health risk from overly full burial grounds. Now, though, they are mainly used to close Church of England churchyards.

We consider that the use of Orders in Council to close a burial ground is outdated, and provisionally propose that it is replaced by a decision of the Secretary of State. The basis on which a closure order could be made would be set out in a reformed law.

The law currently does not permit closed burial grounds to be reopened. However, some stakeholders have told us that they may be interested in reopening burial grounds which have been closed by Orders in Council. The last burial in many of these will have happened well over a century ago, so they could be suitable for grave reuse. We provisionally propose that it should also be possible for the Secretary of State to reopen closed burial grounds.



When a Church of England churchyard is closed, the parochial church council (the parish church's executive body) has the power to transfer responsibility for its maintenance to the secular parish council, who can then transfer it to the district council. We do not propose any changes to this power, as it results from the duty the Church of England has to bury all parishioners.

However, our proposed reforms would enable closed churchyards which have been transferred into local authority maintenance to be reopened. The question then arises as to who should be responsible for maintaining them when new burials begin to be made. We provisionally propose that it should continue to be the local authority, because returning responsibility to the Church would reduce the incentive to reopen churchyards. However, we consult openly on whether there should be any provision to share fees for burial, or to charge an additional fee for burials in previously closed churchyards, which would be paid to the local authority.

See Consultation Questions 25 to 30. Chapter 7 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Closed burial grounds in Wales

The Church in Wales has no equivalent power to transfer the responsibility for maintaining burial grounds to local authorities. However, it continues to have a duty to bury parishioners without discrimination. As a result, we have heard that the Church in Wales is hesitant to open new burial grounds unless they have an endowment and financial plan to maintain them indefinitely. This in turn has a negative impact on the availability of burial space, particularly in areas of rural Wales where local authority burial grounds may be some distance away.

We ask for consultees' views on giving the Church in Wales an equivalent power to transfer maintenance responsibility to local authorities. We recognise that this would create a significant cost pressure on Welsh local authorities.

See Consultation Question 31. Chapter 7 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Exhumation

Exhumation is when human remains are removed from a place of burial. Exhumation without lawful authority is a criminal offence. That authority can be obtained from the consistory court if the body is in ground consecrated by the Church of England, or through a licence from the Ministry of Justice if it is not. We do not propose significant changes to these processes, although we do provisionally propose an increase in the maximum penalty for unlawful exhumation.

See Consultation Question 33. Chapter 8 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Disused burial grounds

The Disused Burial Grounds Act 1884 prohibits building on disused burial grounds. However, there are a number of provisions which provide exceptions to that rule, which enable land which is no longer used for burial to be put to other uses. Those provisions also disapply the law on exhumations. A burial ground does not have to be formally closed to be disused, it must only no longer be used for burials.

The current exceptions to the ban on building on disused burial grounds cover three circumstances:

1. Church of England churchyards and burial grounds;
2. other religious burial grounds; and
3. burial grounds which have been acquired or appropriated for planning purposes.

In each case certain safeguards must be followed. For non-Church of England religious burial grounds, notice must be given by the owner of the land for two weeks in a newspaper and near the land itself.

The personal representative (the executor or administrator) or relatives of a person buried in the last 50 years in the burial ground have six weeks to object to the development, and if they do, it may not proceed.

If there are no objections, remains buried in the land must be removed and reburied or cremated, and memorials dealt with, in accordance with directions issued by the Secretary of State. Notices must be given of these plans, so that the relatives of people buried in the burial ground may remove the remains themselves at the expense of the owner of the burial ground.

The law in its current state leaves other private burial grounds, and local authority cemeteries, without any provision to enable building to occur on disused burial grounds. A number of stakeholders have told us this is confusing, and a barrier to the long-term financial sustainability of those who operate burial grounds, including local authorities.

We provisionally propose that the scheme applying to non-Church of England religious burial grounds should be extended to all private and local authority burial grounds. We also ask whether the period during which the relatives of people buried in the burial ground can veto development should remain at 50 years, or whether it should be brought into line with the longer period of 75 or 100 years that we consult on as a requirement before graves can be reused.

See Consultation Question 36. Chapter 8 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

The law applying to different types of burial grounds

Approach to regulation of burial grounds

There are a limited number of laws that apply to all types of burial ground, such as the Secretary of State’s powers to inspect them and seek Orders in Council to close them, and the duty to register burials.

Many other aspects of burial law vary depending on whether the burial ground is operated by a local authority, the Church of England, the Church in Wales, or a private operator.

This can lead to confusion as to which laws apply in any given case and, in particular, there have been calls for greater regulation of private burial grounds, given the relative lack of legislation that currently applies to them.

We do not think, however, that it would be right to apply a single set of uniform burial laws to all types of burial grounds. The different levels of regulation which apply in local authority and private burial grounds reflect their different histories and contexts, and what works for one sector may not necessarily always work for another. Private burial grounds are a place where private individuals can enter into contracts with private companies or organisations, and religious private burial grounds are a place where the private rules of association may reflect that religion’s practices and doctrines.

Instead, we make provisional proposals for reform where the evidence suggests that specific elements of regulation should apply to particular kinds of burial ground, or, in some cases, to all types of burial ground.

See Consultation Question 1. Chapter 2 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Laws applying to different types of burial ground

	Local authority	Church of England	Church in Wales	Private
Maintenance standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some
Burial specifications	Yes	No	No	No
Burial rights issued in writing	Yes	Yes	No	Some

Maintenance

Different maintenance standards apply to different types of burial grounds.

1. Local authorities must keep their cemeteries in good order and repair.
2. In some older private burial grounds, founding legislation says they must be kept in complete repair.
3. Canon law says Church of England churchyards must be kept in orderly and decent manner as becomes consecrated ground.
4. Church in Wales burial grounds must be kept in decent order, in such a manner as to preserve the cemetery for the enjoyment of the public.

In addition, burial ground operators will owe different duties of care under the Occupiers' Liability Acts 1957 and 1984 to visitors and to others, including trespassers.

The Secretary of State can authorise the inspection of any burial ground or cemetery to determine its condition, and, where any regulations apply, whether they have been complied with. The Secretary of State can also seek Orders in Council to close a burial ground, or to require actions to be taken to prevent one from being dangerous or injurious to public health.

We are not aware of widespread problems with the standards of maintenance in burial grounds in England and Wales. Over the last decade, however, there have been some complaints about maintenance in local authority cemeteries, and rare instances of more significant poor standards. Stakeholders have also told us that they would welcome greater clarity and uniformity when it comes to maintenance.

A uniform standard of maintenance

We consider that there is a case for a maintenance standard that applies to all burial grounds, including all private burial grounds. Burial is not simply a private matter, but rather one of public importance.

A uniform maintenance standard will need to be sensitive to the varied circumstances of burial grounds, ranging from newly established natural burial grounds to long-closed non-denominational churchyards. For that reason, we provisionally propose a contextual standard: that every burial ground owner should be required to maintain their burial ground in good order appropriate to its current use.

There is a lack of evidence of significant, widespread problems with maintenance in burial grounds. This could be because there is no problem, or it could be because there are problems, but they are not reported. We ask consultees if they have evidence on this point.

Because of this lack of evidence, we are cautious about imposing further regulatory requirements on burial ground operators, beyond a general maintenance duty. If consultation responses establish the need for such requirements, we consider that they could take two possible forms: a statutory code of practice, or a requirement for burial ground operators to publish a management plan. We ask for consultees' views on these options.

See Consultation Questions 5 and 6. Chapter 3 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Enforcement

In order for a uniform standard of maintenance and burial specifications to be effective, there needs to be some mechanism to enforce them. We consider the best option is to retain but enhance the current system – that is, the Secretary of State having ad hoc inspection and enforcement powers. The main tool that the Secretary of State currently has is to seek an Order in Council to require actions to be taken. Our provisional proposals would give the Secretary of State the power, in response to an inspection report, to issue a notice requiring action to be taken by a burial ground operator in order to meet their statutory duties, including those imposed by the uniform maintenance standard.

The Secretary of State can currently direct a local authority to take actions in relation to a burial ground. We provisionally propose modernising this power, and enabling the local authority to charge back the costs of carrying out those actions to the cemetery owner.

See Consultation Questions 7 and 9. Chapter 3 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Burial specifications

All local authority cemeteries are subject to the same rules as to how a body should be buried. No other type of cemetery is subject to a consistent set of rules.

Within a local authority cemetery, a body must be buried at least three feet deep, meaning that no part of the coffin can be less than three feet below ground level. An exception applies where the coffin is made of perishable materials and the soil is suitable. In these circumstances a burial within a local authority cemetery may be

made at the shallower depth of at least two feet. There are also specific provisions about walled graves and vaults.

There are no universal rules applying to Church of England churchyards or private cemeteries about the minimum depth of a grave.

We think there is a case for a single set of minimum burial specifications across different types of burial ground, on the basis of the impact that improper burials can have on the families and friends of deceased people – particularly if they result in remains being unearthed. The question is what those specifications should be.

The scientific evidence suggests that what happens to a body after it is buried is subject to a wide range of factors, such as the quality of the soil and physical characteristics of the person who has been buried. As a result, rules on how a body should be buried which sought fully to reflect all of these different factors through different rules for different circumstances might quickly become cumbersome.

We have not heard that the current rules in local authority burial grounds, that is, burial at two feet in a perishable coffin and in appropriate soil conditions, or three feet otherwise, result in these negative outcomes occurring. However, the limited research evidence seems to suggest that deeper burials should be required for burials made without a coffin (that is, burials in a shroud). We therefore ask an open question about what the requirements should be for a uniform burial specification. We provisionally propose that breaching the new rules should be a criminal offence.

See Consultation Question 10. Chapter 3 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.



Burial and memorial rights

Everyone in England has a right to be buried in a Church of England churchyard, which is known as an “ordinary right of burial”. The law then governs which churchyards a person has the right to be buried in. The ordinary right of burial does not include a right to be buried in a particular part of the churchyard or burial ground, or to further interments in the plot so that family members are buried in the same plot, or to the erection of a monument or the construction of a vault. For any of these to be granted in a Church of England churchyard, a faculty must be obtained.

An exclusive right of burial is different to the ordinary right of burial. Broadly, an exclusive right of burial is the right to bury one or more bodies or sets of ashes in a specific grave plot. Exclusive rights of burial can be granted in relation to a Church of England, local authority or private burial ground.

In local authority cemeteries, we understand that common practice is for exclusive burial rights and memorial rights to be granted for 50 or 75 years, but there is no lower limit in the law. These rights cannot be granted, in the first place, for longer than 100 years, but can be extended. They must be issued in writing, and can be passed on by deed or inherited. A local authority can also, separately, grant a right to place a memorial on a grave, either to the person who owns the burial right or to a relative, if the owner of the burial right cannot be traced.

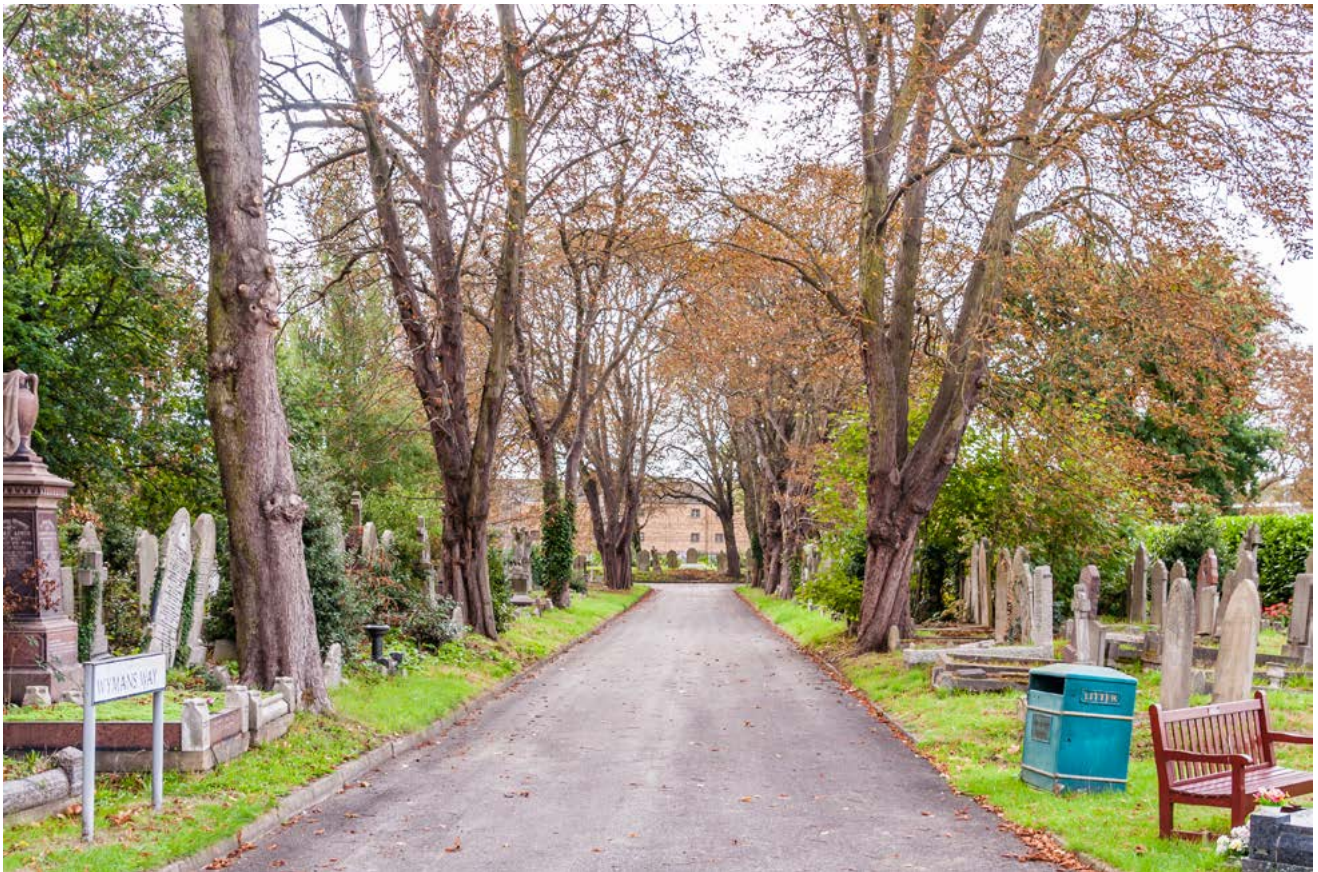
In private burial grounds, the status of exclusive rights of burial varies. Private cemeteries established by Acts of Parliament may have requirements to issue rights in writing, but those which are not governed by any legislation may not.

There are various effects of different exclusive rights of burial. These include the way that exhumation is controlled, remedies for infringement, who has control of the right and whether successors in title are bound by the right.

Problems with burial and memorial rights

We have heard of varied practice in private cemeteries which are not established by statute when it comes to issuing burial and memorial rights, with documentation varying from a simple receipt at one end of the scale, to a deed at the other.

We have also heard of disputes in which family members of deceased people have been unable to place any memorial over their graves because another member of the family, who owns the burial right, has not done so or refuses to do so.



Reform of the law

We consider that imposing some of the formality and record-keeping requirements currently in place for local authority cemeteries upon all private cemeteries would address some of the issues we have heard of, as regards relatives and executors of deceased people being provided with little information on the rights they have purchased. We provisionally propose that all burial rights and memorial rights should be issued in writing.

We also consider that there may be benefit in introducing an optional scheme of statutory exclusive burial rights in private cemeteries, and provisionally consult on such a proposal. Such a scheme could offer certainty and clarity to the purchaser of the right. It could be seen as of benefit to the cemetery operator, by saving the time costs of creating their own scheme.

We also provisionally propose that where no memorial is raised over a grave within two years, local authorities should be permitted to grant a right to place a memorial on the grave to any relative of the deceased person – a neutrally-worded one, if there is any dispute as to what the memorial should say.

See Consultation Questions 11 to 13. Chapter 4 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Private land burials

Burial on private land, as opposed to in a burial ground (including a private burial ground), is believed to be rare. It is often used where there is a connection between the deceased person and the land, such as a family farm or landed estate. There is no law prohibiting burial on private land. Private land burials must adhere to the law which applies to all other forms of burial, such as death registration and environmental law.

Private land burials must also be registered. However, there is no requirement that the register is handed over when the land is sold or transferred. This could lead to problems, such as future building works resulting in an exhumation causing distress and cost to the new owners, and the family of the deceased person. We provisionally propose that it should be a criminal offence to fail to transfer the record of a burial that is made on private land when property on the land is sold.

See Consultation Question 3. Chapter 2 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (“CWGC”) was established under Royal Charter in 1917 to commemorate the 1.7 million service men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the First and Second World Wars.

There are specific rights afforded to the CWGC so that it can protect war burials in the law governing local authority cemeteries, Church of England churchyards, in the law on grave reuse, and in the law on building on disused burial grounds.

However, there are gaps in these rights, and we make provisional proposals which would address them. We also make provisional proposals which would give the CWGC new rights in relation to private cemeteries. Chapter 9 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Cremation

The regulations governing cremation have been subject to more recent reform than burial law, and indeed remain in a state of transition following the introduction of the new statutory medical examiner system. However, there remain specific issues which merit a review.

In addition to these issues, we note that the current rules which govern cremation applications can result in disputes, including about who should be able to receive ashes after cremation. We consider that this issue can only be properly considered alongside the overall issue of who should have the right to decide what happens to our bodies after we die. That issue will be addressed in the third part of the overall **Burial, Cremation and New Funerary Methods** project, so we do not make any proposals at this stage – but we do ask for evidence on the scale of the problem.

See Consultation Question 45. Chapter 11 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Uncollected ashes and removed pacemakers

Two issues of cremation law cause particular problems in relation to funeral directors.

First, the law provides for crematoria to scatter or bury ashes after 14 days if they are uncollected. Funeral directors have no similar provision, and it has been reported that they hold a quarter of a million sets of uncollected ashes as a result. As well as the practical difficulties arising from storing ashes, the premises of funeral directors are not a suitable final resting place.

We provisionally propose that where funeral directors have held ashes for at least four weeks, they should take reasonable steps to contact the person who applied for the cremation to find out what they want to happen to the ashes. If the applicant does not respond within four weeks, the funeral director should be able to return the ashes to the crematorium, and the crematorium should have a duty to accept them. The crematorium would then be able to bury or scatter the ashes under its existing powers. This provisional proposal would apply retrospectively, that is, to ashes which are currently unclaimed and in funeral directors' possession, as well as to those which are not collected in the future.



Secondly, due to an unintended consequence of Government guidance from the 1980s, many funeral directors hold large numbers of pacemakers removed prior to cremation for safety reasons, which they do not have legal authority to dispose of. We provisionally propose a scheme to enable them to dispose of them as they see fit, once relatives of the deceased person have had an opportunity to claim them.

See Consultation Questions 50 and 53. Chapters 11 and 13 of the full Consultation Paper address these issues.

Where cremations can happen

Cremation law restricts where new crematoria can be constructed. They must be built at least 200 yards from a dwelling house (unless the owner, lessee and occupier consent in writing) and 50 yards from a public highway.

This requirement was introduced in the Cremation Act 1902, due to concerns about the impact of cremations on air quality. While sensitivities on this point continue to exist, environmental protection requirements in relation to cremation are extensive and ought to ensure that emissions, particularly from new crematoria, are not harmful to public health. The rule may be said no longer to serve the purpose for which it was introduced.



However, it appears from planning cases that the rule may now be serving a different purpose, of enabling crematoria to be built on Green Belt and countryside sites where they would otherwise not be permitted. It has also been argued that it therefore ensures an appropriate degree of solemnity at crematoria, by restricting noise and disturbance from neighbours. For this reason, we ask an open question as to whether the rule on where crematoria can be sited should be repealed or retained.

See Consultation Question 51. Chapter 12 of the full Consultation Paper addresses this issue.

Next steps

The provisional proposals contained in the full Consultation Paper provide a key opportunity to bring the law governing burial and cremation up to date. Doing so will ensure that with appropriate safeguards, reuse and reclamation of old graves is available to secure burial space for the future across the country. It will enable closed Church of England churchyards to be reopened so that more people have access to burial space close to them, and in settings which are meaningful for them. It will ensure that there are sufficient protections for bereaved people who choose to bury their families and friends, whatever type of burial ground they use. It will address unresolved and outdated aspects of cremation law.

Your responses to this consultation will enable us to make final recommendations that reflect the expertise of those who work in the burial and cremation sector, and the real-life experiences of those who use the sector for the funerals of their friends and relatives.

Appendix 2 - Burial and Cremation Legislation - Consultation Paper

Flintshire County Council's Proposed Response

Question No.	Proposals by the Law Commission	Suggested response from FCC:	RAG Status
1	<p>We provisionally propose that there should not be a single uniform burial law applying to private, local authority, Church of England and Church in Wales burial grounds. Instead, we provisionally propose that different aspects of regulation should be introduced for different types of burial grounds, where there is a case for doing so.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<i>This is supported and agreed.</i>	Green
2	<p>We provisionally propose that regulation of private burial grounds should encompass any land where the primary purpose is, or has been, burial. Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We invite consultees' views on whether the definition of burial in the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 has caused any problems.</p>	<i>Not applicable, as we are a local authority</i>	Green
3	<p>We provisionally propose that:</p> <p>(a) it should be a criminal offence for a person making a burial outside a burial ground to knowingly fail to register it;</p> <p>(b) it should be a criminal offence for a person transferring an interest in that land, or creating a lease of more than 21 years on that land, to knowingly fail to transfer the burial register to the new owner or lessee; or for the lessee to knowingly fail to transfer it to the owner at the end of the lease; and</p> <p>(c) the maximum penalty for these offences should be a fine at level 2 on the standard scale (£500).</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<i>This is supported and agreed.</i>	Green
4	<p>We provisionally propose that in a local authority cemetery, the religious services that accompany a burial in all areas reserved or consecrated to a religious faith should be restricted to those of that faith, or to no service at all.</p>	<i>This is a potentially contentious and sensitive subject matter, but it is agreed that equality between different faiths should apply. The Council permits mixed denominations within designated faith sections of our cemeteries.</i>	Amber

	Do consultees agree?	<i>In Flintshire, we do have cemeteries that are used by multiple denominations of one faith e.g. Flint and Holywell cemeteries do have specific areas remaining for Roman Catholic and Church of Wales.</i>	
5	We provisionally propose that every burial ground owner should be required to maintain their burial ground in good order appropriate to its current use. Do consultees agree?	<p>Yes.</p> <p><i>A standardised approach to maintenance of burial grounds would be supported either through a statutory code of practice, or a requirement for burial ground operators to publish a management plan in the same way that local authorities are required to do so. Under the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 ("LACO 1977"), local authorities are under an obligation to keep its cemeteries in good order and repair, together with buildings, walls and fences.</i></p> <p><i>Enforcement/policing of the management plans or adherence to the statutory code of practice would need to be considered. Would this be through an external auditor or inspector?</i></p>	Green
6	<p>We invite consultees' views on whether problems of poor maintenance of burial grounds are sufficient to impose requirements on burial ground operators, over and above setting a uniform standard of maintenance.</p> <p>We invite consultees to provide examples or evidence of issues with poor maintenance that would potentially justify such requirements.</p> <p>We invite consultees' views as to whether, if further regulatory action should be taken in relation to the maintenance of burial grounds: (1) the Secretary of State should issue a statutory code of practice for burial ground maintenance, following consultation with stakeholders; or</p>	<p><i>The approach to maintaining cemeteries, for instance in relation to grounds maintenance and maintaining memorials, monuments, graves can differ between the local authorities and other burial ground operators. Examples of issues that have been experienced include areas of longer uncut grass or foliage around headstones in some burial grounds, which pose a significant health and safety risk in the form of slips, trip or fall hazards. Another is around covering depressions in ground levels, which could result in slips, trips or falls. Standards could be defined for minimum cutting lengths and frequencies for all burial grounds, although this would need to be mindful of local authority budgets, which are already under increasing pressure and cuts to services. Another aspect relates to unsafe memorials. As a local authority, we currently test all memorial gravestones ("memorials") within</i></p>	Red

	<p>(2) all burial ground operators should be required to publish a management plan on a periodic basis.</p>	<p><i>our cemeteries once every three years to ensure safety and stability, although the HSE recommends a minimum requirement for inspection once every five years. A standardised approach would be welcome in this respect. Unsafe memorials are gravestones that have become loose or unstable and pose a risk of injury to visitors or our employees and any memorials that fail the testing process are temporarily supported by wooden stakes and the grave owners are contacted (where known) to request that they undertake a permanent repair. In addition to the risk caused by unsafe headstones, kerb sets (lengths of stone that surround the perimeter of memorials) are also posing a safety concern within the council's older cemeteries. Whilst the installation of kerb sets is no longer permitted practice in Flintshire, kerb sets were previously introduced in those cemeteries that were not designated "lawned cemeteries." In many instances, the edges of the kerb sets are becoming separated from the main structure of the memorial and are falling into the walkways between graves and partially sinking into the ground, resulting in a trip hazard for visitors and cemetery staff, which may not be easily observed. Again, a standardised approach for addressing these issues would be welcomed.</i></p> <p><i>We would support the introduction of a statutory code of practice, providing that it does not impact on existing council budgets and resources. A code of practice for burial ground maintenance and the publication of management plans for each site would demonstrate best practice in these areas. Any onerous standards to maintain over and above current requirements would need to be funded accordingly either by UK government or Welsh Government.</i></p>	
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		<p><i>We agree that all burial ground operators should be required to publish a management plan on a “reasonable” periodic basis and this needs to be defined (e.g. annually, every 3 years etc.).</i></p> <p><i>Concerns have been raised about how minimum standards for maintenance would be evidenced and enforced and further clarification is sought on this aspect. We request that this does not become an administrative burden for burial ground operators.</i></p>	
7	<p>We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should continue to be able to authorise inspections of burial grounds. Where an inspection finds that the law is not being complied with, the Secretary of State should be able to issue a notice requiring actions to be taken to bring the burial ground into compliance.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>This is supported and agreed, and this is already current practice. Whilst the Council is supportive of this approach to continue, we believe that such inspections could be undertaken by individual local authorities within their expertise and knowledge of their own burial grounds.</i></p>	Green
8	<p>We provisionally propose the abolition of the offence of failing to adhere to cemetery regulations in section 8 of the Burial Act 1855.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>This is supported and agreed.</i></p>	Green
9	<p>We invite consultees’ views on whether the Secretary of State should have the power to direct that a local authority takes over the management of a burial ground which has failed to comply with the actions required in a notice, and whether local authorities in such circumstances should have the power to charge costs back to the cemetery owner.</p>	<p><i>This would have serious financial implications for the authority and would require additional resources and budget. Whilst it is a sensible option if minimum standards of maintenance and an inspection regime are established, it is doubtful that the authority could recover full costs incurred. Funding should be made available from central UK Government to ensure that local authorities are not financially disadvantaged in these circumstances as otherwise, it would not be possible to adhere to revised law changes. Funding should be provided in perpetuity.</i></p>	Red
10	<p>We invite consultees’ views on what the minimum burial depth should be for bodies buried in a non-perishable coffin, and for bodies buried in perishable</p>	<p><i>This proposal would further complicate the process of constructing a walled grave. It would also add further costs through the provision of a grave liner or additional concrete to</i></p>	Amber

	<p>coffin or wrappings. We provisionally propose that:</p> <p>(1) in all burial grounds there should be six inches of soil between two coffins or bodies which are interred in the same grave; and</p> <p>(2) for walled graves or vaults, there should be a requirement for them to be properly constructed of suitable materials, and for the coffin to be embedded in concrete or enclosed in a separate airtight compartment within 24 hours of the interment.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We provisionally propose the creation of a new criminal offence of recklessly breaching minimum burial requirements, with a maximum penalty on summary conviction of a fine at level 2 on the standard scale (£500).</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>encase the coffin. However, these would be passed on to the families concerned as do all walled grave costs currently.</i></p>	
11	<p>We provisionally propose that, in relation to all cemeteries:</p> <p>(1) it should be a requirement for all burial rights, both exclusive and nonexclusive, and memorial rights, to be issued in writing;</p> <p>(2) where this requirement is not met on the grant of a burial right, the purchaser should be able to request that their burial right is made out in writing, and that where the operator does not comply within a month the Secretary of State should have the power to issue a civil penalty; and</p> <p>(3) that where a burial right has not been issued in writing, there should be a presumption that the right is a statutory exclusive burial right.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Supported – Flintshire already issue all exclusive and memorial rights in writing via Plotbox</i></p>	Green
12	<p>We invite consultees' views as to whether an optional scheme of statutory exclusive burial rights should be introduced for private cemeteries which are not already governed by their own Act of Parliament.</p> <p>4.74 If consultees support the introduction of an optional scheme of statutory exclusive</p>	<p><i>The issuing of Exclusive Rights of Burial should be best practice for all burial ground operators. Likewise, a process should be in place for the transfer of these rights following the passing of the original owner. Again, the system used by local authorities would show best practice if the rights were to be transferred by, statutory</i></p>	Green?

	<p>burial rights, we invite consultees' views on the following.</p> <p>(1) Should the right be able to be assigned by deed or inherited?</p> <p>(2) Should the right have a maximum duration of 100 years, subject to extension at the discretion of the cemetery operator?</p> <p>(3) Should there be any other features of such a scheme?</p>	<p><i>declaration, form of assignment of proof of executorship. In respect of the duration of the deed, this varies widely currently as some local authorities will have a shorter term and generate revenue from renewals. A standard term would be a good idea and welcomed.</i></p>	
13	<p>We provisionally propose that:</p> <p>(1) in its cemetery, a local authority should have the power to grant a memorial right to any relative of a person buried in a grave if no memorial has been placed on the grave two years after the burial; and</p> <p>(2) if there is a dispute between different relatives, or between the relatives and the owner of the exclusive burial right, a local authority should only have the power to grant the right to a neutral memorial displaying the name of the deceased person and their dates of birth and death.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>This is a highly emotive and sensitive topic. In Flintshire, we will only grant the memorial rights to the registered owner of a grave. We would initially be given this information from the funeral director for new graves, as they have initial contact with the families. If a memorial application is received that is not signed by the registered owner, it isn't approved. We do not agree that a standard memorial should be placed on the grave if a family dispute is ongoing, as it would have the potential to lead to further problems on site if this were to happen.</i></p>	Amber
14	<p>We provisionally propose that a local authority should be permitted to maintain a tombstone, memorial or vault without the consent of its owner, if they have served notice on the owner at their last address known to the authority, and the owner has not objected within three months of such notice being served.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>This is agreed and supported; however, this is likely to incur additional costs for the local authority, which would be a financial risk and there is unlikely to be the ability to recover such costs. In such cases, the local authority should be permitted to remove the tombstone, memorial, monument if it is deemed to be a safety critical issue and no owner can be traced or if the owner has not objected within a certain timeframe. Alternatively, funding would need to be provided by UK government for the local authority to fulfil this duty.</i></p>	Amber
15	<p>We provisionally propose that:</p> <p>(1) a consistent system of burial registration should be introduced;</p> <p>(2) the requirement for burials (of both bodies and cremated remains) to be registered as soon as possible should be retained;</p>	<p><i>Agreed and this is already applied in Flintshire through the Plotbox system. We also agree with the intention to repeal of the criminal offences of failing to register a burial, which seems excessive and not justified.</i></p>	Green

	<p>(3) all burial ground operators should be under a statutory duty to keep the following documents:</p> <p>(a) a burial register;</p> <p>(b) a register of disinterments;</p> <p>(c) a plan of the burial ground; and</p> <p>(d) a register of rights granted; and</p> <p>(4) these records should be kept either electronically or on paper.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We provisionally propose the repeal of the criminal offences of failing to register a burial:</p> <p>(1) by a private burial ground operator where registration is not governed by an Act of Parliament; and</p> <p>(2) by a Church of England minister when a burial takes place in consecrated ground in a Church of England churchyard without the rites of the Church of England.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>		
16	<p>We invite consultees' views as to whether burial registration documents should be sent to the General Register Office or Historic England when a burial ground closes.</p>	<p><i>Currently burial registration documents are sent to the General Register Office</i></p>	Green
17	<p>We provisionally propose that the criminal offences relating to burying a child as if it were stillborn and burying more than one body in a coffin should be repealed.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>This is supported and agreed given that it is now unlawful for the operator of a burial ground to bury a stillborn child without a certificate from the registrar or an order from the coroner and also unlawful to fail to register a stillborn child.</i></p>	Green
18	<p>We provisionally propose that any grave reuse powers should apply to common or public graves, and to those where exclusive rights of burial have expired, as well as those where exclusive rights of burial have been extinguished.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>We support this proposal. Common and public graves will already be in the ownership of the local authority and likewise if exclusive rights of burial have expired etc., then they will revert to the local authority if not renewed by the grave owner</i></p>	Green
19	<p>We invite consultees' views on the minimum time that must elapse between the last burial in a grave, and the burial rights in that grave being extinguished and the grave being reused.</p> <p>Should it be:</p> <p>(1) 75 years;</p> <p>(2) 100 years; or</p>	<p><i>We would propose that the time that must elapse should be at least a minimum period of 75 years. This would be consistent with the current specified period of when we can reclaim a grave that has been previously sold, but never used for interment by the purchaser.</i></p>	Red

	<p>(3) a different period? We invite consultees' views as to whether there should be a requirement that a grave must not be reused if it still contains significant remains from a previous burial. If so, we invite consultees' views on what should count as "significant remains". We invite consultees' views on whether there is a case for the Secretary of State to be able to permit certain cemeteries to reuse graves after a shorter period of time in exceptional circumstances, and where the people, making burials in the graves which are to be reused, consent to it.</p>	<p><i>Consideration should also be given to 100 years given that relatives / family members may still be alive when a grave is designated for reuse (e.g. people are generally living longer and grandchildren of the deceased are still likely to be alive etc.). 100 years would be the preference.</i></p> <p><i>Concerns have also been raised around memorials/head stones for graves that are reused and how these would be provided for multiple burials within the same grave.</i></p> <p><i>We agree that there should be a requirement that a grave must not be reused if it still contains significant remains from a previous burial; however, this would only be known once the grave is excavated.</i></p> <p><i>A definition of "significant remains" will be required, all graves will contain skeletal remains and remnants of coffins depending on the quality of coffin used at the time of interment. Anything other than this should be classed as significant remains.</i></p> <p><i>We disagree that there is a case for graves to be reused graves after a shorter period of time in exceptional circumstances. What constitutes exceptional circumstances?</i></p> <p><i>Reuse should only be employed after a qualifying time has elapsed, which applies to all burial grounds and graves contained therein. Please refer to previous response above.</i></p>	
20	<p>We provisionally propose that, in any extension of grave reuse and burial right extinguishment powers, notices should be posted: (1) on the burial ground operator's website if they have one; (2) in local newspapers;</p>	<p><i>Agreed; however, such a change will result in additional costs associated with notice requirements and therefore, funding needs to be made available by UK government to cover any associated costs. Funding should be provided in perpetuity. Concerns have also been raised about the</i></p>	Amber

	<p>(3) by the grave and entrances to the cemetery; and (4) should be sent to the last known address of the owner of the burial rights and memorial. Do consultees agree? We provisionally propose that one notice should suffice for both grave reuse and extinguishing burial rights. Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>administrative burden that this process is likely to introduce for local authorities when resources are already stretched to capacity.</i></p>	
21	<p>We provisionally propose that in any extension of grave reuse powers, remains which are moved in order to reuse a grave must be either reinterred in the original grave, or in another grave in the same cemetery, below the level of the ground in a grave consisting wholly or substantially of earth. Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Operationally there is unlikely to be space within existing burial grounds for the removed remains to be re-interred in an alternative location within the same cemetery. As per our earlier comments, remains should be placed back in their original grave at a greater depth. Guidance should also be established for the requirement to remove or retain any memorials that are on the existing graves and how new memorials would be included.</i></p>	Amber
22	<p>We provisionally propose that burial ground operators should be required to keep a register of disinterments. Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Agreed. Currently part of Plotbox cemetery management system.</i></p>	Green
23	<p>We provisionally propose that burial ground operators should be required to disclose the fact that a grave has been reused or reclaimed to potential purchasers. Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Agreed. Flintshire currently do this as standard practice.</i></p>	Green
24	<p>We provisionally propose that burial ground operators should be able to apply to the Secretary of State for a decision enabling them to extinguish burial rights in graves and reuse graves, on a case-by-case basis. Do consultees agree? We invite consultees' views on whether applications for grave reuse and reclamation powers should be made: (1) by each burial authority to cover all of their burial grounds; or (2) for each burial ground individually. We provisionally propose that an application for grave reuse and reclamation powers should be accompanied by:</p>	<p><i>Should a local authority have to apply on a case-by-case basis, this would be administratively burdensome and would require additional resources and funding from UK government.</i></p> <p><i>An application for each burial ground individually would be more practical and manageable, but we request that the process does not become bureaucratic.</i></p>	Amber

	<p>(1) a grave reuse and reclamation plan setting out any additional mitigation proposed and identifying the graves which are intended to be affected; and</p> <p>(2) the results of a consultation with those living near the burial ground and those with friends or relatives buried in the burial ground.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>		
25	<p>We provisionally propose that a burial ground, or any other specified area, should be closed to new interments by a decision of the Secretary of State, rather than by Order in Council.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Further clarification is required on this proposal and whether this relates to churchyards. Flintshire currently has four cemeteries that are closed to new burials; however, they still accommodate re-opening of graves. As a result, they cannot be classified as formally closed.</i></p>	<p><i>Amber Further clarification required</i></p>
26	<p>We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should have the power to close a burial ground where:</p> <p>(1) there is no useable space for new burials in graves which are free from exclusive burial rights;</p> <p>(2) the legal minimum standard of maintenance or burial specifications have not been complied with; or</p> <p>(3) the burial ground represents a risk to public health.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We invite consultees' views as to whether there are other reasons why a burial ground should be closed to new interments.</p> <p>We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State must post notice of the intention to close a burial ground at the entrances to the burial ground, and in the London Gazette, for two months before a burial ground can be closed.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>We support this proposal in part.</i></p> <p><i>(1) Is not supported as there could still be reserved grave spaces within the burial ground that can accommodate new burials.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Supported if there was a time period added, i.e. the minimum standard hadn't been reached for 2 years, for example.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Supported</i></p>	<p><i>Amber</i></p>
27	<p>We provisionally propose that the fault element of the offence of burying a body in a closed burial ground should be knowledge that the burial ground has been closed to further burials.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We provisionally propose that the maximum sentence for the</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p><i>Green</i></p>

	<p>offence of burying a body in a closed burial ground is increased to level 3 on the standard scale of fines, which is currently set at £1,000. Do consultees agree?</p>		
28	<p>We provisionally propose that the existing exceptions to the power to close a burial ground to new interments should be ended, and that the existing exemption in relation to burials with the approval of the Sovereign in St Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey should be extended to include all royal peculiars. Do consultees agree?</p>	<i>No particular views</i>	N/A
29	<p>We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should have the power to reopen burial grounds which have been closed to new interments, with the agreement of the burial ground owner, or the incumbent. Burial grounds could be reopened in full, or partially by reference to a particular area or purpose. Do consultees agree?</p>	<i>Agreed. However, a set of criteria would need to be created by the Secretary of State for which all elements would need to be met. Appropriate funding would also need to be provided in perpetuity for future maintenance of reopened burial grounds.</i>	Amber
30	<p>We provisionally propose that where a closed Church of England churchyard is reopened, any local authority which has become legally responsible for its maintenance should continue to have that responsibility. Do consultees agree? We invite consultees' views on whether Church of England fees for funerals and burial should be shared with local authorities, or whether an additional fee payable to local authorities should be charged, in relation to reopened churchyards.</p>	<i>Not applicable to Flintshire, as we are a Welsh local authority; however, if this were to apply to churchyards in Wales, we would want fees for funerals and burials to be payable to the local authority and we would seek to recover costs for maintaining the cemetery.</i>	Amber
31	<p>We invite consultees' views on whether the Church in Wales should be able to transfer the responsibility for maintaining its churchyards and burial grounds to the community council or county council, on the same model as in place in England.</p>	<i>We would not support the proposal to end the Church in Wales' duty to bury parishioners, as this is likely to place additional pressure on other burial grounds, particularly those operated by local authorities. Giving the churches the power to transfer maintenance responsibility to either community councils or Welsh county councils is likely to create a significant additional cost pressure on Welsh local</i>	Red

		<i>authorities, which are already under financial constraints and for which no funding exists within council budgets. Welsh Government's views should also be sought and funding from UK government must be provided to Welsh local authorities if this is adopted.</i>	
32	We provisionally propose that the fault element required for the commission of the offence of unlawful exhumation should be recklessness. Do consultees agree?	<i>Supported</i>	Green
33	We provisionally propose that the maximum penalty for unlawful exhumation should be an unlimited fine on summary conviction, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both, on indictment. Do consultees agree?	<i>Supported</i>	Green
34	We provisionally propose that the offence of exhuming human remains without authorisation should include removing human remains from the grave without lifting those remains above ground (so-called "coffin sliding"). Do consultees agree?	<i>Supported</i>	Green
35	We provisionally propose that there should be an exception to the exhumation offence where the exhumation is authorised by a police officer of at least the rank of Inspector, who has reasonable grounds to believe that an exhumation is urgently necessary to prevent forensic evidence from being lost. Do consultees agree?	<i>Supported</i>	Green
36	We provisionally propose that the scheme in the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 permitting building on a disused burial ground and exhumation without a licence or faculty, where notice requirements are met, should be extended to all private and local authority burial grounds. Do consultees agree? We invite consultees' views on the appropriate period of time during which an objection by the personal representative or close	<i>Agreed - It would make sense for the timeframe to match those proposed for grave re use etc. therefore Flintshire would recommend minimum 75 years. Please also see earlier comments regarding consideration to be given to 100 years (due to people living longer and likelihood that the grandchildren of the deceased may still be alive). This would be the preference.</i>	Amber

	<p>relatives of a deceased person should prevent building works from taking place on the burial ground in which they are interred. Should it be:</p> <p>(1) 50 years; (2) 75 years; (3) 100 years; or (4) another period?</p> <p>We provisionally propose that it should be a criminal offence to fail to comply with directions issued by the Secretary of State as to how remains exhumed for development purposes should be reinterred or cremated, with a maximum sentence of an unlimited fine on summary conviction, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both, on indictment.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Concerns have been raised by county councillors around church yards/church buildings being historical monuments that would effectively be destroyed in the process.</i></p>	
37	<p>We provisionally propose that:</p> <p>(1) every time a local authority burial authority seeks to exercise powers under articles 10(5) or 16(2) of LACO 1977, it should be required to notify the CWGC; and</p> <p>(2) it should be a requirement for the local authority to share information about which graves it intends to take this action in relation to, and then for the CWGC to confirm whether the grave is a Commonwealth war grave.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Supported, as this relates to the removal of memorials from graves and the upkeep of memorials, levelling of sunken graves etc. We currently have a list of all our CWGC graves in Flintshire, so this would not be an issue therefore, as we would do this with all CWGC graves as standard practice, just as we do with all other graves. If we had to send the CWGC a list of all graves we intended to act on, it would not be too burdensome as Plotbox would be able to produce a report to send to CWGC.</i></p>	Green
38	<p>We provisionally propose that where a local authority has followed the process to obtain the right to maintain a monument whose owner cannot be contacted:</p> <p>(1) the consent of the CWGC should be required for the local authority to undertake ordinary maintenance to Commonwealth war graves in relation to which they do not own the memorial or the burial rights; and</p> <p>(2) the CWGC should have the right to maintain such graves.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We provisionally propose that the CWGC should be able to maintain any memorial over a Commonwealth war grave in a</p>	<p><i>Supported</i></p>	Green

	<p>private burial ground without the consent of its owner, if a notice has been served on the owner of the memorial right and they have not responded within three months.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>		
39	<p>We provisionally propose that the CWGC should be informed every time a burial ground operator seeks to extinguish burial rights or reuse a grave, and it should have the power to object to these actions in relation to Commonwealth war graves. Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We provisionally propose that the CWGC should be informed every time a burial ground operator seeks to make a further burial above a grave where the person buried died between 4 August 1914 and 31 August 1921, or between 3 September 1939 and 31 December 1947. The CWGC should have the power to object to the reclamation of Commonwealth war graves. Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>Supported, as we already do this for CWGC Graves in Flintshire</i></p>	<p><i>Green</i></p>
40	<p>We provisionally propose that the CWGC should have the right in respect of compulsorily purchased land to remove remains in Commonwealth war graves and to reinter or cremate them, and to remove any memorials. Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>No comments</i></p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>
41	<p>We invite consultees' views on whether the Ministry of Justice should be required to consult with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in relation to exhumations of deceased people who died during the periods between 4 August 1914 and 31 August 1921, or between 3 September 1939 and 31 December 1947.</p>	<p><i>Supported</i></p>	<p><i>Green</i></p>
42	<p>We provisionally propose the following: (1) private burial ground operators should be required to inform the CWGC when they seek to maintain, remove or</p>	<p><i>Supported</i></p>	<p><i>Green</i></p>

	<p>destroy a tombstone, memorial or other fittings of a grave where the burial was made within the periods between 4 August 1914 and 31 August 1921, or 3 September 1939 and 31 December 1947; and</p> <p>(2) where that grave is a Commonwealth war grave, the CWGC should be granted the right to give or refuse consent to these actions.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>		
43	<p>We invite consultees' views as to whether any new legal requirements at crematoria or burial grounds could help to address the problem of mistaken cremations or burials, and if so, what those requirements could be.</p>	<p><i>The name plate on the coffin should always be checked against the burial certificate or interment notification issued to the attending sexton. Any discrepancies are reported back to the Bereavement Services Office. No further requirements identified.</i></p>	Green
44	<p>We invite evidence from consultees as to whether, in relation to direct cremation, there are cases where the applicant for cremation will not know which crematorium will be used at the time of application. If there are, we invite consultees' views on whether the cremation forms should be amended to accommodate this practice.</p>	<p><i>No comments, as Flintshire County Council does not operate a crematorium</i></p>	N/A
45	<p>We invite consultees' views on the position in the current law that the rules which govern who can apply for cremation, and collect the ashes, are different from the rules which govern who has the legal right to make decisions about dead bodies. We invite consultees to tell us of their experience of the current law and of any problems that they have encountered as a result.</p> <p>We invite consultees' views as to whether the current law strikes the right balance between certainty as to who can apply and receive the ashes, and flexibility in ensuring that a timely funeral happens.</p>	<p><i>No comments, as Flintshire County Council does not operate a crematorium</i></p>	N/A
46	<p>We invite consultees' views on which relationships between two deceased people should mean</p>	<p><i>No comments, as Flintshire County Council does not operate a crematorium</i></p>	N/A

	the law permits their bodies to be cremated together, provided both applicants for cremation give their written consent		
47	We provisionally propose that it should be a requirement that ashes from a cremation should be removed from the cremator before another cremation occurs. Do consultees agree?	<i>No comments, as Flintshire County Council does not operate a crematorium</i>	N/A
48	We provisionally propose that: (1) neither cremation nor any other irreversible funerary method should be permitted in relation to unidentified bodies or body parts; and (2) before any unidentified bodies or body parts are buried, a DNA sample should be taken for storage on the national central database held by the UK Missing Persons Unit. Do consultees agree?	<i>It's not clear what form this duty would take and who would be responsible for obtaining DNA samples?</i>	Amber
49	We provisionally propose that the Department for Health and Social Care should issue new guidance transferring ownership of any pacemakers in relation to which the HN(83)6 consent forms were signed from the NHS to funeral directors. We provisionally propose that, where any funeral director holds a pacemaker which was removed prior to the new guidance being issued, and where they hold a record linking the pacemaker to a specific deceased person: (1) they must post a notice stating that they hold pacemakers removed from bodies of deceased people prior to cremation, and the date range within which they were removed, and that they intend to dispose of them if they are not claimed. The notice should be placed on their website and visibly at their offices; (2) in order to claim a pacemaker a person should have to provide the funeral director with evidence that they are the deceased person's relative, using the	<i>No comments, as Flintshire County Council does not operate a crematorium</i>	N/A

	<p>definition used in LACO 1977, or that they were their cohabitant until they died; and three months after the notice is posted, if the pacemakers are not claimed, the funeral director may dispose of them as they see fit.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p> <p>We provisionally propose that, in circumstances where funeral directors hold a pacemaker but do not hold a record linking it with a specific deceased person, they should be able to dispose of the pacemakers as they see fit without issuing a notice.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>		
50	<p>We invite consultees' views on whether the rule that a crematorium cannot be constructed within 200 yards of a dwelling house without the agreement of the owner, occupier and lessee, or within 50 yards of a public highway, should be repealed, or retained. If the rule is retained, we invite consultees' views on whether the distance should be measured from the buildings equipped for cremation, and any other buildings or structures ancillary to the process, or from another location.</p> <p>If the rule is retained, we provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should have to certify a crematorium before it can be used. It should be a requirement for certification to be granted that the plans for the crematorium must have been approved before construction as not breaching the rule.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>This matter will require further consideration by the Council's planning department to ascertain views on any planning implications.</i></p>	Amber
51	<p>We provisionally propose removing the restriction on constructing a crematorium on the consecrated part of a local authority burial ground.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>	<p><i>This matter will require further consideration by the Council's planning department to ascertain views on any planning implications.</i></p>	Amber
52	<p>We provisionally propose that, where a funeral director has held ashes for at least four weeks and wishes to return them to the cremation authority:</p>	<p><i>No comments, as Flintshire County Council does not operate a crematorium</i></p>	N/A

	<p>(1) the funeral director must take reasonable steps to contact the applicant for cremation to determine whether they want to collect the ashes, or want the funeral director to return the ashes to the crematorium;</p> <p>(2) if no response is received within four weeks, the funeral director should have the right to return the ashes to the crematorium where the cremation took place;</p> <p>(3) the cremation authority should have a statutory duty to accept the return of the ashes to them by the funeral director; and</p> <p>(4) where ashes have been returned to the crematorium, the existing process for dealing with uncollected ashes should apply.</p> <p>Do consultees agree?</p>		
53	<p>Are consultees aware of legal mechanisms that have been used to try to prevent ash scattering, and if so, do consultees know whether these measures have been effective?</p>	<p><i>This matter will require further consideration by the Council's planning department to ascertain views on any planning implications.</i></p>	Amber
54	<p>We invite consultees' views on which of the following two options they prefer. Either:</p> <p>(1) option 1: authorisation should be required to remove ash remains from a place of burial when:</p> <p>(a) the ashes are likely to be identifiable. This mean that they are separable from the earth, and that their identity within a plot of land can be ascertained; and</p> <p>(b) those who interred the ashes intended that they should remain identifiable; or</p> <p>(2) option 2: authorisation should be required to remove ash remains from a place of burial when:</p> <p>(a) ashes are interred in a container; or</p> <p>(b) ashes are interred in land where an exclusive burial right exists.</p> <p>We invite consultees' views on whether there should be any more circumstances in which authorisation is required to</p>	<p><i>The legal process for the exhumation of cremated remains is currently followed. However, the use of biodegradable boxes will, in future, make exhumations of cremated remains more difficult as they will not be able to be separated from the earth. We would therefore support option 2</i></p>	Green

	exhume ashes under the second test.		
55	<p>We invite consultees' views on:</p> <p>(1) whether there are circumstances or places in England and Wales where it is difficult for people to find a burial space in locations of their choice;</p> <p>(2) whether our provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper would help to address the availability of burial space;</p> <p>(3) what impact our provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper might have on reducing distress to family and friends of deceased people; and</p> <p>(4) whether more comprehensive or frequent collection of data on burial grounds would be of practical value.</p>	<p><i>This is not an issue that has presented itself within Flintshire to date, and we believe that it is unlikely to occur within the next 15 to 20 years provided current cemetery extensions are completed successfully.</i></p> <p><i>Grave reuse would improve availability of burial space in existing locations and potentially remove capital expenditure pressures to extend or create new cemeteries.</i></p> <p><i>Grave reuse, being a new concept has potential to increase distress to family and friends; however, given it would be a considerable time period that has to pass before reuse could happen under the proposals, we recognise that it is unlikely that direct family members would still be alive / tending to the grave or in the locality. However, graves have the ability to be protected via the extension of the exclusive rights.</i></p> <p><i>Burial data is currently supplied on a regular basis to APSE for our work on Performance Networks. It would be useful if all burial ground operators had to submit a basic form of data for comparison and monitoring purposes.</i></p>	Amber
56	<p>We invite evidence from consultees on:</p> <p>(1) their general perception of the affordability of burial and cremation;</p> <p>(2) the contribution that burial costs and burial plot fees make to the costs that families and friends bear when organising a funeral; and</p> <p>(3) the impact that our proposed reforms might have on reducing or increasing these costs.</p>	<p><i>The gradual increase in numbers of Public Health Funeral requests would indicate that burial costs are becoming more unaffordable. Our local authority budget for public health burials is based on 6 burials per annum and the budget has not increased in a number of years.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the cost-of-living crisis, we have seen the number of public health burials increase to around 20 public health burials per annum year on year, as people cannot afford to pay the costs for funerals. This is likely to continue to increase in the coming years and will put significant pressure on an already constrained budget. It is widely known that third party fees i.e. burial and plot costs are on average around 33% of the total cost of a funeral.</i></p>	Red

		<p><i>Expectations for cemetery maintenance have also increased in the face of decreasing budgets, which of concern.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed reforms will have significant implications for local authorities in terms of additional costs and resources, particularly if churchyards will be able to transfer responsibility for maintaining closed churchyards to local authorities. This represents a significant additional cost and financial risk to Welsh councils. Funding should be provided in perpetuity for this reform.</i></p>	
57	<p>We invite evidence from consultees on:</p> <p>(1) the costs and benefits private burial grounds are likely to see as a result of our provisional proposals;</p> <p>(2) the costs and benefits funeral directors are likely to see as a result of our provisional proposals; and</p> <p>(3) any benefits or costs that are likely to arise if the rules on the siting of crematoria were repealed</p>	No comments	N/A
58	<p>We invite evidence from consultees on:</p> <p>(1) the scale of any benefits that are likely to accrue to local authorities if they obtain grave reuse and reclamation powers;</p> <p>(2) the likely additional cost of maintaining Church of England churchyards if they are reopened, and the level of fees that would be required in order to mitigate that cost;</p> <p>(3) the cost to Welsh local authorities if maintenance responsibility for Church in Wales churchyards could be transferred under the law; and</p> <p>(4) any impact on local authorities that might arise from repealing the rule on the siting of crematoria.</p>	<p><i>The proposed reforms will have significant implications for local authorities in terms of additional costs and resources, particularly if churchyards will be able to transfer responsibility for maintaining closed churchyards to local authorities. This represent a significant additional cost and financial risk to Welsh councils. Additional grave space would be made available through re use. This would increase the operational life of cemeteries, increase revenue generation and reduce potential capital costs for extensions etc. Additional maintenance costs could be significant. Additional budget would need to be made available potentially based on a standard maintenance cost per hectare. Funding should be provided in perpetuity.</i></p>	Red
59	<p>We invite consultees' views on the potential impact of our provisional proposals on costs</p>	<p><i>Costs to Government should increase through the provision of additional annual budget which</i></p>	Red

	to Government, and other operators and owners of burial grounds and crematoria.	<i>should be ring fenced for the purpose of meeting the additional challenges and costs to Local Authorities through the implementation of the proposals.</i>	
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~~~End of Consultation Questions~~

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## CABINET

|                        |                                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone  |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Leader of the Council                   |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Chief Executive                         |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Operational                             |

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council are working with the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), Welsh Government and UK Government on an advanced manufacturing Investment Zone - the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone (the Investment Zone). The aim is to create over 6,000 new jobs across the manufacturing sector and attract approximately £1bn of investment, as evidenced by an open call process. The match funding is driven by the investment of private sector delivery partners across the three tax sites and some of the major investment projects delivered by private sector partners.

The Investment Zone will provide £160m of Flexible Funding and a programme of occupier and developer focused tax benefits to accelerate the development of the Investment Zone Tax Sites.

The three tax sites are:

- **Deeside Gateway** - development sites across four ownerships delivering a range of commercial premises
- **Warren Hall** - the strategic location owned by Welsh Government
- **Wrexham Industrial Estate** - the key large development sites at Wrexham Industrial Estate

In addition to the Flexible Funding and Tax Site benefits, Flintshire and Wrexham Councils can retain a proportion of the new business rates generated by the Deeside Gateway and Wrexham Industrial Estate Tax Sites. These collected business rates can be invested by the Councils to further the objectives of the Investment Zone and can fund revenue and capital projects. The retained rates are protected for 25 years and may be used to fund capital projects by borrowing against future collected rates income. The arrangements for how these Retained

Rates Funds will be set up by the Councils will be determined in the early part of 2025.

The Investment Zone proposal is progressing through the five Government 'Gateways'. Gateway 1, the Vision, has been approved by UK and Welsh Governments. Gateway 2, the Sector and Geography, has been prepared in draft form and will be submitted formally in early November following the confirmation in the October 2024 Budget that the Investment Zone programme will continue UK wide. The Gateway documents will be prepared in sequence with the aim of having all approvals in place to commence in April 2025.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | That Members review and approve the identified Tax Sites (Deeside Gateway, Warren Hall and Wrexham Industrial Estate) and Retained Rates Areas (Deeside Gateway and Wrexham Industrial Estate). |
| 2 | That Members review and approve the proposed Governance Model.                                                                                                                                  |
| 3 | That Members review and approve the Investment Zone Themes (Innovation, Skills, and Transport) and the high-level interventions, which will be refined as part of Gateway 4.                    |

## REPORT DETAILS

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>1.00</b> | <b>EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|             | <b><u>Introduction</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1.01        | Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council are working with Ambition North Wales, Welsh Government and UK Government on an advanced manufacturing Investment Zone. The aim is to create over 6,000 new jobs across the manufacturing sector and attract an estimated £1bn of investment.                                                                 |
| 1.02        | The Investment Zone, if agreed by Government, will attract £160m of investment for 10 years from April 2025 for investment in projects that create jobs and attract private sector investment to grow the manufacturing cluster across Flintshire and Wrexham.                                                                                                             |
| 1.03        | In addition to the eight Investment Zones in England and two in Scotland, there are two proposed Investment Zones in Wales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cardiff and Newport</b> - delivered by the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee</li> <li>• <b>Flintshire and Wrexham</b> - delivered by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee</li> </ul> |

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|      | <p>Alongside the £160m grant, three tax sites can be designated to allow a series of tax reliefs to support site development, attract investment and accelerate business and job growth. These benefits are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5 year relief from business rates</b> for new business growth;</li> <li>• <b>Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT)</b>. A full SDLT relief for land and buildings bought for commercial use or development for commercial purposes.</li> <li>• <b>Employer National Insurance Contributions Relief</b> Zero-rate employer national insurance contributions on salaries of any new employee working in the tax site for at least 60% of their time, on earnings up to £25,000 per year (for 36 months per employee).</li> <li>• <b>Enhanced Capital Allowance</b> 100% first year allowance for companies' qualifying expenditure on plant and machinery assets for use in tax sites.</li> <li>• <b>Enhanced Structures and Buildings Allowance</b> Accelerated relief to allow businesses to reduce their taxable profits by 10% of the cost of qualifying non-residential investment per year, relieving 100% of their cost of structures and buildings over 10 years.</li> </ul> |
| 1.04 | <p>Investment Zones allow for two areas where half the new business rate growth can be retained by the Councils to invest in the delivery and management of the Investment Zone and to fund projects either from the balance accumulated or by borrowing against future business rates income. This arrangement is protected for 25 years.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|      | <p><b><u>The Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Gateway Process</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1.05 | <p>The Gateway process was discussed at Cabinet on 23 July 2024 and approval given for the development and submission of the Gateway documents to Government. The process for developing Investment Zones is collaborative in nature and relies on the sharing of documentation for review across local stakeholders, Welsh Government and UK Government Ministry of Health, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG). The intention is to share draft Gateway documents as they are prepared for feedback and agreement. Gateway 1 has been agreed by Welsh and UK Governments and Gateway 2 has been drafted and will be submitted in early November 2024. Progress on the remaining Gateways will continue over November - January 2025 to allow the programme to commence in April 2025.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1.06 | <p><b>Gateway 1: Vision</b> – has been agreed by Government and sets out the area's vision and ambition to grow the manufacturing sector and increase the productivity, innovation, investment, and number of quality manufacturing jobs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1.07 | <p><b>Gateway 2: Sector and Geography</b> - sets out the economic context; an understanding of the manufacturing sector such that we can demonstrate our understanding of the key interventions Government investment could make to help accelerate investment, innovation, skills development, and jobs growth. This Gateway also requires the Investment Zone to confirm the locations of any Tax Sites and Retained Rates Investment Areas that represent the greatest opportunity to support growth of manufacturing premises. Finally,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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|      | <p>Gateway 2 also considers planning and research. Wrexham University is the Investment Zone’s Knowledge Partner with Bangor University and AMRC involved as a key innovation partners.</p> <p>To support our appraisal of the project interventions and tax sites available across Wrexham and Flintshire an open 'Call for Projects and Sites' was launched and run between 15-26 July 2024. Proposals were submitted by means of a standard proforma with over 45 project ideas and 21 proposed Tax Sites and Retained Rates Investment Areas received.</p> <p><b>Project proposals</b> - the 45 project ideas totalled approximately £250m of investment required from the proposed Investment Zone funding and represented c.£1bn of private match funding. Ongoing discussions with local partners indicate further opportunities not yet presented which will come forward over the forthcoming weeks and months. This will further strengthen the case for an Investment Zone focused on growth of a globally significant advanced manufacturing sector. Data received through the open call for projects indicates that the Investment Zone could create approximately 6,000 new jobs and therefore increase manufacturing employment by an estimated 20% over the ten years Investment Zone term.</p> <p><b>Tax Sites and Retained Rates Investment Areas</b> - a total of 21 sites were promoted and seven were shortlisted (four in Flintshire and three in Wrexham). The shortlisted sites all conform with local planning policy. Meetings were held with development proposers on the 4th and 5th of September to help determine the locations to be proposed as Tax Sites. The two sites with the largest opportunity for retained business rates will be designated for business rates retention. Flintshire and Wrexham Councils will be able to re-invest fifty percent of income from business rate growth received from these designation areas for the ten-year term of the Investment Zone. This income can be directed at supporting economic growth across the Investment Zone and to support borrowing for investment in key projects.</p> |
| 1.08 | <p><b>Gateway 3: Governance</b> – sets out the governance, assurance, and financial aspects of the Investment Zone. These are to be managed by the CJC via the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee. A new Investment Zone partnership board will be established in 'Shadow' form to support the establishment of the programme and will become operational once the Investment Zone Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed with Government. The private sector partners that supported the development of Gateway 1 are being kept informed of progress.</p> <p>Gateway 3 will set out the mechanism for which projects are determined as eligible within the Investment Zone programme. The approach will establish a joint Council basis for the further development of projects to be supported or evaluated by the CJC Assurance Process prior to final decision by the CJC or as delegated to the Investment Zone Board.</p> <p>The diagram below sets out the current Governance model.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1.09 | <p><b>Gateway 4: Interventions</b> – will provide details regarding the financial allocations to the interventions (projects) and the expected outputs of the Investment Zone programme.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1.10 | <p><b>Gateway 5: Delivery Plan</b> - will summarise the delivery arrangements for the Investment Zone.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|      | <p><b><u>Key Components of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone</u></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1.11 | <p>As well as direct investments in manufacturing and infrastructure, the Investment Zone will cluster investment across three core themes. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Skills - a jointly curated programme of skills support, led by the Regional Skills Partnership and delivered by higher education, further education and independent skills providers to address a general under qualification in the workforce relative to other areas and to allow local people to access the new jobs created across the role and skills profile (from low skilled to high skilled roles).</li> <li>2. Innovation - in partnership with the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) and Welsh Government Innovation Leads, the Investment Zone will jointly develop a programme of innovation revenue and capital investment in 'innovation infrastructure' as well as deliver investments in innovation by businesses.</li> <li>3. Transport - in partnership with Transport for Wales, a transformation programme of transport projects will be delivered to enhance access to the key sites and support bus services, active travel, and strategic transport improvements.</li> </ol> |
| 1.12 | <p>The Investment Zone can have three Tax Sites up to 200 hectares each. The proposed Tax Sites are illustrated in Table 1 below. The UK Government guidance suggests the cost of Tax Site benefits to be £75,000 per hectare. Based on this assumption, the cost of the benefits, funded from the £160m allocation is an estimated £10.7m. The actual allocation will need to be</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                          | agreed with HM Treasury and Welsh Government and could increase given the scale and density of development proposed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                      |          |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
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| 1.13                                     | The three proposed Tax Sites cover 148 hectares, include 5,190,000 sq.ft. of development floorspace and have the potential to support over 6,400 new jobs. Further jobs, approximately 1,000, could be created by projects identified in the call for projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      |          |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| 1.14                                     | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4"><b>Table 1 Proposed Tax Site Summary</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Tax Site Name</th> <th>Plot Name</th> <th>Landowners</th> <th>Hectares</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Deeside Gateway</td> <td>B, D and 3 Stealth</td> <td>Marshalls CDP</td> <td>19.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airfields</td> <td>Pochin Goodman</td> <td>31.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Link 56</td> <td>Smartstage Limited / Great Bear Distribution Limited</td> <td>18.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warren Hall</td> <td>Eastern Parcels</td> <td>Welsh Government</td> <td>12 (TBC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flintshire Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>81.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wrexham Industrial Estate</td> <td>Utopia Phase 1</td> <td>Networld Sports</td> <td>35.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Wrexham 1M</td> <td>First Investments</td> <td>25.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Wrexham 152</td> <td>First Investments</td> <td>2.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Bridgeway Centre</td> <td>First Investments</td> <td>3.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wrexham Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>67.61</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>148.98</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | <b>Table 1 Proposed Tax Site Summary</b>             |          |  |  | Tax Site Name | Plot Name | Landowners | Hectares | Deeside Gateway | B, D and 3 Stealth | Marshalls CDP | 19.16 | Airfields | Pochin Goodman | 31.56 | Link 56 | Smartstage Limited / Great Bear Distribution Limited | 18.65 | Warren Hall | Eastern Parcels | Welsh Government | 12 (TBC) | Flintshire Total |  |  | 81.37 |  |  |  |  | Wrexham Industrial Estate | Utopia Phase 1 | Networld Sports | 35.96 |  | Wrexham 1M | First Investments | 25.29 |  | Wrexham 152 | First Investments | 2.99 |  | Bridgeway Centre | First Investments | 3.37 | Wrexham Total |  |  | 67.61 | Overall Total |  |  | 148.98 |
| <b>Table 1 Proposed Tax Site Summary</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      |          |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| Tax Site Name                            | Plot Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Landowners                                           | Hectares |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| Deeside Gateway                          | B, D and 3 Stealth                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Marshalls CDP                                        | 19.16    |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
|                                          | Airfields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Pochin Goodman                                       | 31.56    |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
|                                          | Link 56                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Smartstage Limited / Great Bear Distribution Limited | 18.65    |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| Warren Hall                              | Eastern Parcels                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Welsh Government                                     | 12 (TBC) |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| Flintshire Total                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      | 81.37    |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      |          |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| Wrexham Industrial Estate                | Utopia Phase 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Networld Sports                                      | 35.96    |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
|                                          | Wrexham 1M                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | First Investments                                    | 25.29    |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
|                                          | Wrexham 152                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | First Investments                                    | 2.99     |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
|                                          | Bridgeway Centre                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | First Investments                                    | 3.37     |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| Wrexham Total                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      | 67.61    |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| Overall Total                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                      | 148.98   |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| 1.15                                     | The Tax Site Maps are included in this report at Appendix 1. The Retained Rates areas are as per the Tax Site Map for Flintshire (Deeside Cluster) and the Wrexham Tax Site. The Warren Hall Tax site is not part of the Retained Rates area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                      |          |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
|                                          | <u>Retained Rates</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                      |          |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |
| 1.16                                     | The Investment Zone can have two areas designated for Retained Rates Investment. To optimise the value of retained rates, the largest two Tax Sites have been proposed as Retained Rates Retention Areas. Except for the 'Wrexham 1M' and 'Wrexham 152' development sites which are assumed to be fully developed, the model below is based on 50% of the development floorspace generating rates in the first 10 years (and therefore being retained for 15 years) and a contingency of 20%, the total rates fund is expected to be approximately £93.64m. The breakdown is illustrated in Table 2 below. The illustrated Fund amount would need to factor in its own operating costs and interest costs in establishing a funding resource. Funding allocations from the Fund will be determined by the host authority on a case-by-case basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                      |          |  |  |               |           |            |          |                 |                    |               |       |           |                |       |         |                                                      |       |             |                 |                  |          |                  |  |  |       |  |  |  |  |                           |                |                 |       |  |            |                   |       |  |             |                   |      |  |                  |                   |      |               |  |  |       |               |  |  |        |



|                                                 | The total floorspace set out in the masterplans for the identified sites is 2,465,000 sqft in Flintshire and 2,502,762 sqft in Wrexham. The Rateable Value is assumed to be £5/sqft.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                 |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|--|--|--|-------------|-------------|
| 1.17                                            | <p>Further work will be undertaken to provide a more granular assessment of this aspect of the programme. Figures intended to be illustrative of scale at this point.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6"><b>Table 2 Estimated Retained Rates Summary</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Retained Rates Location</th> <th>Estimated floorspace delivered in first 10 years (sqft)</th> <th>Collected Rates Per Annum</th> <th>Total Collected over 15 years</th> <th>Estimated Retained Rates Fund with 20% contingency</th> <th>Share for Investment by local Council</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Flintshire</td> <td>1,232,500</td> <td>£3,142,875</td> <td>£47,143,125</td> <td>£37,714,500</td> <td>£18,857,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wrexham</td> <td>1,827,762</td> <td>£4,660,793</td> <td>£69,911,897</td> <td>£55,929,517</td> <td>£27,964,759</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£93,644,017</td> <td>£46,822,009</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | <b>Table 2 Estimated Retained Rates Summary</b> |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  | Retained Rates Location | Estimated floorspace delivered in first 10 years (sqft) | Collected Rates Per Annum | Total Collected over 15 years | Estimated Retained Rates Fund with 20% contingency | Share for Investment by local Council | Flintshire | 1,232,500 | £3,142,875 | £47,143,125 | £37,714,500 | £18,857,250 | Wrexham | 1,827,762 | £4,660,793 | £69,911,897 | £55,929,517 | £27,964,759 | Total |  |  |  | £93,644,017 | £46,822,009 |
| <b>Table 2 Estimated Retained Rates Summary</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                 |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| Retained Rates Location                         | Estimated floorspace delivered in first 10 years (sqft)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Collected Rates Per Annum                       | Total Collected over 15 years | Estimated Retained Rates Fund with 20% contingency | Share for Investment by local Council |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| Flintshire                                      | 1,232,500                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | £3,142,875                                      | £47,143,125                   | £37,714,500                                        | £18,857,250                           |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| Wrexham                                         | 1,827,762                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | £4,660,793                                      | £69,911,897                   | £55,929,517                                        | £27,964,759                           |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| Total                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                 |                               | £93,644,017                                        | £46,822,009                           |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| 1.18                                            | The above resources can fund Council functions associated with the Investment Zone as well as 'in year' projects and major projects funded by borrowing against future retained rates secured by confirmed Rateable Value from new development. Projects supported by this fund are expected to directly align to the objectives of the Investment Zone. Projects that accelerate the delivery of new business rates in the Tax Sites are likely to be a priority. The 'Call for Projects' process identified suitable infrastructure projects in Flintshire and Wrexham that would help unlock development plots and secure significant development within the first 10 years of the Investment Zone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                 |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| 1.19                                            | The Council will need to develop an accounting mechanism for these Retained Rates and develop criteria and governance for the deployment of the funds. This will be brought forward in a future report to Cabinet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                 |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
|                                                 | <b><u>Investment Allocations</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                 |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| 1.20                                            | <p>Gateway 4 requires the Investment Zone to establish the allocation of the £160m flexible funding to interventions.</p> <p>The top level Interventions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills</li> <li>• Local Infrastructure</li> <li>• Research and Innovation</li> <li>• Business / Stakeholder Support</li> <li>• Planning</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                 |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |
| 1.21                                            | Table 3 below sets out an indicative allocation. These are to be refined following collaborative workshops on skills, innovation and transport as well as further discussions with partners on the available co-investment opportunities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                 |                               |                                                    |                                       |  |  |                         |                                                         |                           |                               |                                                    |                                       |            |           |            |             |             |             |         |           |            |             |             |             |       |  |  |  |             |             |

| <b>Table 3 Indicative Top Level Intervention Allocations</b> |                     |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Budget Area                                                  | Allocation          | Proportion (% rounded) |
| Programme Delivery                                           | £6,400,000          | 4%                     |
| Feasibility and Business Case Support                        | £2,500,000          | 2%                     |
| Skills                                                       | £21,100,000         | 13%                    |
| Local Infrastructure (includes innovation and transport)     | £87,150,000         | 54%                    |
| Research and Innovation                                      | £10,000,000         | 6%                     |
| Business / Stakeholder Support                               | £10,000,000         | 6%                     |
| Planning                                                     | £1,000,000          | 1%                     |
| Occupier Benefits                                            | £10,200,000         | 6%                     |
| Currently Unallocated                                        | £11,650,000         | 7%                     |
| <b>Total</b>                                                 | <b>£160,000,000</b> | <b>100%</b>            |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2.01        | <p>The Investment Zone is jointly delivered by the North Wales CJC, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. Each partner is accountable for different aspects of the programme:</p> <p><b>Flintshire Council / Wrexham Council</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Core member of Investment Zone Delivery Team</li> <li>2. Employment of local Delivery Team</li> <li>3. Regeneration, business support, skills, planning, finance, legal, human resources, communications team resources</li> <li>4. Support for an Investment Zone Combined Planning Unit</li> <li>5. Management of Tax Site Benefits</li> <li>6. Delivery of Gateway Policy process (see Glossary for definition)</li> <li>7. Management and delivery of Retained Rates Fund</li> </ol> <p><b>North Wales CJC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employment of core team</li> <li>2. Secretarial support to the Investment Zone Board</li> <li>3. Management of Gateway Policy (see Glossary for definition)</li> <li>4. Accountable Body for the £160m Grant Funding and Reporting - ANW will apply its Assurance Process on agreed 'in principle' projects.</li> </ol> |
|             | <b><u>Revenue funding</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2.02        | <p>The Investment Zone funding allows for £640,000 per annum for revenue costs. The funding is available for 10 years. The proposed split of this funding between the core partners is set out in the Table 4 below.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

2.03

| Table 4 Indicative Resource Allocation |                     |                          |                    |                              |                        |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Partner                                | Programme Per Annum | Programme Total Resource | Planning Per Annum | Planning Unit Resource Total | Total Revenue Resource |
| Flintshire                             | £220,000            | £2,200,000               | £75,000            | £375,000                     | £2,575,000             |
| Wrexham                                | £220,000            | £2,200,000               | £75,000            | £375,000                     | £2,575,000             |
| CJC                                    | £200,000            | £2,000,000               |                    |                              | £2,000,000             |
| NRW / Planning Unit Support            |                     |                          | £50,000            | £250,000                     | £250,000               |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>£640,000</b>     | <b>£6,400,000</b>        | <b>£200,000</b>    | <b>£1,000,000</b>            | <b>£7,400,000</b>      |

2.04

The £220,000 annual allocation is intended to support the roles employed by each local Council, bespoke for their current capability and requirements.

2.05

The first claim will include costs incurred in 2024/25 and relate to officer time and a share of the consultancy costs incurred by AMION Consulting. Consultancy costs are expected to be £100,000 inclusive of VAT to end of March 2025. Welsh Government, Flintshire and Wrexham Councils have each pledged £25,000 towards the costs of the Investment Zone proposal at risk which will be recovered by the Year 1 revenue claim. The breakdown of this will be provided at the next stage.

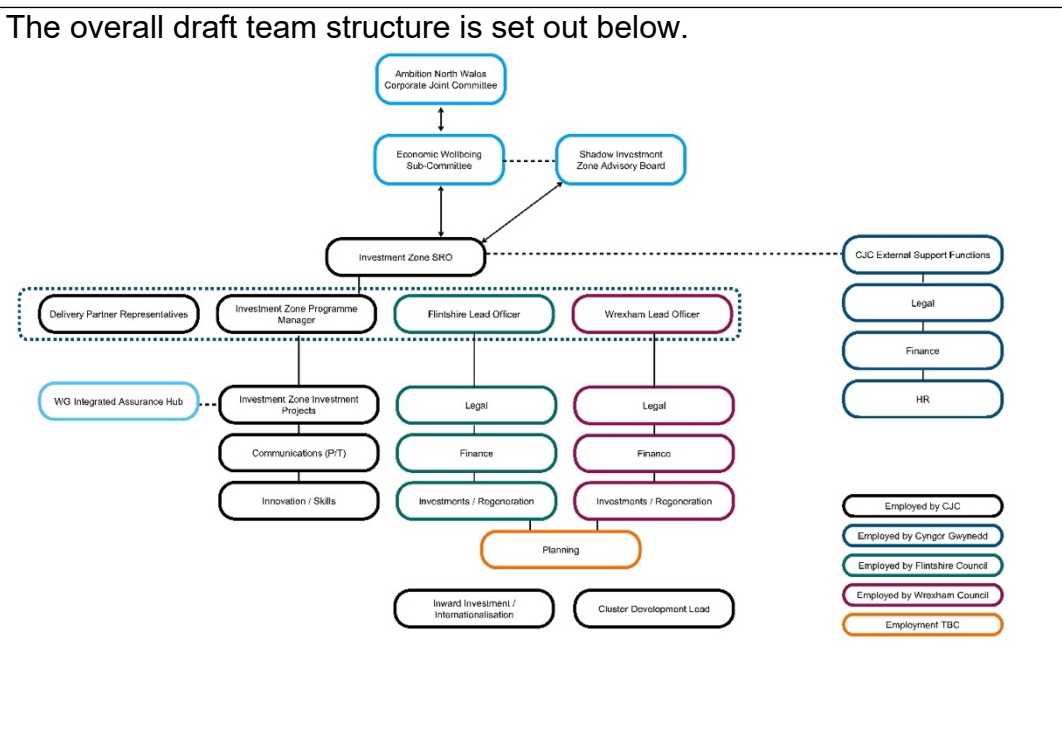
2.06

Further revenue funding will be available to the Councils from collected business rates. The resources required to manage the fund will be deducted or 'top sliced' from the income generated by retained rates and also contribute to revenue shortfalls from the flexible funding set out above.

2.07

The Councils will also each receive £75,000 per annum for 5 years to secure senior planning resource as part of the proposal for an Investment Zone Planning Unit.

2.08



|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | <b><u>Capital funding</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2.09 | The Councils will be responsible for the investment of capital funds generated by the Investment Zone Retained Rates Fund. The intention is to develop this further and bring a report to Cabinet once developed on the arrangements and plans for this aspect of the Investment Zone. |
| 2.10 | The Councils may access funding from the Investment Zone Flexible Fund, administered by the North Wales CJC, for projects it delivers as part of the delivery programme. Decisions regarding future projects will be considered in future reports to Cabinet.                          |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3.00</b> | <b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3.01        | <p>This report is operational in nature and does not include an Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The Investment Zone will prepare a comprehensive risk register to address programme level risks and set out an approach to risk management, governed by the Investment Zone Board.</p> <p>Risks to the Councils will be identified and consulted upon as part of the next stage of work.</p> |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 4.01        | <p><b>Collaborative Approach</b></p> <p>The Investment Zone is collaborative in nature and the preparation of the Gateway responses includes key stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regeneration, planning, business support, finance and legal specialists from the Council</li> <li>• Wrexham University</li> <li>• Bangor University</li> <li>• Coleg Cambria</li> <li>• AMRC Cymru</li> <li>• Transport for Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Government, including regional, development and innovation</li> <li>• North Wales CJC, including cluster specialists</li> <li>• Regional Skills Partnership</li> <li>• Many local businesses including large businesses and SMEs</li> </ul> <p><b>Call for Sites</b></p> <p>As set out above, the Investment Zone promoted a 'Call for Sites' to help identify the key development sites across Flintshire and Wrexham.</p> <p><b>Call for Projects</b></p> <p>As set out above, the Investment Zone promoted a 'Call for Projects' to help identify the key investment projects across Flintshire and Wrexham.</p> |

|             |                                                              |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5.00</b> | <b>APPENDICES</b>                                            |
| 5.01        | Appendix 1 - Flintshire and Wrexham Tax Site Maps (proposed) |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6.01        | <p><b>Summary of Investment Zones</b><br/> <a href="https://www.great.gov.uk/international/content/investment/why-invest-in-the-uk/uk-investment-zones/">https://www.great.gov.uk/international/content/investment/why-invest-in-the-uk/uk-investment-zones/</a></p> <p><b>Investment Zone Information Pack</b><br/> <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/660ff5739f92ac001a516d5a/Investment_Zone_Pack.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/660ff5739f92ac001a516d5a/Investment_Zone_Pack.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Investment Zone Technical Document</b><br/> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investment-zones-technical-document/investment-zones-technical-document">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investment-zones-technical-document/investment-zones-technical-document</a></p> |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7.00</b> | <b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 7.01        | <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Niall Waller<br/> <b>Telephone:</b> English 07342 093133 / Cymraeg 01267 224923<br/> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk">niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:niall.waller@siryfflint.gov.uk">niall.waller@siryfflint.gov.uk</a></p> |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 8.01        | <p><b>Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee</b> – a sub-committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee with authority to act in relation to the Investment Zone.</p> <p><b>Flexible Fund</b> - the £160m grant funding available over 10 years to support investment in the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone.</p> <p><b>Gateway</b> – The Gateways refer to the 5 stages of appraisal by Welsh and UK Government of the Investment Zone proposal. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gateway 1 - Vision (the description of the advanced manufacturing sector)</li> <li>• Gateway 2 - Sector and Geography (setting out the approach and evidencing the location and focus of the investment zone)</li> <li>• Gateway 3 - Governance (the basis for assuring the programme will be governed and managed effectively)</li> <li>• Gateway 4 - Interventions (the allocation of resources and outputs of the programme)</li> <li>• Gateway 5 - Delivery (the Investment Zone delivery arrangements)</li> </ul> |

**Gateway Policy** – the Policy relating to the Tax Sites to retain sector focus and protect the sites from unwanted local relocation to the Tax Sites simply to take advantage of the occupier tax benefits.

**Investment Zone Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** – the Agreement between Welsh Government, UK Government and the CJC to establish the Investment Zone and the basis for the Investment Zone implementation, management and reporting.

**Knowledge Partner** - Investment Zones focus on innovation and skills. To ensure that Investment Zones deliver appropriate resources and strategies relating to innovation and skills they have a named 'Knowledge Partner'. For Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone this is Wrexham University.

**North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)** - the partnership of 6 local authorities in North Wales. The CJC is the Accountable Body for the Investment Zone.

**Retained Rates Fund** – the fund generated by the business rates collected from new businesses on the Retained Rates Sites.

**Retained Rates Sites** - the two designated areas in the Investment Zone for which the new collected business rates can be used to deliver on the objectives of the Investment Zone. Future collected rates are protected for 25 years to allow funds to be created from collected rates or from borrowing against future rates.

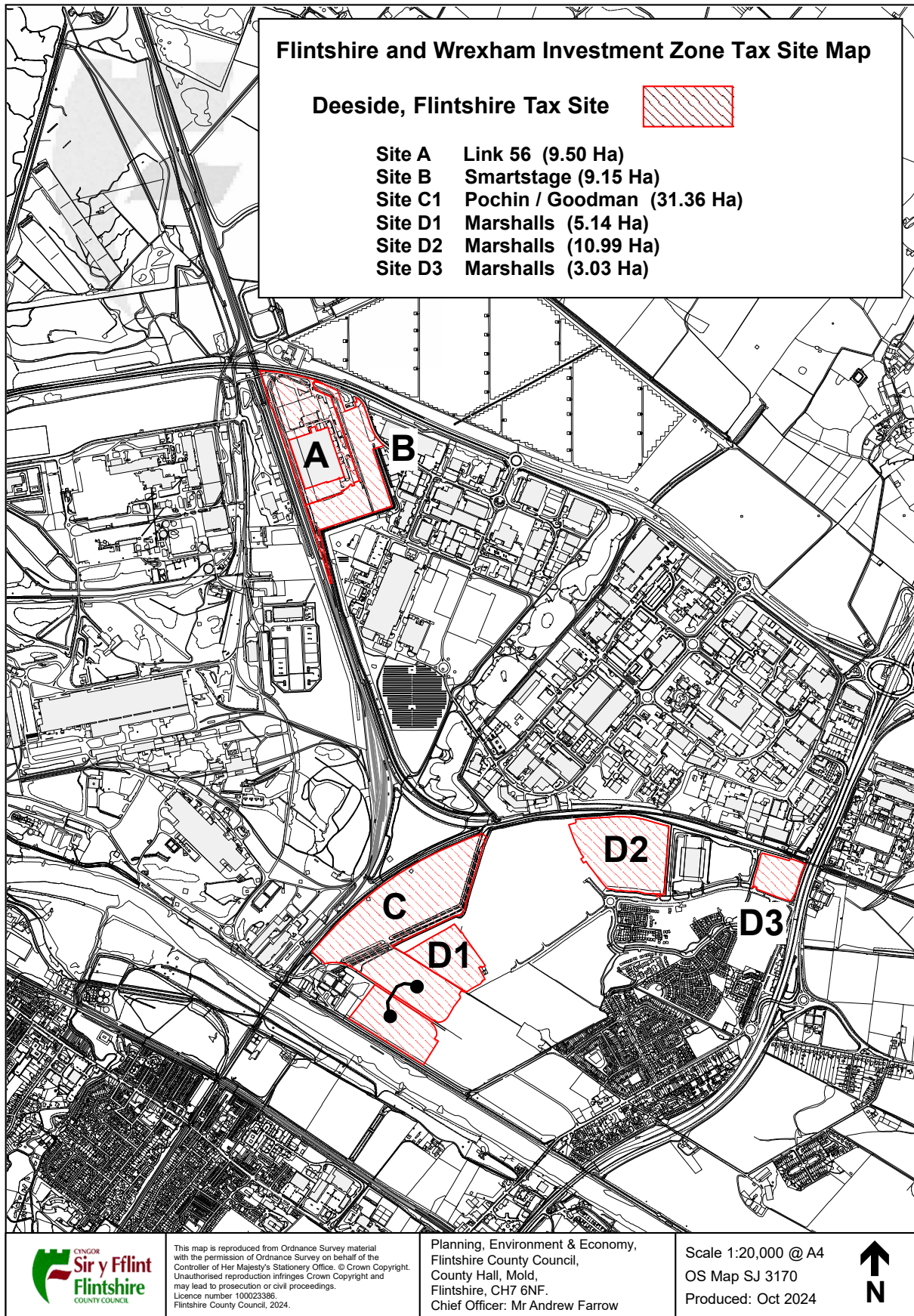
**Tax Site** - the three designated locations in the Investment Zone where qualifying businesses (those that meet the Gateway Policy) can benefit from a number of Tax Reliefs, these are:

- **Business Rate Relief** - 5 Years relief from business rates.
- **Land Transaction Tax** - A full relief for land and buildings bought for commercial use or development for commercial purposes.
- **Employer National Insurance Contributions Relief** - Zero-rate employer national insurance contributions on salaries of any new employee working in the tax site for at least 60% of their time, on earnings up to £25,000 per year (for 36 months per employee).
- **Enhanced Capital Allowance** - 100% first year allowance for companies' qualifying expenditure on plant and machinery assets for use in tax sites.
- **Enhanced Structures and Buildings Allowance** - Accelerated relief to allow businesses to reduce their taxable profits by 10% of the cost of qualifying non-residential investment per year, relieving 100% of their cost of structures and buildings over 10 years.



# Appendix 1 Tax Site Maps

## Flintshire Tax Site



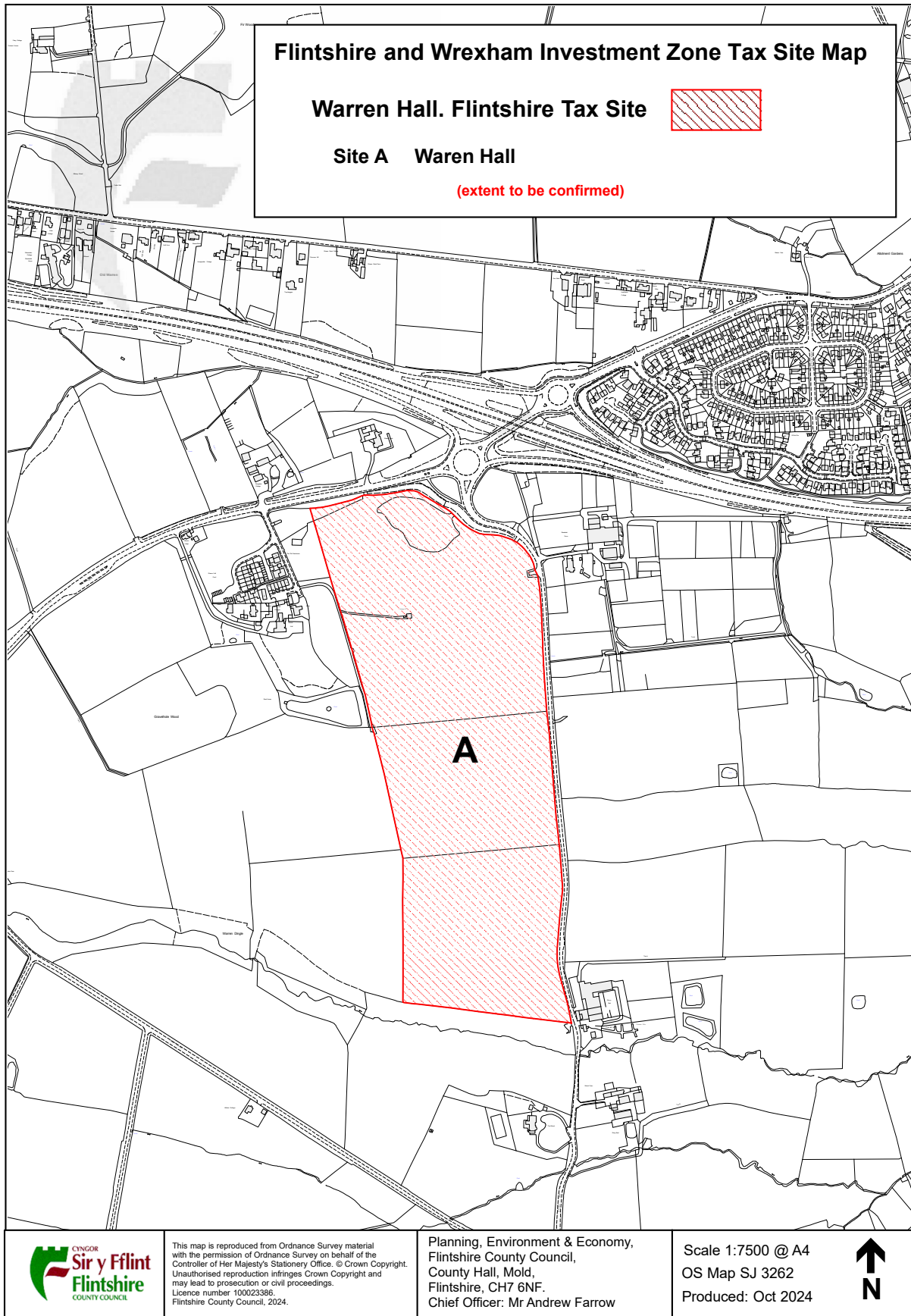
This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number 100023396. Flintshire County Council, 2024.

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

Scale 1:20,000 @ A4  
OS Map SJ 3170  
Produced: Oct 2024

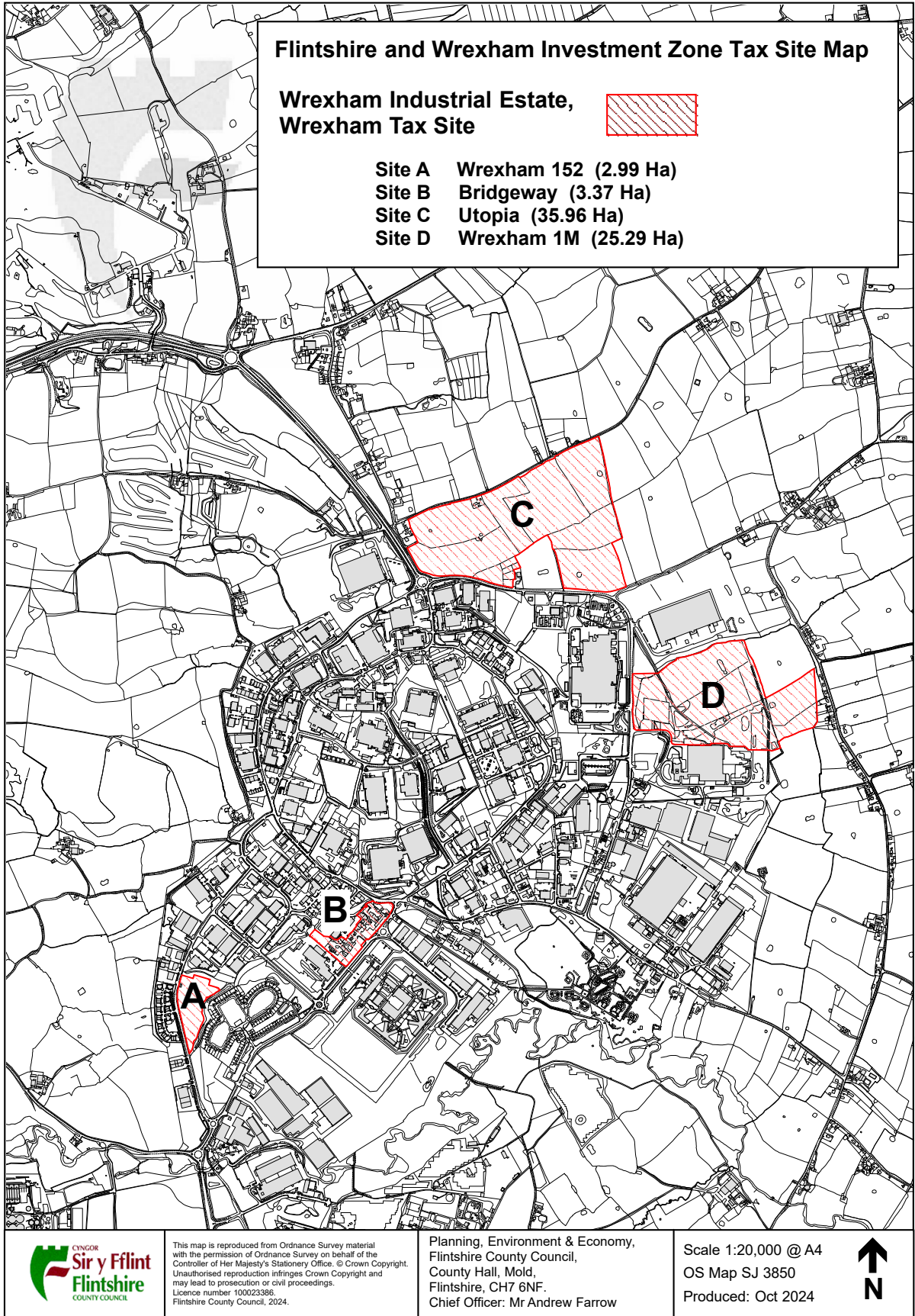


# Warren Hall Tax Site





# Wrexham Tax Site



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## CABINET

|                        |                                                                                                               |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                                                                       |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Social Services Care Inspectorate Wales, Performance Evaluation Inspection November 2023 – Action Plan Update |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Well-being                            |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Chief Officer (Social Services)                                                                               |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Operational                                                                                                   |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In October 2023, CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales) announced that they would be visiting Flintshire to undertake a full, routine PEI (Performance Evaluation Inspection) of both Adult’s and Children’s Services.

The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority’s performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers.

This was to be the first full inspection the portfolio has received for over eight years and an opportunity to showcase the creative and innovative practice undertaken here in Flintshire.

The full report was published on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 and was largely positive in their findings across Social Services (See Appendix 1).

An action plan was produced based on the recommendations made by inspectors (see Appendix 2). This report updates on the progress of implementing the action plan.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

|   |                                                                                           |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | That Cabinet acknowledges and supports the progress made in implementing the action plan. |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## REPORT DETAILS

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.00 | <b>EXPLAINING SOCIAL SERVICES CARE INSPECTORATE WALES, PERFORMANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION NOVEMBER 2023 – ACTION PLAN UPDATE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1.01 | In total, there were seven inspectors involved in the inspection, operating on a hybrid basis with some inspectors visiting Flintshire in person and some working remotely. The in-person inspectors were based at Tŷ Dewi Sant but also travelled around to meet staff, partners, service users and their families. The remote inspectors held Microsoft Teams meetings as well as case file reading.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1.02 | The inspection lasted for two weeks, starting on 27 <sup>th</sup> November (file reading began on 20 <sup>th</sup> November) and ended on 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1.03 | <p>The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority’s performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers. The inspectors focussed on four themes aligned under the principles of the Social Service (Wales) Well-being 2014 Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People - voice and control</li><li>• Prevention</li><li>• Well-being</li><li>• Partnerships</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1.04 | <p><u>The scope of the inspection was:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of the experience of adults and children at the point of performance evaluation inspection.</li><li>• Evaluation of the experience and outcomes people achieve through their contact with services.</li><li>• Evidence of the local authority and partners having learnt lessons from their recent experiences and plans for service developments and improvement.</li><li>• Consideration of how the local authority manages opportunity and risk in its planning and delivery of social care at individual, operational and strategic levels.</li></ul> |
| 1.05 | <p>The full report was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and can be found in appendix 1, however, from the report they summarised the findings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <i>“There is a stable and experienced senior management team in place across both services providing continuity of leadership.</i></li><li>b. <i>Partner agencies, providers and stakeholders told us that leaders are visible and there are good relationships at a senior level with open communication.</i></li></ul>                                                                                                                        |

- c. *Practitioners also stated leaders are accessible, approachable, and supportive, and overall, ensure practitioners have the right training and skills. A few practitioners (16%) from children's services who responded to the staff survey noted the leadership and culture within the local authority needed to improve, although (86%) said they were well-supported by managers. Similarly, practitioners (91%) from adult services who responded to the staff survey also stated they were well supported by managers.*
- d. *There are procedures in place to induct new staff members, although at times they would benefit from increased pastoral support. It is acknowledged that a new face-to-face social work collective has been set-up to offer peer support to all social workers across children's and adult services.*
- e. *Practitioners clearly know the people they support very well. In response to a survey by CIW, many people said they felt respected and listened to by practitioners.*
- f. *Recruitment and retention of social care practitioners is a national challenge across Wales. The local authority continues to work hard on strategies to support continued recruitment and retention of staff. Examples include commissioning a communications agency to promote working for the local authority and increasing capacity in the workforce development team.*
- g. *The recent restructure across both services is acknowledged and has potential to provide more resilience, opportunities for greater support and managerial oversight, as well as career progression. A few practitioners across both services felt the consultation about changes in structure had not adequately considered practitioner's views and had impacted their morale as it did not benefit everyone.*
- h. *The local authority is well sighted on market stability in its area and the needs of its population. There are examples of the local authority implementing successful strategic plans in response to identified need and the lack of certain support services in its area. This has been achieved by working in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and other relevant partners to develop innovative services with significant capital investment. Examples include Marleyfield Care Home and Tŷ Nyth Children's Care Home.*
- i. *The local authority has a comprehensive supervision policy. Practitioners benefit from regular supervision although the practice and standard of recording is inconsistent. The best supervision records focus on reflective practice and professional development. In other examples, more reflection on practice, and an improved focus on professional curiosity, outcomes and staff well-being is required.*
- j. *The local authority benefits from good corporate and political support. There is a focus on ensuring statutory duties are met. Senior leaders, managers and politicians recognise significant*

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | <p><i>action and resource is required to ensure the local authority's ability to deliver statutory safeguarding responsibilities. As a result, the local authority commissioned two managed care agency teams in children's services to provide additional capacity. This is impacting positively on the outcomes for children and families."</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1.06 | <p>An action plan was produced based on the recommendations from the Inspection Report which can be found in appendix 2. However, a summary of the main actions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A Practice Directive to practitioners covering inspectors' findings of inconsistency in practice of case recording, including good practice examples to drive improvement.</li> <li>b. Drive recruitment and retention through the Workforce Resilience Project to address local workforce shortages caused by national issues.</li> <li>c. Advocacy training sessions delivered by newly commissioned providers to update practitioners on practice requirements and new processes.</li> <li>d. Review of Adults Safeguarding documentation templates to ensure that outcomes are clear and evidenced effectively.</li> <li>e. Introduction of a new casenote type on Paris to ensure the effective management of enquiries and the recording of actions are clear.</li> <li>f. Review of Children's Safeguarding documentation to ensure that that evidence is clearly set out to show completion within set timescales.</li> <li>g. Programme of core group training to support Children's Safeguarding and ensure consistency in processes.</li> <li>h. The already planned introduction and implementation of the "Effective Child Protection Model" will contribute significantly to support across Children's Services.</li> <li>i. Implementation of the NSPCC Child Neglect Tool will support to identify and appropriately manage risks.</li> <li>j. Commissioning "Leaderful Action" to deliver compassionate leadership workshops with Management Team.</li> <li>k. Continue and build upon the work to develop relationships with our partner's, ensuring communication is strengthened.</li> <li>l. Work in partnership with Housing Portfolio to develop strategies to improve housing options for care leavers.</li> </ul> |
| 1.07 | <p>The action plan document contains commentary and evidence gathered of completion of the identified actions to date. There has been good progress made towards achieving the objectives with many having been completed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>There are a small number of remaining actions with target completion dates for March 2025. These are currently on track for completion. After March 2025, the only longer-term objective remaining will be the procurement of a new client information system. Work on this was initiated prior to the inspection, is ongoing and, subject to national funding, and is due to be implemented in 2027/28.</p> |
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| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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| 2.01 | <p><b>Revenue:</b> Overall, there are currently no additional implications for the approved revenue budget for this service for either the current financial year or for future financial years. However, the procurement of a new IT system will have revenue implications and this is being developed through a national business case.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> There are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p><b>Human Resources:</b> Actions with proposed implications to human resources were limited to process changes. Actions have not required additional resources or result in additional workload for current workforce. Again, the longer-term implementation of an IT system has a separate work package.</p> |
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| <b>3.00</b> | <b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b> |
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| 3.01 | <p>Impact assessment is not required for this report. Impact Assessments have been undertaken individually (where required) for each action point.</p> |
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| <b>4.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b> |
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| 4.01 | <p>Consultation with service users, staff and partners was carried out as part of the inspection as detailed above.</p> |
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| <b>5.00</b> | <b>APPENDICES</b> |
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| 5.01 | <p>Final Report.</p>                                                                                  |
| 5.02 | <p>Action Plan with commentary and evidence (embedded documents within are available on request).</p> |

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b> |
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| 6.01 | <p>Previous Cabinet Report from June 2024.</p> |
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| <b>7.00</b> | <b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 7.01        | <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Naomi Harper, Planning and Development Officer.<br/> <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702544<br/> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:naomi.harper@flintshire.gov.uk">naomi.harper@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> |

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 8.01        | <p><b>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW):</b> is a public body that inspects, regulates and improves the quality and safety of services in Wales.</p> <p><b>Performance Evaluation Inspection (PEI):</b> is a routine inspection to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers.</p> <p><b>Social Services (Wales) Well-being 2014 Act:</b> This Act sets out the legal duties and powers of local authorities in Wales to provide care and support for adults, children and carers. It also covers the assessment, charging, financial assessment, looked after children and looked after children's accommodation.</p> |



# Performance Evaluation Report Flintshire County Council





## **Introduction**

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) undertook a performance evaluation inspection of children's and adult services in Flintshire County Council (FCC/the local authority) in November and December 2023. This in accordance with CIW's Framework for Performance Evaluation of Local Authority Social Services and Cafcass Cymru.

The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers.

We consider the quality standards in the Code of Practice in relation to the performance and improvement of social services in Wales and key lines of enquiry. We seek to answer the following questions aligned to the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (The Act):

### **People - voice and control**

- How well is the local authority ensuring all people are equal partners who have voice, choice and control over their lives and can achieve what matters to them?
- Is effective leadership evident at all levels with a highly skilled, well-qualified and supported workforce working towards a shared vision?

### **Prevention**

- How well is the local authority ensuring the need for care and support is minimised, and the escalation of need is prevented, whilst ensuring that the best possible outcomes for people are achieved?
- How well is the local authority promoting resilience within communities and people are supported to fulfil their potential by actively encouraging and supporting people who need care and support, including carers, to learn, develop and participate in society?

### **Well-being**

- How well is the local authority ensuring that people are protected and safeguarded from abuse, neglect and any other types of harm?
- How well are people supported to actively manage their well-being and make their own informed decisions so that they are able to achieve their full potential and live independently for as long as possible?

## Partnership

- How well is the local authority able to assure itself that effective partnerships are in place to commission and deliver fully integrated, high quality, sustainable outcomes for people?
- Are people encouraged to be involved in the design and delivery of their care and support as equal partners?

### 1. **Summary - Adult and Children's Services**

- 1.1. There is a stable and experienced senior management team in place across both services providing continuity of leadership.
- 1.2. Partner agencies, providers and stakeholders told us that leaders are visible and there are good relationships at a senior level with open communication.
- 1.3. Practitioners also stated leaders are accessible, approachable, and supportive, and overall, ensure practitioners have the right training and skills. A few practitioners (16%) from children's services who responded to the staff survey noted the leadership and culture within the local authority needed to improve, although (86%) said they were well-supported by managers. Similarly, practitioners (91%) from adult services who responded to the staff survey also stated they were well supported by managers.
- 1.4. There are procedures in place to induct new staff members, although at times they would benefit from increased pastoral support. It is acknowledged that a new face-to-face social work collective has been set-up to offer peer support to all social workers across children's and adult services.
- 1.5. Practitioners clearly know the people they support very well. In response to a survey by CIW, many people said they felt respected and listened to by practitioners.
- 1.6. Recruitment and retention of social care practitioners is a national challenge across Wales. The local authority continues to work hard on strategies to support continued recruitment and retention of staff. Examples include commissioning a communications agency to promote working for the local authority and increasing capacity in the workforce development team.
- 1.7. The recent restructure across both services is acknowledged and has potential to provide more resilience, opportunities for greater support and

managerial oversight, as well as career progression. A few practitioners across both services felt the consultation about changes in structure had not adequately considered practitioner's views and had impacted their morale as it did not benefit everyone.

- 1.8. The local authority is well sighted on market stability in its area and the needs of its population. There are examples of the local authority implementing successful strategic plans in response to identified need and the lack of certain support services in its area. This has been achieved by working in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and other relevant partners to develop innovative services with significant capital investment. Examples include Marleyfield Care Home and Tŷ Nyth Children's Care Home.
- 1.9. The local authority has a comprehensive supervision policy. Practitioners benefit from regular supervision although the practice and standard of recording is inconsistent. The best supervision records focus on reflective practice and professional development. In other examples, more reflection on practice, and an improved focus on professional curiosity, outcomes and staff well-being is required.
- 1.10. The local authority benefits from good corporate and political support. There is a focus on ensuring statutory duties are met. Senior leaders, managers and politicians recognise significant action and resource is required to ensure the local authority's ability to deliver statutory safeguarding responsibilities. As a result, the local authority commissioned two managed care agency teams in children's services to provide additional capacity. This is impacting positively on the outcomes for children and families.

### **Key findings and evidence**

We present our key findings and evidence below in line with the four principles of the 2014 Act.

## **2. People – Voice & Control**

### **Strengths - Adult Services**

- 2.1 There are examples of person-centred and comprehensive social care assessments which evidence practitioners have taken time to get to know people. Practice in this area, however, needs to be more consistent because there were also examples of less comprehensive and person-centred assessments.

- 2.2 There are good examples of assessments being written in the first person, evidencing well what matters to people. **This is positive practice.**
- 2.3 Unpaid carers' assessments are appropriately offered. Carers of adults told us they significantly benefitted from carers' assessments and provision of support. There is a wide range of innovative practical support to promote carer well-being including counselling, grants, short-term direct payment provision, and short-term break arrangements.
- 2.4 The well-established direct payment service is valued by people and professionals. It is utilised creatively to support people's well-being outcomes. There is a skilled team who support people to have more control over their care and support arrangements through the flexibility of a direct payment to meet their personal outcomes and promote independence. The local authority's user-friendly direct payment portal provides helpful resources for people. This includes a list of personal assistants and relevant details about them. This assists people to choose who they wish to support them and promotes self-control and autonomy and is reflective of **positive practice**. One carer told us of the significant positive impact direct payments had made on both her and her daughter's life, enabling her daughter to live at home with support and care workers they trust.
- 2.5 People's Welsh language needs are considered and recorded.
- 2.6 The majority of staff (85%) who responded to CIW's staff survey from adult services said they had a manageable workload, and they were well supported by managers (91%). Good morale and peer support within teams was also highlighted.

### **Areas for improvement**

- 2.7 Care and support plans could be further developed by setting clearer SMART outcomes and consistently taking a proactive strengths-based approach. Also, whilst people's voices are clear in some assessments, this approach should be further developed in care and support plans. **Reference should be made to what matters to the individual and personal outcomes should be recorded more consistently in the first person.**
- 2.8 People are sometimes supported through a duty system whilst on a waiting list for allocation to a specific worker. This can be challenging for people as there is insufficient oversight of their circumstances, lack of continuity of support, and people have to re-tell their story. **The local authority should continue with its current efforts to ensure a consistent sufficient,**

**qualified, and competent workforce to lessen the need for people to be supported by different practitioners who are unknown to them.**

- 2.9 There are examples of direct payment reviews being held. However, there was one example which had not received a review. **The local authority must review the arrangements for the making of direct payments and how they are being used in line with Code of Practice 4 (Meeting Needs) to assess whether personal outcomes continue to be met.**
- 2.10 **When practitioners attempt communication with individuals, the local authority should ensure a more consistent evidence base that reflects the communication methods that have been considered and attempted.**
- 2.11 There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that advocacy is consistently considered and offered when it would have been appropriate. **This is an area that must be strengthened to demonstrate routine consideration of advocacy particularly in adult safeguarding.**

### **3. People – Voice & Control**

#### **Strengths – Children’s Services**

- 3.1 Overall children and young people’s voice and choice is heard and well reflected in records. Section 47 enquiry records include direct quotes from children, focusing on what is important for them and what worries they have. A few core group minutes contained a voice of the child section which is **positive practice** although such practice would benefit from being more consistent.
- 3.2 Children and young people have opportunities to make their voices heard. We found **positive practice** with children having an opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions with a conference buddy prior to a conference held in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (WSP).
- 3.3 Children and young people are overall well-supported by Personal Advisers (PAs). They benefit most from regular communication, with PAs taking a proactive approach in contacting young people and seek to obtain answers to concerns or issues young people may have. A care leaver told us “Mine [PA] is helpful and would find the answers if she didn’t know. Previously I had a bad experience but now she is the first person I go to if I have a problem.”
- 3.4 Care experienced children and young people also benefit from access to a peer support group. Children and young people told us they value this

opportunity to socialise with others who have had similar experiences. They told us; “I like meeting people who have experience of care,” “I’ve been coming to this group for eight years. It gets me out of the house.” This group has enabled some young people to advocate on behalf of care experienced children in formal meetings with the local authority, ensuring their voices are heard.

- 3.5 The local authority has also procured with a neighbouring local authority the ‘Mind of My Own’ app. It is an app that can be downloaded to a digital device with simple pictures and child-friendly words. It is designed for children and young people to share experiences and views on topics relevant to them. This will further enhance a digital offer for children and young people to make their views known in real time.
- 3.6 Children are provided with sufficient time and opportunities to share their views through direct child-centred work. In the pathway planning records for one young person, the social worker explicitly discussed and amended the plan following consultation with the young person, evidencing the young person had been heard.
- 3.7 There are good examples of documentation which clearly captured the voice of a child, and positive examples of records written directly to the child, providing clarity and focus as to why the WSP have been instigated which is **positive practice**. This practice could be more consistent.
- 3.8 Staff spoken with routinely acknowledged the support of managers. This is important in conversations about risk and safety of children as it promotes organisational accountability with practitioners feeling supported in decision-making.
- 3.9 Staff welcome the learning and development opportunities available to them, including support to attend training in certain areas when this was identified as a specific learning need for them.
- 3.10 There are systems in place to review the standard and quality of practice which include file audits. However, some practitioners were unaware of these systems. Therefore, whilst there is evidence of learning across the workforce, this could be improved with wider dissemination of relevant information.
- 3.11 Overall, there are good management mechanisms in place to support frontline practice. Supervision, management oversight records, and authorisations demonstrate there is line manager oversight in key practice areas. We were told by practitioners they value their managers.



- 3.12 The majority of staff who responded to CIW's staff survey from children's services said they had a manageable workload and (78%) also said they were well-supported by managers (86%). We also heard from practitioners who had progressed through different roles within the local authority and how well-supported they had felt. A few respondents (16%) expressed concerns about leadership and culture. They wanted their feedback and concerns to be taken into greater account, to feel more valued and respected, and they wanted the management and support of staff to be more consistent. CIW has received swift responses from the local authority in relation to how the issues raised are/will be addressed, including commissioning of leadership training, and convening of collaborative conversations to further promote and embed a positive culture across the service.
- 3.13 People's Welsh language needs are considered and recorded. We saw an example of the Active Offer being implemented in practice and a parent being able to converse verbally in the Welsh language in line with their wishes. **However, when Welsh is noted as a preferred language, this should also be the language in which documentation is written.** Unless it is the person's preference to have documentation in the English language and a record is made to that effect.

#### **Areas for improvement**

- 3.14 Disabled children and young people have to wait long periods of time for short overnight breaks in a residential provision. The local authority aims to provide alternate support in the meantime through direct payments for example. However, **the local authority must so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure it is able to provide looked after and other accommodated children with accommodation that is within the local authority's area and that meets the children's needs. This in line with Code of Practice 6 (Looked After and Accommodated Children).**
- 3.15 As a result of the fragility in the social care workforce, children and young people experience changes in social workers. Children are supported through a duty system rather than an allocated worker at times. Changes in social workers makes it challenging for children to develop trusting relationships. We heard from one young person how they are aware their social worker will soon change. Parents also have to repeat their stories and views to social workers. As a result of changes in practitioners, support can be delayed, with oversight of children and young people's situation also impacted. **The local authority must continue with its current efforts to ensure a consistent, sufficient, qualified, and competent workforce to meet its statutory duties, and should consider an exit strategy for ending the reliance on the commissioned managed agency team.**

#### 4. Well-being

##### **Strengths – Adult Services**

- 4.1 There are examples of practitioners appropriately establishing whether a person is an adult at risk, as defined in the WSP, prior to implementing the procedures. From the social care records we reviewed, we found strategy meetings are generally well attended, and Section 126(1) (s.126) enquiries are largely undertaken and completed within statutory timescales.
- 4.2 The local authority offers safeguarding training to providers as well as in-house practitioners which is **positive practice**. This promotes consistency of practice and ensures that the roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding are widely understood.
- 4.3 There is a strategic commitment to develop community services. The investment in local hubs and other capital investment supports this agenda. For example, Hwb Cyfle is a purpose-built service for disabled people offering different activities in community-based environments to promote people's well-being. The provision would benefit from increased opportunities to support people to maximise their independence in relation to daily living skills.
- 4.4 There are good examples of the development of innovative teams/posts such as the progression and well-being team. These teams are designed to support people and to prevent escalation of needs.
- 4.5 We saw examples of people being discharged from hospital with support in a timely manner. In 2022, the council reviewed and then made changes to how older people are supported in their discharge planning from hospital through the formation of a Discharge to Assess and Recover Team (DART). The DART service has clear roles and responsibilities supported by effective governance.

##### **Areas for improvement**

- 4.6 In relation to adult safeguarding, we saw variation in social care records. Greater clarity is required in relation to the views of the adult at risk, decision making, determinations, and whether subsequent actions have addressed the original concern. The outcomes of the enquiries must be shared with the reporter. **The local authority must ensure that adult safeguarding practice consistently meets with the requirements of the WSP.**

- 4.7 There are examples of people's social care assessments and safeguarding reports indicating they lack mental capacity to make decisions about their care. The quality and decision making of these records is variable. **The local authority must ensure practice consistently aligns with the requirements and principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the relevant Code of Practice.**
- 4.8 In common with many other local authorities across Wales, people's rights are impacted by the waiting lists for Deprivation of Liberty (DoLS) assessments. **The local authority must ensure that arrangements for the provision for DoLS assessments are fit for purpose and responsive.**
- 4.9 The current recording system does not support practitioners to capture people's strengths and outcomes in a meaningful way. **The local authority should take this into consideration, with the imminent procurement of an updated recording system.**

## 5. Well-being

### **Strengths – Children's Services**

- 5.1 Children and families' needs in Flintshire are complex and demand is increasing, as is the picture across Wales. Two agency teams have been commissioned to assist the core staff team to meet demand and the local authority's statutory duties. There is corporate and political support for this, evidencing continued support to prioritise services for vulnerable children, young people and their families. It is noted that there is corporate support to maintain the agency team until the time is appropriate to end their contract.
- 5.2 Overall, safeguarding responses, such as convening initial strategy discussions, are timely.
- 5.3 There is evidence of exceptional strengths-based practice utilised by individual practitioners. This is **positive practice. For this approach to become embedded, the local authority should consider a model of practice that highlights what needs to change in families, with greater focus on how family and wider community networks can be facilitated to keep children safe.** A model would promote a shared understanding across agencies of safeguarding practice and management of risk. It would also provide practitioners with consistent tools and templates in relation to recording and maintaining focus on risk. It is acknowledged that the local authority is on a journey to fully implement a model of practice. This has already commenced with an initial focus on neglect, with the local authority having purchased a neglect-graded profile tool through the National Society

for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to support practice. This is a **positive** response by the local authority to a high number of children affected by neglect on the child protection register (CPR).

- 5.4 In the specific early phase of a Section 47 enquiry, the standard of practice is good and there is evidence of appropriate managerial oversight to inform and support practice.
- 5.5 We saw an example of **positive practice** where a health professional chaired a core group meeting, evidencing in line with the WSP, that chairing and minuting of these meetings is a joint responsibility between children's services and relevant partners.<sup>1</sup>

### **Areas for improvement**

- 5.6 There is indication the threshold for significant harm is not always applied consistently when considering removing children from the CPR. We heard this may be as a result of a misplaced conception that maintaining a child's name on the CPR is a means of ensuring continued support services for a child and their family. **The local authority should consider sharing guidance more widely with relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure consistent and shared understanding of thresholds and information sharing protocols.**
- 5.7 Risks are appropriately considered, with timely progression to the right service for children and families. There are, however, delays for some families subject to child protection procedures as enquiries are not always completed promptly. It is not always clear what the determination is post completion of a Section 47 enquiry. **Managers must ensure that, following the timely conclusion of a child protection enquiry, next steps are explicitly recorded with clarity and rationale in relation to the determinations under Section 3 Part 1 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.**
- 5.8 As Section 47 enquiries are not always completed in the required timescales, this impacts on timely decision making as to whether a child's name should be included on the CPR. **The local authority should ensure that when it has been determined that a child is experiencing or is at risk of experiencing harm, abuse or neglect, a child protection conference is convened within 15 working days of the strategy discussion/meeting, or the last strategy discussion/meeting (if more than one has occurred), which initiated the Section 47 enquiry.**

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<sup>1</sup> [Full report - Rapid Review of Child Protection Arrangements FINAL FOR PUBLICATION \(careinspectorate.wales\)](#)

- 5.9 Some care and support protection plans viewed are service led, with a focus on compliance instead of outcomes. Care and support protection plans are not routinely updated after core group meetings. It is acknowledged that recent training commissioned by the local authority has focused on clarifying roles and responsibilities for social workers. **An outline care and support protection plan devised at first conference should be developed into a more detailed plan at the first core group meeting as is highlighted in the WSP. Subsequent core groups should specifically review progress of outcomes for the child's safety. Leaders should ensure practitioners have clear systems and standards for developing plans which are child-centred and outcome-focused.**
- 5.10 We saw examples of disclosures by police about an individual's criminal background, with a potential risk for a child, having been appropriately considered to promote children's safety. However, sharing of the information was not always completed in a timely manner with pressures of work cited in one example as the reason for the delay. **When the local authority is aware of such information, and it has been agreed they can share information with relevant individuals to promote a child's safety, this must be done in a timely manner.**

## 6. Prevention

### Strengths – Adult Services

- 6.1 Capacity has been created to enable applications for grant funding to be made. This is coordinated through a designated officer, and evidences good corporate support for promoting the preventative agenda.
- 6.2 There are good examples of the local authority working hard to reshape and redesign its service in lines with its vision of people receiving reablement and community-based rehabilitation support. For instance, the expansion of Marleyfield Care Home which enables people to recover following a hospital stay and return to live independently. The local authority invested from its own capital programme supported by Welsh Government grants. The development and implementation of the operational model has been co-produced with BCUHB. This supports the local authority's plan to increase its own residential care capacity, whilst also supporting BCUHB with additional Step-Up Step-Down bed capacity.
- 6.3 Further demonstration of FCC's commitment to support people to return home and to live independently is its plan to expand step-down provision through the development of Croes Atti Newydd, building on their learning from Marleyfield Care Home. Croes Atti Newydd is being developed as part of the

local authority's own capital development supported by Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund and will offer other services in addition to a step-down facility.

- 6.4 The local authority is proactive in promoting different types of services to support people to reach their outcomes, and to enable people to live in their own homes for longer. An example of this **positive practice** is the local authority's promotion and support for micro carers. Similar to the direct payment portal, the local authority has an easy to navigate micro carer portal. This enables people to be able to find and manage their own support. The micro carers are on a specific framework, evidencing their suitability to support people and enabling the local authority to directly commission a service from them.
- 6.5 As is common across Wales, people in some areas of the county are having to wait for domiciliary care packages to support them with their care and support needs. This means people may be inadequately supported during this time, and this may place additional responsibilities on unpaid carers. The Council's Plan for 2023-2028 highlights innovative ideas to try and expand options to provide support. Examples include continuing to grow their in-house homecare service, utilising a rolling scheme of recruitment and promoting and supporting the expansion of micro carers. There is also the availability of pooled cars, and **positive practice** of the local authority commissioning paid drivers to transport care workers who are non-drivers as means of ensuring people are supported.
- 6.6 Single Point of Access (SPoA) in Flintshire provides a swift and responsive service seven days a week which is **positive practice**. We observed the high number of calls coming in and practitioners respectfully answering the calls. This has been corroborated by a person who spoke with us "*They were swift and I'm always confident I can speak to people in SPOA.*" They were equally complimentary of other parts of adult services, evidencing adult services as a whole is focused on preventing escalation of need.

### **Areas for improvement**

- 6.7 Waiting lists for social care assessments and reviews are high and can impact negatively on people. Oversight of waiting lists for social care assessments is inconsistent across teams. Whilst we received verbal reassurance about oversight of waiting lists in teams, there was limited records to evidence this. **The local authority must ensure that waiting lists are appropriately and consistently monitored and key information is recorded to evidence appropriate prioritisation of cases.**

- 6.8 Care and support plans are not always reviewed in a timely manner. **The local authority must keep care and support plans under review to understand whether the provision of care and support is meeting the identified needs of the individual, and to consider if their needs have changed and if a re-assessment is required.**

## 7. Prevention

### Strengths – Children’s Services

- 7.1 The local authority is focused on ensuring the need for care and support is minimised and escalation of need is prevented. There is a well-established Early Help Hub, which includes a range of partners and third sector agencies. The focus is on delivering more timely and appropriate support to families with greater levels of need to those who are supported by universal service solely. In addition, the local authority has created an Information, Advice and Assistance service (IAA) at the beginning of this year. This was a response to the pressure of increase in contacts with the focus on continuing to support families at an early stage.
- 7.2 There is a focus on promoting the well-being of young carers. Children were observed to benefit from the availability of support in a young carers support group. They clearly enjoyed the activities on offer and the company of both practitioners and peers alike.
- 7.3 There is a clear strategic focus on supporting placements in a care home and foster placements, as well as supporting children to remain in the care and/or return to the care of their families through Multi Systemic Therapy (MST). The teams provide support 24 hours a day 7 days a week. One of the teams, North East Wales MST- FIT, supports children who live in Tŷ Nyth as well as children who live at home with their parents. Tŷ Nyth is the first Integrated Treatment Model Home in Wales and is subject of tripartite funding between the local authority, BCUHB and a neighbouring local authority. Children and young people’s outcomes have improved following support from MST.
- 7.4 The local authority has developed a toolkit in response to the Public Law Outline (PLO) refresh implemented in January 2023 by the judiciary across England and Wales. It contains a range of new documentation which will further promote continuity of strengths-based practice. It also provides clarity to parents about what the concerns are about their children, and what changes are required to reduce the concerns. Children who are ten years of age or over will also be allocated a PLO buddy, similar to a conference buddy, to ensure their voice is obtained as part of these pre-court proceedings specifically. This is **positive practice** as it further promotes the voice of

children and their families. Practice can be improved by ensuring that records sufficiently detail when and where a decision was made to commence PLO proceedings, and to reflect that decision making in this respect is timely.

### **Areas for improvement**

- 7.5 Children who are neurodiverse or who are awaiting diagnosis of a potential neurodiverse condition, and their parents, do not always receive prompt and adequate support and communication. Delays in support impact on their well-being. It is acknowledged that the local authority is well-sighted on this and has recently developed their service to include having a dedicated role to respond and support parent/carers sooner, whilst their children are awaiting a neurodiverse assessment/diagnosis. **The local authority should continue to have oversight and monitor the effectiveness of this development and the impact of this for children and families.**

## **8. Partnership**

### **Strengths – Adult Services**

- 8.1 The local authority works well with providers across Flintshire at an operational level to support service delivery and efficiency. Providers told us they have open lines of communication with staff in the local authority and feel comfortable to use them as a ‘sounding board’ for new ideas and projects.
- 8.2 The local authority holds frequent meetings with colleagues in BCUHB to discuss quality of care and provision in care homes in the area. We observed how this forum promotes effective information sharing and informed decision-making in relation to subsequent actions that agencies would take.
- 8.3 The Progress for Providers scheme is highly regarded by practitioners and providers alike. The scheme enables care home and domiciliary support providers to work towards different awards of bronze, silver and gold in relation to how well they deliver personalised support to people. The approach is **positive** as it promotes outcome-based practice rather than traditional task-based support and the range of tools and guidance to support providers is valuable. The local authority regrades providers according to their performance.
- 8.4 The local authority supports young people with a learning disability up to the age of 25 years to obtain work placements with the aim of paid employment. A more recent development is that this will now be offered to individuals over the age of 25 years with a learning disability. This is a positive joint approach between the local authority, HFT (an established charity supporting people



with learning disabilities), housing association Clwyd Alyn, and Coleg Cambria.

### **Areas for improvement**

- 8.5 Most partnerships are working well at an operational level; however, information is not always shared effectively due to different methods and systems for recording information. This means information regarding people's care and support needs is not easily available across partners, to include some practitioners employed by the local authority. **The local authority should consider, whilst they are procuring a new recording system, how they can further promote information sharing.** All relevant practitioners in different teams within FCC such as locality, substance misuse, and community mental health teams should be able to access all records of the person they support. This would support information sharing and promote a greater oversight and understanding of a person's circumstances.
- 8.6 The local authority must strengthen its systems around carers assessments to ensure the rights and voice of all carers are fully promoted. Carers assessments are not adequately recorded or communicated with the local authority. We saw examples where practitioners are not aware of whether a carer's assessment had been undertaken, and if so, the outcome of the assessment. **The local authority must have greater oversight of these assessments to be confident that it fully meets its responsibilities in line with the requirements of Part 3 and Part 4 of the Code of Practice (assessing and meeting the needs of individuals).**

## **9. Partnership**

### **Strengths – Children's Services**

- 9.1 Systems and relationships are mainly in place to facilitate effective partnership working. Both internal to children's services and in working with partners, there is a shared ethos to safeguard and promote the well-being of children.
- 9.2 Overall, at a strategic level, work with partners is based on a shared understanding and cooperation. Partners described leaders as being transparent and open to challenge. There is regular communication across sector leads, although persistent change in managers in partner agencies was cited as a challenge in working consistently. Some third sector partners considered their work with children's services could be improved in relation to inclusivity and their participation in planning of services.

- 9.3 Information sharing between agencies through Section 47 enquiries, initial child protection conferences and core groups is evident. In further meetings such as review conferences, there can be diminishing contribution from partner agencies. Partner agencies expressed they wished to be more involved in initial strategy discussions/meetings. There is work already underway to establish a MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) within the local authority which will further promote involvement and multi-agency working.
- 9.4 Placement sufficiency is a challenge across Wales and the local authority has in the past placed children in services which are operating without registration. However, the local authority has utilised significant capital investment to meet its duty of providing sufficient accommodation within its own area to children looked after. An example of this **positive practice** is the recent investment in in house residential care including the recent build of Y Dderwen and the development of 2 small group homes. Children benefit from living close to their family, friends, and community.
- 9.5 Care leavers benefit from continued support once they leave care. This in the form of the 'When I am Ready' scheme, whereby young people remain with foster carers whilst they transition into adulthood. Young people told us how they valued this provision. However, they said they feel hurt that the documentation refers to them as tenants rather than family members of the foster carers they choose to continue to live with. They very much regard themselves as part of the foster carers' family and vice versa. **The local authority should consider how they can influence a change in terminology.**

#### **Areas for improvement**

- 9.6 **Children's services must communicate information about duty to report outcomes in a timely manner to the person who made the initial report.** There are inconsistencies in current practice in relation to this.
- 9.7 **Children's services must ensure that appropriate agencies are invited to strategy discussions/meetings in line with the WSP, to include but not limited to, a practitioner making the report and practitioners from education and community-based health services if relevant.**
- 9.8 The views and experiences of parent/carers of disabled children indicated that the availability of support to them could be strengthened and more flexible. They told us the support offered was not always suitable for their and their child's needs. **The local authority must ensure the parent/carer is involved as a full partner in assessing to what extent they are able to**

**meet their personal outcomes, or with the support of others who are willing to provide that support; or with the assistance of services in the community to which they have access.**

- 9.9 We saw examples of children who were leaving care having to present as homeless to receive housing support. Practitioners also shared that accommodation for young people is an ongoing challenge and an area for improvement. There are clear longer-term options to support young people in general with housing support, in line with the well-being objectives in the Council Plan for 2023-2028. An example is a strategic plan, informed by a multi-agency approach, to create a young person's homeless hub which will offer accommodation as well as support services. **However, the local authority must continue to prioritise its programme of ensuring appropriate housing options for young care leavers and relevant 16–17-year-olds.** This in both the longer and shorter term, and where possible, avoiding the need for care leavers to present as homeless.

## 10. Next Steps

We expect Flintshire County Council to take appropriate action to improve the areas identified for improvement. We will monitor progress through our ongoing performance review activity with the local authority. We welcome the local authority sharing the positive practice identified with other local authorities, to share learning and help drive continuous improvement in statutory services throughout Wales.

## 11. Methodology

### Fieldwork

- Most inspection evidence was gathered by reviewing the experiences of 45 people through review and tracking of their social care record. We reviewed 34 social care records and tracked 10.
- Tracking a person's social care record includes having conversations with the person in receipt of social care services, their family or carers, key worker, the key worker's manager, and where appropriate other professionals involved
- We engaged, through interviews and/or focus groups, with 40 people receiving services and/or their carer.
- We engaged, through interviews and/or focus groups with 133 local authority employees and elected members (this included but was not limited to social workers, team managers, operational managers, senior managers and director of social services).
- We interviewed a range of partner organisations.

- We reviewed a sample of staff supervision records.
- We observed a resource panel and an interagency meeting in adult services.
- We reviewed supporting documentation sent to CIW for the purpose of the inspection.
- We administered surveys to local authority social services staff, partner organisations and people.

Our Privacy Notice can be found at <https://careinspectorate.wales/how-we-use-your-information>.

## 12. Welsh Language

CIW is committed to providing an active offer of the Welsh language during our activity with local authorities.

The active offer was not required on this occasion. This is because the local authority informed us that people taking part did not wish to contribute to this performance evaluation inspection in Welsh.

## 13. Acknowledgements

CIW would like to thank staff, partners and people who gave their time and contributed to this inspection.

## 14. Glossary

**Must** -Improvement is deemed necessary in order for the local authority to meet a duty outlined in legislation, regulation or code of practice. The local authority is not currently meeting its statutory duty/duties and must take action.

**Should** - Improvement will enhance service provision and/or outcomes for people and/or their carer. It does not constitute a failure to meet a legal duty at this time; but without suitable action, there is a risk the local authority may fail to meet its legal duty/duties in future.

**Positive practice** - Identified areas of strength within the local authority. This relates to practice considered innovative and/or which consistently results in positive outcomes for people receiving statutory services.

**Prevention and Early Intervention** - A principle of the Act which aims to ensure that there is access to support to prevent situations from getting worse, and to enhance the maintenance of individual and collective well-being. This principle

centres on increasing preventative services within communities to minimise the escalation of critical need.

**Voice and Control** - A principle of the Act which aims to put the individual and their needs at the centre of their care and support, and giving them a voice in, and control over, the outcomes that can help them achieve well-being and the things that matter most to them.

**Well-being** - A principle of the Act which aims for people to have well-being in every part of their lives. Well-being is more than being healthy. It is about being safe and happy, having choice and getting the right support, being part of a strong community, having friends and relationships that are good for you, and having hobbies, work or learning. It is about supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.



**Co-Production** - A principle of the Act which aims for people to be more involved in the design and provision of their care and support. It means organisations and professionals working with them and their family, friends and carers so their care and support is the best it can be.

**Multi-Agency working** - A principle of the Act which aims to strengthen joint working between care and support organisations to make sure the right types of support and services are available in local communities to meet people's needs. The summation of the Act states that there is a requirement for co-operation and partnership by public authorities.

**SMART** - SMART is a best practice framework for setting goals. A SMART goal should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.





**What matters** - 'What Matters' conversations are a way for professionals to understand people's situation, their current well-being, and what can be done to support them. It is an equal conversation and is important to help ensure the voice of the individual or carer is heard and 'what matters' to them


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| Adult’s Services                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Finding                                                   | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Owner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Timescale                                                                                                                                                                     | Commentary                                       | Evidence                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>People - Voice and Control - Strengths</b>             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2.1                                                       | There are examples of person-centred and comprehensive social care assessments which evidence practitioners have taken time to get to know people. <b>Practice in this area, however, needs to be more consistent because there were also examples of less comprehensive and person-centred assessments.</b>                                                                                                                         | Practice Directive to be created to remind practitioners on the requirements of a comprehensive and person-centred assessment. The Practice Directive will include a refresher on the basics as well as including some good practice examples. | Jan Bellis<br>Chris Phillips<br>Jo Taylor                                                                                                                                     | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Published.                                       | <br>Person-Centred Assessments and SM                                                                                  |
| <b>People - Voice and Control - Areas for improvement</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Page 251                                                  | Care and support plans could be further developed by setting clearer SMART outcomes and consistently taking a proactive strengths-based approach. Also, whilst people’s voices are clear in some assessments, this approach should be further developed in care and support plans. <b>Reference should be made to what matters to the individual and personal outcomes should be recorded more consistently in the first person.</b> | Practice Directive to be created to support practitioners with the creation of outcomes utilising SMART objectives with a strengths-based approach. The Practice Directive will include some good practice examples.                           | Jan Bellis<br>Chris Phillips<br>Jo Taylor                                                                                                                                     | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Published.                                       | <br>Person-Centred Assessments and SM                                                                                  |
|                                                           | 2.8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | People are sometimes supported through a duty system whilst on a waiting list for allocation to a specific worker. This can be challenging for people as there is insufficient oversight                                                       | Progressing through the Workforce Resilience Project workstreams, looking at a) improving our success in recruitment and b) what can be done to retain our current workforce. | Jan Bellis<br>Chris Phillips                     | Ongoing with monthly meetings<br><b>Complete</b> | Resilience Project now complete which looked at recruitment, retention and resilience in the workforce. As a result of the workstream, see action point below on creation of Duty Social Worker/OT roles. |


|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                    |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
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| Page 252 | <p>of their circumstances, lack of continuity of support, and people have to re-tell their story. <b>The local authority should continue with its current efforts to ensure a consistent sufficient, qualified, and competent workforce to lessen the need for people to be supported by different practitioners who are unknown to them.</b></p>             | <p>Consideration is to be given to introducing a consistent duty social worker role to each Locality Team pending outcome of current trial.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                    | <p>Review by 30th June 2024<br/><b>Complete</b></p>          | <p>The South team have been trialling this and it appears to have been a success with good feedback received from the team. There are discussions ongoing about the expansion of this and it is likely to be adopted when the 3 locality teams move to 2 teams - from 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. There are currently vacancies in each team which are being aligned to the new structure, these vacancies will include a full-time permanent duty practitioner in each team.</p> <p>There is also a trial currently for this system in OT to align ways of working. This is on a 6-month pilot which started on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Indications so far suggest that this is also proving to be successful and popular with the team – improved morale and throughput of cases. Based on the current feedback this is also likely to be adopted across OT at the end of the pilot.</p> <p>Update: OT and Flintshire East now have Duty Officers in place, recruitment for a Duty Officer for Flintshire West is underway.</p> |  |
| 2.9      | <p>There are examples of direct payment reviews being held. However, there was one example which had not received a review. <b>The local authority must review the arrangements for the making of direct payments and how they are being used in line with Code of Practice 4 (Meeting Needs) to assess whether personal outcomes continue to be met.</b></p> | <p>This is an isolated incident due to circumstances of a particular case. There is good practice and processes in place to ensure the robust review of Direct Payments.</p> <p>A recent review of the Direct Payment financial processes has been undertaken and actions from this will be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to proportionate monitoring using new risk assessment matrix.</li> <li>• Reduce surplus funds allowance from 8 to 6 weeks.</li> <li>• Move all Direct Payments to more effective management solutions i.e., remove all PADP and paper monitoring.</li> <li>• Improve completion of correct</li> </ul> | <p>Jan Bellis<br/>Chris Phillips<br/>Jo Taylor</p> | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024<br/><b>Complete</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to proportionate monitoring using new risk assessment matrix.</li> <li>• Reduce surplus funds allowance from 8 to 6 weeks.</li> <li>• Move all Direct Payments to more effective management solutions i.e., remove all PADP and paper monitoring.</li> <li>• Improve completion of correct service information data.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |



|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                            |                                           |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                              |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | service information data.                                                                                                                  |                                           |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                              |
| 2.10    | <b>When practitioners attempt communication with individuals, the local authority should ensure a more consistent evidence base that reflects the communication methods that have been considered and attempted.</b>                                                          |                                                                                                                                            | Jan Bellis<br>Chris Phillips<br>Jo Taylor | By 30 <sup>th</sup><br>June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Published.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <br>Communication with Individuals.pdf    |
| Page 25 | There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that advocacy is consistently considered and offered when it would have been appropriate. <b>This is an area that must be strengthened to demonstrate routine consideration of advocacy particularly in adult safeguarding.</b> | Practice Directive to be created to support practitioners. The Practice Directive will include some good practice examples.                | Jan Bellis<br>Chris Phillips<br>Jo Taylor | By 30 <sup>th</sup><br>June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Published.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <br>Advocacy Offer and Recording.pdf      |
|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Audit checklist to be amended and expanded to ask if advocacy was used and if not, why not.                                                | Jacque Slee                               | <b>Complete</b>                                     | Audit checklist now includes this question.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <br>OP_LD_PD Audit Template v5 13Mar21    |
|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Advocacy providers will be invited to deliver information sessions for teams, giving information about the new offer and answer questions. | WDT                                       | By 30 <sup>th</sup><br>June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | The following sessions have been arranged: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy Awareness - 08/11/2024.</li> <li>• Advocacy Awareness in Children &amp; Young People - 07/06/2024.</li> <li>• Advocacy Awareness (PARENT) - 10/06/2024</li> <li>• Carers Needs &amp; Awareness (ADULTS) - 15/10/2024.</li> <li>• Carers Needs &amp; Awareness (YOUNG CARERS) - 10/09/2024.</li> <li>• Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy Awareness (IMCA) - 13/06/2024.</li> <li>• Independent Mental Health Advocacy Awareness (IMHA) - 19/06/2024.</li> </ul> Providers are also visiting individual team meetings to share information and do a Q&A session. |                                                                                                                              |
|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Create a report in Paris to investigate how many are completing advocacy information to monitor the progress with commentary.              | Jacque Slee                               | <b>Complete</b>                                     | Data is available and able to be provided from Paris as and when required. This will be monitored at the Quarterly Performance Review meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <br>Advocacy section summary data Apr-S |




| Adult's Services                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                  |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                           |
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| Finding                                   | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Owner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Timescale                        | Commentary                                                | Evidence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                           |
| <b>Well-being - Strengths</b>             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                  |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                           |
| 4.3                                       | <p>There is a strategic commitment to develop community services. The investment in local hubs and other capital investment supports this agenda. For example, Hwb Cyfle is a purpose-built service for disabled people offering different activities in community-based environments to promote people's well-being. <a href="#">The provision would benefit from increased opportunities to support people to maximise their independence in relation to daily living skills.</a></p> | <p>We readily accept this recommendation through the tender process for our day services. All day services contacts are due for renewal in the next 12 months and will be reviewed in line with these recommendations.</p> <p>A different approach will be adopted to stipulate a requirement in the new contracts for people to learn new skills, increasing independence and improving daily living skills, progressing to fulfil their potential as well as take part in fun activities. Increasing opportunities for people to participate in Supported Employment and other forms of Community Support will be featured in Service Specifications for the future.</p> <p>This will also be expanded to include short term care.</p> | Jan Bellis<br>Jo Taylor          | By February 2025                                          | <p>Progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HFT have now been asked to report on the numbers of people moving from Day Services to Supported Employment.</li> <li>Transformation team have secured funding to appoint an Employability Co-ordinator who has commenced in post (May 24) and will now progress the option for supported employment for people with LD.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                           |
| <b>Well-being - Areas for Improvement</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                  |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                           |
| 4.6                                       | <p>In relation to adult safeguarding, we saw variation in social care records. Greater clarity is required in relation to the views of the adult at risk, decision making, determinations, and whether subsequent actions have addressed the original concern. The outcomes of the enquiries must be shared with the reporter. <b>The local authority must ensure that adult safeguarding practice consistently meets with the requirements of the WSP.</b></p>                         | <p>Review of closure forms to ensure that subsequent actions have met the original concerns.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Michele Hingston<br>Jayne Belton | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 and ongoing <b>Complete</b> | <p>Complete. All closure forms are authorised by a manager before closing to ensure that actions have met the original concern. This was always the process, but it is recognised that there were some inconsistencies with recording in some cases. This has been addressed.</p>                                                                                                                   | <br>Closure form.PDF |
|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Discussions with the team to ensure recording and reporting back is consistent.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                  | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 <b>Complete</b>             | <p>Complete. Discussion held with the team to ensure compliance with reporting back to the referrer. When the process is completed after a strategy meeting, the Team Manager completes an audit of the case and checks that everything is there before closing. The referrer usually attends the strategy</p>                                                                                      |                                                                                                           |




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|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                |                                                  | meeting if there has been one.                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Review of the Paris form to ensure that there is a relevant space to capture this.                                                              |                                                                                                | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Complete. There was no need to amend the PARIS form as the process was agreed to record on the case note rather than adding an extra box to the form.                                                | <br>Feedback to referrer casenote.PD<br><br>Feedback to referrer 2.PDF |
| 4.7 | There are examples of people's social care assessments and safeguarding reports indicating they lack mental capacity to make decisions about their care. The quality and decision making of these records is variable. <b>The local authority must ensure practice consistently aligns with the requirements and principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the relevant Code of Practice.</b> | Practice Directive to be created to remind practitioners of the expectation of the quality of their recording their evidence.                   | Janet Bellis<br>Chris Phillips<br>Jo Taylor<br>Jane Davies<br>Jayne Belton<br>Michele Hingston | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Published.                                                                                                                                                                                           | <br>Mental Capacity Act Requirements.pdf                                                                                                                  |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | One particular case highlighted an issue. Lessons Learnt will be undertaken and will drive further actions.                                     |                                                                                                | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024                    | Review of service has lead to proposed changes to ways of working. These are being investigated further and taken through the relevant political processes for approval prior to any implementation. | <br>Discussion Group Meeting notes - Actio                                                                                                                |
| 4.8 | In common with many other local authorities across Wales, people's rights are impacted by the waiting lists for Deprivation of Liberty (DoLS) assessments. <b>The local authority must ensure that arrangements for the provision for DoLS assessments are fit for purpose and responsive.</b>                                                                                                     | Robust process is in place and is continually under review. Urgent cases are prioritised, the process is reactive.                              | Jane Davies<br>Jayne Belton<br>Michele Hingston                                                | <b>Complete</b> and ongoing review               | Process will remain continually under review.                                                                                                                                                        | <br>DOLS MULTI SS .xlsx<br><br>DOLs RAG.jpg                           |
| 4.9 | The current recording system does not support practitioners to capture people's strengths and outcomes in a meaningful way. <b>The local authority should take this into consideration, with the imminent procurement of an updated recording system.</b>                                                                                                                                          | Circulation of good practice cases identified at monthly casefile audit sessions will continue to support compliance with the recording policy. | Jacque Slee                                                                                    | <b>Complete</b>                                  | All the case file audit forms are circulated to the manager and service manager after the audit is completed for managers to use in team meetings and individual supervisions.                       | <br>288682 MD.docx                                                                                                                                      |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Procurement for the new system will be approximately 3 years, this will be taken into consideration during this                                 | Jane Davies<br>Jacque                                                                          | <b>In progress / Long term</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Slee<br>Claire<br>Clements                                     |                                                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                |
| <b>Adult's Services</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                |
| Finding                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Owner                                                          | Timescale                                        | Commentary                                                                                                                            | Evidence                                                                                       |
| <b>Prevention - Areas for Improvement</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                |
| 6.7                                        | Waiting lists for social care assessments and reviews are high and can impact negatively on people. Oversight of waiting lists for social care assessments is inconsistent across teams. Whilst we received verbal reassurance about oversight of waiting lists in teams, there was limited records to evidence this. <b>The local authority must ensure that waiting lists are appropriately and consistently monitored and key information is recorded to evidence appropriate prioritisation of cases.</b> | Paris will be updated to include a new enquiry priority option and a new casenote type/reason. This will ensure that action taken on Enquiries Manager before allocation can be clearly identified and evidenced.                                               | Jan Bellis<br>Chris Phillips<br>Jacque Slee<br>Claire Clements | <b>Complete</b>                                  | Paris has been updated to include the new casenote type/reason. Communication has been sent to Team Managers.                         | <br>6.7.png |
| 6.8                                        | Care and support plans are not always reviewed in a timely manner. <b>The local authority must keep care and support plans under review to understand whether the provision of care and support is meeting the identified needs of the individual, and to consider if their needs have changed and if a re-assessment is required.</b>                                                                                                                                                                        | Implemented changes to process for hospital discharges. Cases now sent directly to review meaning that they are reviewed sooner than going to locality. Further consideration of changes to processes is being undertaken within current resource restrictions. | Janet Bellis<br>Chris Phillips<br>Hannah Thomas                | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Care and support plans are kept under review, using a mixture of reactive and planned reviews in people's homes and in care settings. |                                                                                                |
| <b>Adult's Services</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                |
| Finding                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Owner                                                          | Timescale                                        | Commentary                                                                                                                            | Evidence                                                                                       |
| <b>Partnership - Areas for Improvement</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                |
| 8.5                                        | Most partnerships are working well at an operational level; however, information is not always shared effectively due to different methods and systems for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Procurement of system to replace Paris is underway and will be complete in approximately 3 years.                                                                                                                                                               | Jacque Slee<br>Claire Clements                                 | <b>In progress / Long term</b>                   |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                |







|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                 |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
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|                            | <p>recording information. This means information regarding people’s care and support needs is not easily available across partners, to include some practitioners employed by the local authority. <b>The local authority should consider, whilst they are procuring a new recording system, how they can further promote information sharing.</b> All relevant practitioners in different teams within FCC such as locality, substance misuse, and community mental health teams should be able to access all records of the person they support. This would support information sharing and promote a greater oversight and understanding of a person’s circumstances.</p> | <p>Consider potential for access to Paris for FCC MH Social Workers.</p>                                                                                                            |                                                                 | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<br/><b>Complete</b></p> | <p>This has been considered; however, it would have significant resource implications. All service users added to system is one off and significant but achievable. Ongoing management of this would result in significant duplication for practitioners having to record information on 2 systems, this is not practical. Procurement of new system to replace Paris will include functionality to link with other systems.</p> |  |
|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Discussion with Jo Taylor to investigate wider access to Paris for other team members – Jacque Slee to arrange a meeting.</p>                                                    |                                                                 | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<br/><b>Complete</b></p> | <p>Discussions inform that no further access required as intended team members do already have access to Paris.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| <p>Page 257</p> <p>8.6</p> | <p>The local authority must strengthen its systems around carers assessments to ensure the rights and voice of all carers are fully promoted. Carers assessments are not adequately recorded or communicated with the local authority. We saw examples where practitioners are not aware of whether a carer’s assessment had been undertaken, and if so, the outcome of the assessment. <b>The local authority must have greater oversight of these assessments to be confident that it fully meets its responsibilities in line with the requirements of Part 3 and Part 4 of the Code of Practice (assessing and meeting the needs of individuals).</b></p>                | <p>Explore options for specific Social Services individuals to have access to the NEWCIS Charity Log system to be able to access Carers Needs Assessments as and when required.</p> | <p>Jane Davies<br/>Janet Bellis<br/>Naomi Harper<br/>NEWCIS</p> | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<br/><b>Complete</b></p> | <p>Required staff have now been given access to Charity Log system to allow remote access to Carers Needs Assessments completed by NEWCIS. Some training is complete, training ongoing to ensure consistency.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  |

**Children's Services**







| Finding                                       | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Owner                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Timescale                  | Commentary                                        | Evidence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>People - Voice and Control - Strengths</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                            |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                  |
| Page 258                                      | Overall children and young people's voice and choice is heard and well reflected in records. Section 47 enquiry records include direct quotes from children, focusing on what is important for them and what worries they have. A few core group minutes contained a voice of the child section which is <b>positive practice</b> although such practice would benefit from being more consistent. | TAF group established to conduct file audits on core group documentation and consider if they are they presenting the daily lived experience of the child and is that then fed through into the recording.            | Jane Turvey / Peter Robson | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024                     | <p>12 months of core groups documentation has been reviewed.</p> <p>There is an ongoing review of the documentation that is in use to ensure that this is fit for purpose. Still reviewing process about core groups and reviewing policy.</p> <p>Actions from the review include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that practitioners have attended the Core Group Training.</li> <li>• Invite Team Around the Family to Core Groups to increase confidence around the step down.</li> <li>• Ensure that minutes are timely.</li> <li>• Develop a template for Core Group documentation.</li> </ul> | <br>CG template Apr24.pdf                     |
|                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Dedicated core group training will be rolled out again. 12-month programme is set to start in May.                                                                                                                    | S/G and WDT                | Beginning on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024            | There is a rolling programme now in place. Training on Core Groups has been joined to create a full day of training on Child Protection Case Conferences and Core Groups. merged with Child Protection Case Conferences to create a full day of training on This is being delivered on a multi-agency basis. with many schools attending them now.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <br>Case conference and Core Group practice v |
|                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Specified minute taker assigned for core groups. Individual will be included in training and will be key in ensuring the voice of the child is captured.                                                              | Shireen Rogers             | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b> | New individual has been appointed and trained. This is now part of their role and will continue going forward.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <br>Core Group Minutes - Final Version.pdf   |
| 3.7                                           | There are good examples of documentation which clearly captured the voice of a child, and positive examples of records written directly to the child, providing clarity and focus as to why the WSP have been instigated which is <b>positive practice</b> . This practice                                                                                                                         | Practice Directive to be created. Establish TAF group to write this as a training support.<br><br>Information: Consideration of tailoring the information to the age of the child and the literacy age of the parent. | Brigid Gribbin             | March 2025                                        | Progress to date:<br>Brigid is leading on the ECP. The collaborative conversations training will be completed imminently. Mentor training to commence 6 <sup>th</sup> November. Sarah and Brigid have met with further trainers to discuss rolling out further training on the ECP and Risk 2. This is due to take place in early 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                  |


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|      | could be more consistent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | This will be reinforced through roll out if the programme the “Effective Child Protection” model.                        |                                                 |                                                                    | The creation of the Practice Directive will follow the training programme.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.10 | There are systems in place to review the standard and quality of practice which include file audits. However, some practitioners were unaware of these systems. Therefore, whilst there is evidence of learning across the workforce, this could be improved with wider dissemination of relevant information. | Review communication lines for information dissemination.                                                                | Suzanne Johnston                                | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b>                  | Changes have been made to process to include various groups of staffing levels, feedback will also be shared at Team Managers and disseminated to Team Meetings. Standard Team Meeting agenda and minutes document has been created to ensure that items are covered and recorded at every meeting. The minutes will be stored on the L Drive and accessible to all to review.<br>Naomi to send out template once Craig/Sarah has agreed.                                                                                                                                               | <br>Team Meeting Agenda.docx<br><br><br>Reflective team meeting - practise ch |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ensure that feedback from File Audits is presented at Team managers Meetings.                                            | Peter Robson<br>Jane Turvey<br>Suzanne Johnston | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b>                  | Information now goes to Team Managers meetings, and they are expected to disseminate learnings to their own teams. Working to include more Deputies and Senior Social Workers in this process. See team meeting agenda action above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | See agenda above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Include information on File Audit process in the Induction Pack to inform newly qualified, newly appointed team members. | Naomi Harper                                    | End March 2024<br><b>Completed</b>                                 | Complete, documents published.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <br>Induction Pack Children's Services A                                                                                                                         |
| 3.12 | A few respondents (16%) expressed concerns about leadership and culture. They wanted their feedback and concerns to be taken into greater account, to feel more valued and respected, and they wanted the management and support of staff to be more consistent.                                               | Commissioned “Leaderful Action” to deliver compassionate leadership workshops with Management Team.                      | Craig Macleod                                   | By 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024<br><b>Completed and ongoing</b> | Workshops are ongoing and are having a positive impact on managers and how they are delivering their roles. Anecdotal feedback has been received from staff who have noted a positive impact. One result of the workshops has been the introduction of monthly “Themed Sessions” with teams putting together presentations to deliver to other teams to keep them up to date on what’s going on across the service. Sessions have been received positively and staff are reporting that they are learning a lot and are building relationships with other staff outside of their teams. | One result of the workshops has been introducing monthly “Themed Sessions” where teams present for other teams to keep them up to date on what’s going on across the service. Sessions have been received positively. Staff                         |



|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                  |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                  |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | report they are learning a lot and building relationships with staff outside of their team.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Progressing through the Workforce Resilience Project workstreams, in particular the creation of a staff Retention Plan.                                                                  | Craig Macleod<br>Peter Robson<br>Suzanne Johnston<br>Jane Turvey | Ongoing with monthly meetings<br><b>Completed</b> | Resilience Project now complete which looked at recruitment, retention and resilience in the workforce.<br>As a result of this project, work has been undertaken to engage and open lines of communication with staff.<br>The supervision policy and in particular the supervision templates have been updated and re-published as part of this workstream.<br>Work has gone into promoting staff well-being options. | <br>Supervision Policy 2023.pdf<br><br>Supervision Template - Caseload June 2024.<br><br>Supervision Template - Personal & Caseload<br><br>Supervision Template - Personal June 2024.<br><br>2425-17109+Wellbeing+infographic July 2 |
| 3.13 | People's Welsh language needs are considered and recorded. We saw an example of the Active Offer being implemented in practice and a parent being able to converse verbally in the Welsh language in line with their wishes. <b>However, when Welsh is noted as a preferred language, this should also be the language in which documentation is written.</b> Unless it is the person's preference to have documentation in | Practice Directive to be created to set the expectation and ensure understanding of processes behind this.<br>Practice Directive will be issued to both Adults' and Children's Services. | Jane Davies                                                      | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b> | Complete – Practice Directive published across Adults and Children's Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <br>Welsh Language Active Offer - PRAC I                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |




|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                            |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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|                                                           | the English language and a record is made to that effect.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                            |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>People - Voice and Control - Areas for Improvement</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                            |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.14                                                      | <p>Disabled children and young people have to wait long periods of time for short overnight breaks in a residential provision. The local authority aims to provide alternate support in the meantime through direct payments for example. However, <b>the local authority must so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure it is able to provide looked after and other accommodated children with accommodation that is within the local authority's area and that meets the children's needs. This in line with Code of Practice 6 (Looked After and Accommodated Children).</b></p>                | <p>Update and issue a revised Commissioning Placement Strategy that identifies placement needs, and local authority placement/commissioning intentions within the context of Welsh Government's policy and legislative framework for removing profit from Childrens social care.</p> | <p>Craig Macleod<br/>Jo Taylor</p>                                         | <p>September 2025</p>                                 | <p>Met with Commissioners in Wrexham to discuss a shared approach to respite service development. They are keen to work in partnership with us on new options to provide respite across both counties.</p> <p>Identifying the resources for new services is a longer-term challenge and work on this is ongoing.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <br>NDIP Project Plan 2024-25 Bid.docx<br><br><br>NDIP Project Level Case Study Template                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.15                                                      | <p>As a result of the fragility in the social care workforce, children and young people experience changes in social workers. Children are supported through a duty system rather than an allocated worker at times. Changes in social workers makes it challenging for children to develop trusting relationships. We heard from one young person how they are aware their social worker will soon change. Parents also have to repeat their stories and views to social workers. As a result of changes in practitioners, support can be delayed, with oversight of children and young people's</p> | <p>Progressing through the Workforce Resilience Project workstreams, looking at a) improving our success in recruitment and b) what can be done to retain our current workforce.</p>                                                                                                 | <p>Craig Macleod<br/>Peter Robson<br/>Suzanne Johnston<br/>Jane Turvey</p> | <p>Ongoing with monthly meetings <b>Completed</b></p> | <p>Resilience Project now complete which looked at recruitment, retention and resilience in the workforce. Advertising campaigns were undertaken which did show some success in attracting applicants. Work streams to improve our success at recruitment are now business as usual and ongoing. Ongoing workstreams currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently looking at the adverts to make them more appealing and positive and better. Looking at First contact initially which is where we do have some agency staff in roles. Looking to make the adverts more appealing and interesting.</li> <li>• Managers are working with WDT to give experience of Children's services to students through short rotations to support them to explore the service as a career opportunity.</li> </ul> | <br>Options Appraisal - Social Work Recruitm<br><br><br>Sponsoring overseas workers - initial consi<br><br><br>2024 05 07 109508 - OT and SW Attraction<br><br><br>CREED campaign analysis.docx |


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| situation also impacted. <b>The local authority must continue with its current efforts to ensure a consistent, sufficient, qualified, and competent workforce to meet its statutory duties, and should consider an exit strategy for ending the reliance on the commissioned managed agency team.</b> |                                                                                                     |                                                 |                                                          | This has seen success with some students selecting children's services as a career path.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <br>SCW Board Visit - R&R170724.pptx<br><br>New advert to be added once complete. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Where possible encourage a crossover period where cases are handed between teams.                   | Peter Robson<br>Suzanne Johnston<br>Jane Turvey | Review by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b> | Transfer policy has been reviewed, is in place and is being applied consistently. Handover visits are happening meaning smoother transition for children and families. Internally there has been some feedback that this process could still be improved. This was discussed at the last team managers meeting. The Team Managers are reviewing and updating the policy again to resolve the current internal issues. This will be done and republished by the end of <b>November.</b> | Insert new policy once complete.                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Trial one-page profiles in Children's Services to ensure that the need for repetition is prevented. | Peter Robson<br>Suzanne Johnston<br>Jane Turvey | By 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                        | Progress to date:<br>One-page profiles have been trialed in our in-house children's homes and this is underway. The Permanency and Pathways Team have the 'This is me' document which group acknowledged priority to have this for all children. Discussions underway to decide whether to replace This is Me with one-page profiles throughout the service.<br>Item to be reviewed at next QPR in November and to be discussed at Children's Team Meetings to consult on changes.     |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Children's Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                     |                                                 |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Finding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Action                                                                                              | Owner                                           | Timescale                                                | Commentary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Evidence                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Well-being - Strengths</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                     |                                                 |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| <p>5.3</p> | <p>There is evidence of exceptional strengths-based practice utilised by individual practitioners. This is <b>positive practice</b>. <b>For this approach to become embedded, the local authority should consider a model of practice that highlights what needs to change in families, with greater focus on how family and wider community networks can be facilitated to keep children safe.</b></p> <p>A model would promote a shared understanding across agencies of safeguarding practice and management of risk. It would also provide practitioners with consistent tools and templates in relation to recording and maintaining focus on risk. It is acknowledged that the local authority is on a journey to fully implement a model of practice. This has already commenced with an initial focus on neglect, with the local authority having purchased a neglect-graded profile tool through the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to support practice. This is a <b>positive</b> response by the local authority to a high number of children affected by neglect on the child protection register (CPR).</p> | <p><i>Implement the first phase of "Effective Child Protection" Model.</i> This is a 3-year programme to develop our approach to working with families whose children are on the child protection register.</p>                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Craig Macleod<br/>Peter Robson<br/>Suzanne Johnston<br/>Jane Turvey</p> | <p>Phase 1:<br/>31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</p> | <p>Progress to date:<br/>Brigid is leading on the ECP. The collaborative conversations training will be completed imminently. Mentor training to commence 6<sup>th</sup> November. Sarah and Brigid have met with further trainers to discuss rolling out further training on the ECP and Risk 2. This is due to take place in early 2025. The creation of the Practice Directive will follow the training programme.</p> |  |
|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>The Graded Care profile 2 is an evidence-based tool to assess and manage neglect. The tool has been purchased from NSPCC. The tool will support practitioners to identify and appropriately manage risks relating to neglect. A project will be developed in April 2024 to implement the tool with a training programme delivered through to the end of 2025.</p> | <p>Craig Macleod<br/>Peter Robson<br/>Suzanne Johnston<br/>Jane Turvey</p> | <p>End of 2025</p>                             | <p>Progress to date:<br/>The project to roll this out is due to start once training on the ECP model has been completed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |




**Well-being - Areas for Improvement**

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| <p>5.6</p> | <p>There is indication the threshold for significant harm is not always applied consistently when considering removing children from the CPR. We heard this</p> | <p>Re-issue laminated sheets (and have digital option) with categories and definitions.<br/>Training on definitions and registration/deregistration included</p> | <p>S/G Team</p> | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<br/><b>Completed</b></p> | <p>Laminated sheets have been updated and re-issued. These are now consistently in use in conferences.</p> | <p><br/><b>5.6.jpg</b><br/><br/>(also see 3.8 –</p> |
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| Page 264 | <p>may be as a result of a misplaced conception that maintaining a child's name on the CPR is a means of ensuring continued support services for a child and their family. <b>The local authority should consider sharing guidance more widely with relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure consistent and shared understanding of thresholds and information sharing protocols.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>as part of the conference and core group training programme over 12 months from May.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                           |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                               | core group training presentation).                                                             |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Practice Directive will be created to improve information sharing through FCC and other agencies. Directive will ensure social workers work proactively with IAA and EHH to identify support available if deregistered and a clear step-down plan is in place prior to discussions around deregistration.</p> | <p>Jane Turvey<br/>Suzanne Johnston</p>                   | <p>End of November 2024</p>                              | <p>Work on this Practice Directive is underway and due for completion by the end of November 2024. Suzanne is working on this. Naomi to publish once complete.</p>            |                                                                                                |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Through Supervision meetings, managers will ensure that the thorough consideration has been given and documented to support conversations and decision-making processes during de-registration meetings.</p>                                                                                                  | <p>Peter Robson<br/>Suzanne Johnston<br/>Jane Turvey</p>  | <p>End of November 2024</p>                              | <p>Supervision template document is being updated to ensure that this is consistently discussed and captured. Suzanne is working on this. Naomi to publish once complete.</p> |                                                                                                |
| 5.7      | <p>Risks are appropriately considered, with timely progression to the right service for children and families. There are, however, delays for some families subject to child protection procedures as enquiries are not always completed promptly. It is not always clear what the determination is post completion of a Section 47 enquiry. <b>Managers must ensure that, following the timely conclusion of a child protection enquiry, next steps are explicitly recorded with clarity and rationale in relation to the determinations under Section 3 Part 1 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.</b></p> | <p>It is recognised that our processes and systems on our PARIS IT system need to be re-engineered. This will involve the S47 and Part 3 assessment documentation on Paris to be separated to bring greater clarity of process and timelines.</p>                                                                | <p>Brigid Gribbin<br/>Claire Clements<br/>Jacque Slee</p> | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<br/><b>Completed</b></p> | <p>Completed</p>                                                                                                                                                              | <br>5.7.jpg |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>To fully improve our workflow and performance management systems we will need to replace the current PARIS system. We will need to work with Procurement to ensure that we are commission a new system that supports practice and provides effective and timely performance management.</p>                   | <p>Jane Davies<br/>Jacque Slee<br/>Claire Clements</p>    | <p><b>In progress / Long term</b></p>                    | <p>Procurement for the new system will be approximately 3 years, this will be taken into consideration during this process.</p>                                               |                                                                                                |

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| 5.8                                                                                      | <p>As Section 47 enquiries are not always completed in the required timescales, this impacts on timely decision making as to whether a child's name should be included on the CPR. <b>The local authority should ensure that when it has been determined that a child is experiencing or is at risk of experiencing harm, abuse or neglect, a child protection conference is convened within 15 working days of the strategy discussion/meeting, or the last strategy discussion/meeting (if more than one has occurred), which initiated the Section 47 enquiry.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Agree a process for the MASH, including the recording of decisions, that is compliant with the WSP. This action is also linked to action 5.7.</p> | <p>Brigid Gribbin<br/>Jane Turvey</p>                    | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<br/><b>Completed</b></p> | <p>MASH (now called Safeguarding Hub) now in place. A process map has been developed and is in use.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <br>HUB flow chart.docx |
| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 265</p> <p>5.9</p> | <p>Some care and support protection plans viewed are service led, with a focus on compliance instead of outcomes. Care and support protection plans are not routinely updated after core group meetings. It is acknowledged that recent training commissioned by the local authority has focused on clarifying roles and responsibilities for social workers. <b>An outline care and support protection plan devised at first conference should be developed into a more detailed plan at the first core group meeting as is highlighted in the WSP. Subsequent core groups should specifically review progress of outcomes for the child's safety. Leaders should ensure practitioners have clear systems and standards for developing plans which are child-centred and</b></p> | <p>Establish a TAF group to investigate and share learnings.</p>                                                                                     | <p>Jane Turvey<br/>Suzanne Johnston<br/>Peter Robson</p> | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024</p>                 | <p>The local authority has currently employed a worker whose role is to minute core group meetings, type up the minutes, share them with the social worker and other professionals within 5 working days of core group being held. Once SW has agreed they are a true reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>The original Care and support protection plan is shared in the initial core group with all core group members, this is then recorded in the minutes and any updates to the plan or changes are then recorded and shared, these will then be copied onto the next core group minutes and shared on a rolling basis so the minutes are recording any completed or new actions to the plan, this enables the plan to be a live document with movement to show progress and challenges within the Care and support protection plan. These are then recorded on the child's file so there is a clear plan of the family's journey whilst open to a plan.</p> <p>Other professionals who may become involved with families, due to work identified when devising a plan are then invited to attend Core groups to</p> |                                                                                                            |


|      |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                  |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                               |
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|      | <b>outcome-focused.</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                  |                                                   | ensure that information shared is timely and correct, if they cannot attend a report is requested of the worker identified.<br>Recent training in Core groups has been rolled out and is delivered by LA staff to LA workers and other outside professionals who regularly attend core groups.                                                     |                                               |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                           | Seek advice and expertise on the implementation of the <i>“Effective Child Protection Model”</i> .                                                                                  | Craig Macleod<br>Jane Turvey<br>Suzanne Johnston<br>Peter Robson | By 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025                    | Progress to date:<br><br>Brigid continues to have conversations with Dafydd Paul in Gwynedd with plans to commence ECP training 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                               |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                           | Include in the conference and core group training programme over 12 months from May.                                                                                                | S/G and WDT                                                      | Beginning on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024            | There is a rolling programme now in place. Training on Core Groups has been joined to create a full day of training on Child Protection Case Conferences and Core Groups. merged with Child Protection Case Conferences to create a full day of training on This is being delivered on a multi-agency basis. with many schools attending them now. | (see 3.8 – core group training presentation). |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                           | Review and amend format of the Protection Plan documentation. Consider how this documentation displays how the daily life of the child will be changed through the identified plan. | FIT Manager<br>Brigid Gribbin<br>S/G Managers                    | By 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025                    | Progress to date:<br><br>Child Protection Case Conference Reports will be adapted following completion of the ECP programme to incorporate the steps to change model.                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               |
| 5.10 | We saw examples of disclosures by police about an individual’s criminal background, with a potential risk for a child, having been appropriately considered to promote children’s safety. | Establish specific timescales to define our expectation of “timely”.                                                                                                                | Brigid Gribbin                                                   | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b> | Conversations with the police have taken place and agreed that the disclosure wording will be provided within 24 hours.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                               |

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                        |                                                 |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                |
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|                               | <p>However, sharing of the information was not always completed in a timely manner with pressures of work cited in one example as the reason for the delay.</p> <p><b>When the local authority is aware of such information, and it has been agreed they can share information with relevant individuals to promote a child's safety, this must be done in a timely manner.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | In recognition of delays from other agencies, agree timescales and process for escalation.                                             | Brigid Gribbin                                  | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b>        | As above. Raise with the police officer initially and following this raise with more senior officers.                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Children's Services</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                        |                                                 |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Finding</b>                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                          | <b>Owner</b>                                    | <b>Timescale</b>                                         | <b>Commentary</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Evidence</b>                                                                                                                |
| <b>Prevention - Strengths</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                        |                                                 |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                |
| Page 267<br>7.4               | <p>The local authority has developed a toolkit in response to the Public Law Outline (PLO) refresh implemented in January 2023 by the judiciary across England and Wales. It contains a range of new documentation which will further promote continuity of strengths-based practice. It also provides clarity to parents about what the concerns are about their children, and what changes are required to reduce the concerns. Children who are ten years of age or over will also be allocated a PLO buddy, similar to a conference buddy, to ensure their voice is obtained as part of these pre-court proceedings specifically. This is <b>positive practice</b> as it further promotes the voice of children and their families.</p> <p>Practice can be improved by ensuring that records sufficiently detail when and where a decision was made to commence PLO proceedings, and to</p> | <p>Establish TAF group to audit quality of documentation in recording LAM minutes.</p>                                                 | Peter Robson<br>Jane Turvey<br>Suzanne Johnston | By 31st October 2024<br><b>Completed</b>                 | LAM form has been revamped and is in pilot with the Social Workers. It has already been shown that the form now captures more information and shows significant improvement in quality. | <br>Legal Advice Request Form Final.docx    |
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Standard letter sent out following PLO, consider whether this is captured on records.</p>                                           | Jane Turvey                                     | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b>        | Working with Paris team and is now an embedded document as standard.                                                                                                                    | <br>Flintshire County Council PLO Toolkit O |
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Ensure that this is consistently applied, and referrals are made where children cross the age threshold for a Conference Buddy.</p> | Jane Turvey                                     | Review by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Completed</b> | This is reiterated frequently to the teams. Poster has been created to give info on conference buddies, mediation and family groups.                                                    | <br>FMS poster.docx                       |



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|  | reflect that decision making in this respect is timely. |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Prevention - Areas for Improvement**

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| Page 268 | Children who are neurodiverse or who are awaiting diagnosis of a potential neurodiverse condition, and their parents, do not always receive prompt and adequate support and communication. Delays in support impact on their well-being. It is acknowledged that the local authority is well-sighted on this and has recently developed their service to include having a dedicated role to respond and support parent/carers sooner, whilst their children are awaiting a neurodiverse assessment/diagnosis. <b>The local authority should continue to have oversight and monitor the effectiveness of this development and the impact of this for children and families.</b> | Successful application for NDIP funding has resulted in a new social worker in post from January 2024 to specifically support 16–25-year-olds who are Neurodiverse, in all aspects of their lives. This post has been highly successful and has received very positive feedback. Monitor the effectiveness of this post and the impact that it is having on young people and their families. Use the evidence of this to submit applications for funding for further posts to support other age groups. | Jo Taylor | Review in June 2024<br><b>Completed</b> | The performance information for this post confirms it is supporting achievement of outcomes. Will be monitored in accordance with Grant conditions for the future. | <br>1 NDIP Progress Report Template 202- |
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**Children's Services**




| Finding | Action | Owner | Timescale | Commentary | Evidence |
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**Partnership - Strengths**

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| 9.2 | Overall, at a strategic level, work with partners is based on a shared understanding and cooperation. Partners described leaders as being transparent and open to challenge. There is regular communication across sector leads, although persistent change in managers in partner agencies was cited as a | Continue and build upon the work to develop relationships with our partners, ensuring communication is strengthened so that they are aware of our thresholds. This will be delivered through monthly meetings with health and education. We will also develop 6 monthly meetings with 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector to ensure they have | Jane Turvey | Review 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 | Arranged a conference for partners to discuss the Framework of support. A programme of quarterly meetings with education has been put in place. Senior Managers and Team Managers meet regularly with Q&A sessions to drive improvements. For example, these meetings have resulted in the education direct line to the front door which has seen significant success. (See 9.6) | <br>Flintshire Framework for Intervention final-c<br><br><br>Agenda 05.07.24.docx |
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|     | challenge in working consistently. <b>Some third sector partners considered their work with children’s services could be improved in relation to inclusivity and their participation in planning of services.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | the opportunity to participate in service planning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |                                        | Our Framework for support is being updated and will be re-launched with partners once complete to ensure a consistent understanding across all agencies.<br>Work is ongoing to improve relationships with health to ensure regular and consistent attendance at Safeguarding meetings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                               |
| 9.3 | Information sharing between agencies through Section 47 enquiries, initial child protection conferences and core groups is evident. <b>In further meetings such as review conferences, there can be diminishing contribution from partner agencies. Partner agencies expressed they wished to be more involved in initial strategy discussions/meetings. There is work already underway to establish a MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) within the local authority which will further promote involvement and multi-agency working.</b>                                                       | Include in the conference and core group training programme over 12 months from May.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | S/G and WDT  | Beginning on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 | There is a rolling programme now in place. Training on Core Groups has been joined to create a full day of training on Child Protection Case Conferences and Core Groups. merged with Child Protection Case Conferences to create a full day of training on This is being delivered on a multi-agency basis. with many schools attending them now.<br><br>MASH (now called Safeguarding Hub) now in place. A process map has been developed and is in use.                                                                                                                                                                                             | (see 3.8 – core group training presentation).<br><br>(see 5.8 – Safeguarding Hub Flow Chart). |
| 9.5 | Care leavers benefit from continued support once they leave care. This in the form of the ‘When I am Ready’ scheme, whereby young people remain with foster carers whilst they transition into adulthood. Young people told us how they valued this provision. <b>However, they said they feel hurt that the documentation refers to them as tenants rather than family members of the foster carers they choose to continue to live with. They very much regard themselves as part of the foster carers’ family and vice versa. The local authority should consider how they can influence a</b> | Use of language is restricted due to the technical terms in the SSWBA (14) that refers to “When I am Ready” placements.<br>Ensure that Personal Advisor Team provide our Leaving Care Young People with explanations and rationale behind it. This will form part a wider piece of work on ‘Mind Your language’ which identifies that terminology and language that our children and young people prefer/ want us to avoid. | Peter Robson | By 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024     | Work is underway to consider the appropriate implementation of one-page profiles within the Children’s services more widely following the successful pilot in our in house children’s homes. The implementation of these One-page profiles will support children and young people to give their opinions on the language that is used specifically for them on a local level.<br><br>On a national level, as a member of the Fostering Network, work has begun to raise this and use this forum to discuss regionally and then nationally to gain support to lobby the Welsh Government for changes to legislation allowing the change in terminology. |                                                                                               |

|                                            | change in terminology.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>Partnership - Areas for Improvement</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                 |
| Page 270                                   | <b>Children's services must communicate information about duty to report outcomes in a timely manner to the person who made the initial report.</b><br>There are inconsistencies in current practice in relation to this. | Continue to work with Business Support Teams on the process and improve access points for partner agencies.                                                                                    | Jane Turvey / Brigid           | Review 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b>    | A direct line for education colleagues to report safeguarding referrals, seek advice ahead of a potential safeguarding referral, and also get feedback following a safeguarding referral has been established.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <br>Education Phoneline.docx |
|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Safeguarding Business Support team to be included in child protection / core group training programme.                                                                                         | Jayne Belton                   | Beginning on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024                  | There is a rolling programme now in place. Training on Core Groups has been joined to create a full day of training on Child Protection Case Conferences and Core Groups. merged with Child Protection Case Conferences to create a full day of training on This is being delivered on a multi-agency basis. with many schools attending them now.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | (see 3.8 – core group training presentation).                                                                   |
|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Improve professional's knowledge on where referrals should be sent to i.e., correct mailbox.                                                                                                   | Jayne Belton<br>Brigid Gribbin | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b>        | Work is ongoing to constantly review this. The Corporate Safeguarding panel enables portfolio leads to be updated on the referral processes and pathways.<br>The Regional safeguarding board delivery groups also provide the same opportunity to update partner agencies.<br>Attendance at level 3 DSP Education training by Children's First Contact and Safeguarding team reps ensures what education leads are fully updated on the correct referral pathways.<br>A direct line for education colleagues to report safeguarding referrals, seek advice ahead of a potential safeguarding referral, and also get feedback following a safeguarding referral has been established which has proven to be very invaluable. | <br>Education Phoneline.docx |
|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Establish proportionate approach, to include - when it is appropriate to give feedback, who gives feedback and how it is given as well as what evidence is required once feedback is provided. | Jane Turvey / Brigid Gribbin   | By 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b>        | A template has been created to send out feedback to appropriate referrers which is in place and in use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <br>referral response.docx |
| 9.7                                        | <b>Children's services must ensure that appropriate agencies are invited to strategy discussions /meetings in line</b>                                                                                                    | Continue to work to include agencies in discussions where possible and appropriate in line with WSP. The establishment of the Safeguarding                                                     | Brigid Gribbin                 | Review by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Complete.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |

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|          | with the WSP, to include but not limited to, a practitioner making the report and practitioners from education and community-based health services if relevant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Hub will support this development.                                                                                                                                        |                                  |                                                      |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Page 271 | The views and experiences of parent/carers of disabled children indicated that the availability of support to them could be strengthened and more flexible. They told us the support offered was not always suitable for their and their child's needs. <b>The local authority must ensure the parent/carer is involved as a full partner in assessing to what extent they are able to meet their personal outcomes, or with the support of others who are willing to provide that support; or with the assistance of services in the community to which they have access.</b> | Support to upskill new 3rd Sector carer's support agencies to ensure that they have sufficient experience with carers of children with disabilities.                      | Jo Taylor                        | July 2025                                            | Due to timescales for the procurement of new services this is a longer-term objective.                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ensure that all workers are aware of the flexibility of the direct payment offer and the ability of the direct payments to offer a unique and bespoke package of support. | Jo Taylor                        | By 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2024<br><b>Complete</b> | Information on Direct Payments has been recirculated to staff to ensure understanding and awareness of the flexibility of Direct Payments. | <br>Direct Payments Policy and Practice Gu<br><br>DP for Carers - Practice Directive FINA<br><br>Direct-Payments-Sup port-in-Flintshire-Mar<br><br>DP for Carers Leaflet FINAL.pdf<br><br>SSA-A12PP-Pooling-D irect-Payments-Guida<br><br>SSA-A12-Direct-paym ents.pdf |
| 9.9      | We saw examples of children who were leaving care having to present as homeless to receive housing support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Explore the development of multi-agency hub(s) to support young people with all elements of independence, to include housing.                                             | Paul Calland (Housing Portfolio) | Long term                                            | Update coming in late autumn 2024? (Craig)                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| <p>Practitioners also shared that accommodation for young people is an ongoing challenge and an area for improvement. There are clear longer-term options to support young people in general with housing support, in line with the well-being objectives in the Council Plan for 2023-2028. An example is a strategic plan, informed by a multi-agency approach, to create a young person's homeless hub which will offer accommodation as well as support services. <b>However, the local authority must continue to prioritise its programme of ensuring appropriate housing options for young care leavers and relevant 16–17-year-olds.</b> This in both the longer and shorter term, and where possible, avoiding the need for care leavers to present as homeless.</p> | <p>Continue to work to develop preventative strategies for “rare, brief and non-repeat” homelessness.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Martin Cooil<br/>(Housing Portfolio)</p>   | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024</p>                |                                                                                                             |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Investigate broadening Local Solutions Supported Lodgings services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Lisa Pearson<br/>(Housing Portfolio)</p>   | <p>Review progress by December 2024</p>                 | <p>Progress has been delayed slightly, but conversations are underway and ongoing to take this forward.</p> |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Investigate the potential to explore shared tenancies in local authority / housing association properties.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Jen Griffiths<br/>(Housing Portfolio)</p>  | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024</p>                |                                                                                                             |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Make connection with Flintshire's Ending Homelessness board and actions that are progressing through this workstream.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Jane Davies<br/>Homelessness Board</p>     | <p>Review by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024</p>              | <p>Connection made, work ongoing. Updates will be provided as actions progress.</p>                         |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Ensure that Housing Support and Homeless Service are alerted promptly as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> pathway plan to allow forward planning. This needs to be consistent across all individuals including those with low level/no needs).<br/>Run report from Paris to check for birthdays coming up in 12 months and ensure plans are in place.</p> | <p>Peter Robson<br/>Personal Advisor Team</p> | <p>By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<br/><b>Complete</b></p> | <p>Report is in place on Paris which Performance Team will share regularly.</p>                             |  |

## CABINET

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024                                                                           |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Social Services Care Inspectorate Wales, Performance Evaluation Inspection November 2023 – Action Plan Update |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing                                                              |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Chief Officer (Social Services)                                                                               |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Operational                                                                                                   |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In October, CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales) announced that they would be visiting Flintshire to undertake a full, routine PEI (Performance Evaluation Inspection) of both Adult's and Children's Services.

The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers.

This was to be the first full inspection the portfolio has received for over 8 years and an opportunity to showcase the creative and innovative practice undertaken here in Flintshire.

The full report was published on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 and was largely positive in their findings across Social Services (See appendix 1).

An action plan has now been produced based on the recommendations made by inspectors (see appendix 2).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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| 1 | That Cabinet note the outcome of the report and support the resulting Action Plan. |
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## REPORT DETAILS

| 1.00 | BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 1.01 | In total seven inspectors were involved in the inspection, operating on a hybrid basis with some inspectors visiting Flintshire in person and some working remotely. The in-person inspectors were based at Tŷ Dewi Sant but also travelled around to meet staff, partners, service users and their families. The remote inspectors held Microsoft Teams meetings as well as case file reading.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1.02 | The inspection lasted for two weeks, starting on 27 <sup>th</sup> November (file reading began on 20 <sup>th</sup> November) and ended on 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1.03 | <p>The purpose of this inspection was to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers. The inspectors sought to answer the following questions aligned under the principles of the Social Service (Wales) Well-being 2014 Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People - voice and control</li><li>• Prevention</li><li>• Well-being</li><li>• Partnerships</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1.04 | <p><u>The scope of the inspection was:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluation of the experience of adults and children at the point of performance evaluation inspection.</li><li>• Evaluation of the experience and outcomes people achieve through their contact with services.</li><li>• Evidence of the local authority and partners having learnt lessons from their recent experiences and plans for service developments and improvement.</li><li>• Consideration of how the local authority manages opportunity and risk in its planning and delivery of social care at individual, operational and strategic levels</li><li>•</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1.05 | <p>The full report was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and can be found in appendix 1, however, from the report they summarised the findings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>“There is a stable and experienced senior management team in place across both services providing continuity of leadership.</i></li><li>• <i>Partner agencies, providers and stakeholders told us that leaders are visible and there are good relationships at a senior level with open communication.</i></li><li>• <i>Practitioners also stated leaders are accessible, approachable, and supportive, and overall, ensure practitioners have the right training and skills. A few practitioners (16%) from children’s services who responded to the staff survey noted the leadership and culture within the local</i></li></ul> |

*authority needed to improve, although (86%) said they were well-supported by managers. Similarly, practitioners (91%) from adult services who responded to the staff survey also stated they were well supported by managers.*

- There are procedures in place to induct new staff members, although at times they would benefit from increased pastoral support. It is acknowledged that a new face-to-face social work collective has been set-up to offer peer support to all social workers across children's and adult services.*
- Practitioners clearly know the people they support very well. In response to a survey by CIW, many people said they felt respected and listened to by practitioners.*
- Recruitment and retention of social care practitioners is a national challenge across Wales. The local authority continues to work hard on strategies to support continued recruitment and retention of staff. Examples include commissioning a communications agency to promote working for the local authority and increasing capacity in the workforce development team.*
- The recent restructure across both services is acknowledged and has potential to provide more resilience, opportunities for greater support and managerial oversight, as well as career progression. A few practitioners across both services felt the consultation about changes in structure had not adequately considered practitioner's views and had impacted their morale as it did not benefit everyone.*
- The local authority is well sighted on market stability in its area and the needs of its population. There are examples of the local authority implementing successful strategic plans in response to identified need and the lack of certain support services in its area. This has been achieved by working in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and other relevant partners to develop innovative services with significant capital investment. Examples include Marleyfield Care Home and Tŷ Nyth Children's Care Home.*
- The local authority has a comprehensive supervision policy. Practitioners benefit from regular supervision although the practice and standard of recording is inconsistent. The best supervision records focus on reflective practice and professional development. In other examples, more reflection on practice, and an improved focus on professional curiosity, outcomes and staff well-being is required.*
- The local authority benefits from good corporate and political support. There is a focus on ensuring statutory duties are met. Senior leaders,*

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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|      | <p><i>managers and politicians recognise significant action and resource is required to ensure the local authority's ability to deliver statutory safeguarding responsibilities. As a result, the local authority commissioned two managed care agency teams in children's services to provide additional capacity. This is impacting positively on the outcomes for children and families."</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1.05 | <p>An action plan has been produced based on the recommendations from the Inspection Report which can be found in appendix 2. However, a summary of the main actions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Practice Directive to practitioners covering inspectors' findings of inconsistency in practice of case recording, including good practice examples to drive improvement.</li> <li>• Drive recruitment and retention through the Workforce Resilience Project to address local workforce shortages caused by national issues.</li> <li>• Advocacy training sessions delivered by newly commissioned providers to update practitioners on practice requirements and new processes.</li> <li>• Review of Adults Safeguarding documentation templates to ensure that outcomes are clear and evidenced effectively.</li> <li>• Introduction of a new case note format on Paris to ensure the effective management of enquiries and the recording of actions are clear.</li> <li>• Review of Children's Safeguarding documentation to ensure that that evidence is clearly set out to show completion within set timescales.</li> <li>• Programme of core group training to support Children's Safeguarding and ensure consistency in processes.</li> <li>• The already planned introduction and implementation of the "Effective Child Protection Model" will contribute significantly to support across Children's Services.</li> <li>• Implementation of the NSPCC Child Neglect Tool will support to identify and appropriately manage risks.</li> <li>• Commissioning "Leaderful Action" to deliver compassionate leadership workshops with Management Team.</li> <li>• Continue and build upon the work to develop relationships with our partners, ensuring communication is strengthened.</li> <li>• Work in partnership with Housing Portfolio to develop strategies to improve housing options for care leavers.</li> </ul> |



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| 1.06 | The action plan will be completed by March 2025. |
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| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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| 2.01 | <p><b>Revenue:</b> There are currently no implications for the approved revenue budget for this service for either the current financial year or for future financial years. Some actions identified for investigation may have implications for revenue going forward, however, these will be investigated and reported on individually should this be the case.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> There are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years. Some actions identified for investigation, may have implications for capital going forward, however, these will be investigated and reported on individually should this be the case.</p> <p><b>Human Resources:</b> Actions with proposed implications to human resources are limited to process changes. Actions should not require additional resources or result in additional workload for current workforce.</p> |
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| <b>3.00</b> | <b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b> |
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| 3.01 | Impact assessment is not required for this report. Impact Assessments will be undertaken individually (where required) for each action point. |
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| <b>4.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b> |
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| 4.01 | Consultation with service users, staff and partners was carried out as part of the inspection as detailed above. |
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| <b>5.00</b> | <b>APPENDICES</b> |
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| 5.01 | <p>Final Report:</p>  <p>CIW - 2023-24 -<br/>Flintshire PEI Inspec</p> |
| 5.02 | <p>Action Plan:</p>  <p>Action Plan Feb<br/>2024.docx</p>              |

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| <b>6.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b> |
| 6.01        |                                                |

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| <b>7.00</b> | <b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 7.01        | <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Naomi Harper, Planning and Development Officer.<br/> <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702544<br/> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:naomi.harper@flintshire.gov.uk">naomi.harper@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> |

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| <b>8.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b><br>These are provided corporately on the Infonet (link) and maintained by the Executive Office                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 8.01        | <p><b>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW):</b> is a public body that inspects, regulates and improves the quality and safety of services in Wales.</p> <p><b>Performance Evaluation Inspection (PEI):</b> is a routine inspection to review the local authority's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation, on behalf of Welsh Ministers.</p> <p><b>Social Service (Wales) Well-being 2014 Act:</b> This Act sets out the legal duties and powers of local authorities in Wales to provide care and support for adults, children and carers. It also covers the assessment, charging, financial assessment, looked after children and looked after children's accommodation.</p> |



## Cabinet

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|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 17th December 2024                                                        |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Future of Integrated Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)                           |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Well-being |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Chief Officer (Social Services)                                                    |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Operational                                                                        |

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To consider a proposal to cease an integrated CMHT partnership with BCUHB (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board). This would involve withdrawing Social Workers from the three CMHT Teams and locating them alongside the existing Well Being and Recovery Team within Social Services.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | To accept the proposal contained within this report.                     |
| 2 | To determine the process to achieve political support for this proposal. |

## REPORT DETAILS

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| <b>1.00</b> | <b>EXPLAINING THE FUTURE OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1.01        | <p>Flintshire is the only remaining local authority in North Wales to operate a joint CMHT with Health. The other five North Wales local authorities have withdrawn from this integrated model over recent years. Flintshire have actively sought to explore options for improvement within the current operating model, without success, and limited engagement from health partners. We no longer feel able to sustain the existing arrangements and the associated impact on clients and our workforce. We are therefore recommending that we cease the CMHT arrangement to enable the local authority to focus our resources and workforce in meeting our statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>Current team configuration is:</p> <p>Three x CMHTs in Flintshire. One team based in Aston House, Deeside covering Deeside area, two based in Pwll Glas Mold, covering all other areas of Flintshire.</p> <p>One Primary Care Mental Health Team based at Aston House. This team do not feature in the following proposal as a separate proposal will follow.</p> |
| 1.02        | <p><b>Current Team Location</b></p> <p>Each CMHT is located within a BCUHB building and is a multi-disciplinary team comprising of Managers, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Community Psychiatric Nurses, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Health Care Support Workers.</p> <p>FCC employ seven social work staff in total within CMHT. Whilst management responsibilities are shared between Social Services and BCUHB, predominantly, BCUHB manage the majority of CMHT resource, and the service is based in BCUHB buildings, giving them more influence than Social Services.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1.03        | <p><b>The Issues / Challenges Facing the Team</b></p> <p>The team have, for almost two years, reported to FCC managers that workload is continually increasing, pressure is increasing, levels of stress are increasing and that they feel they are expected to carry out excessive work demands. Tasks are added to their workload without anything being reduced. They represent having to undertake work to demonstrate good performance against the Welsh Mental Health Measure, but that this is not meaningful/truthful or honest. There have been extended periods of sickness absence within the team due to stress.</p> <p>Numerous attempts have been made by managers in Social Services to address the issues presented, largely with no positive affect. These include:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|      | <p>(a) Managers met with staff to hear their perspective, and to creatively respond to demands. Managers then met with Senior Leadership team in BCUHB to explain how staff were struggling to cope and to attempt to address matters.</p> <p>(b) In March 2023, a detailed workload analysis was undertaken with Social Workers which concluded that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social Workers workloads could not be managed within full time hours. Workers were regularly working in excess of their hours and lower priority tasks were delayed or not completed.</li> <li>- reviewing placements/care packages are seen as a lower priority and therefore not regularly reviewed. This results in funding risks to FCC. We believe there are historic packages that need to be updated and a financial saving will be made.</li> <li>- People presenting as high risk are not seen regularly by Social Workers.</li> <li>- There is an increase in expectation that Social Workers will participate in health tasks, to the detriment of their Social Care responsibilities.</li> <li>- Over the last two years, four of the seven posts have been vacated with the employees citing work pressure as the reason for this. Previously, this team were static with few vacancies arising.</li> <li>- An action plan to address the recommendations of the workload analysis was written and presented to BCUHB managers. No action has been taken.</li> </ul> <p>(c) More recently, Social Services managers have had to introduce restrictions on staff workload to protect the team from facing pressure to take on health allocated work. This causes challenges for the team in their multi-disciplinary role, their direct line managers being BCUHB employees.</p> |
| 1.04 | <p><b>The Proposal</b></p> <p>We are proposing the ‘removal’ of Social Workers from CMHT, and to locate them alongside the existing Well Being and Recovery team within Social Services, thus ending the operational partnership with BCUHB.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> All five other North Wales LA have made this decision and changed over recent years. Flintshire refrained from doing so as we wanted to explore options for improvement within the current operating model. We no longer feel able to achieve this.</p> <p>Social Services managers do not believe the current model is sustainable in ensuring our legislative requirements are met from the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, or the Mental Health Act perspective. Nor do we believe we can retain the skilled qualified, and experienced practitioner’s we need for the future within the current structure.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|      | <p>As a result of Health managers closing cases which Social Services fund, or not reviewing them, Managers in Social Services have recently embarked on a review programme for people receiving care/support through the use of existing resources. The following outputs have been achieved.</p> <p>Ten reviews completed. Of these:</p> <p>Six people. No change to current support.<br/>Two people. Remove care package for medication prompts. Annual saving £22,890.</p> <p>Two people. Residential placements ending. Annual saving £168,750</p> <p>Once the Social Work team are separate and Social Service manage their workload, a full review programme will be undertaken and further efficiencies are anticipated.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1.05 | <p><b>Challenging Aspects of this Proposal</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Damage to Social Services / BCUHB partnership relationship. Within the political arena, this might be perceived to work against an integrated services model.</li> <li>2. Concern exists that new referrals to the service might not be accepted by either Social Services or BCUHB and would cause delays in allocation.</li> <li>3. Loss of the positive operational multi-disciplinary working relationship which brings cohesion to clients and ensures a holistic response is provided.</li> <li>4. Additional work created in the transitional phase.</li> <li>5. The team currently use administrative support provided by BCUHB, so, admin support will be required in the future.</li> <li>6. Additional equipment will be required for some team members but likely to not exceed £2,000.</li> <li>7. Following this change, there will be fewer CMHT members for BCUHB to achieve their performance targets (Mental Health measure). Performance is likely to reduce and Social Services removing resources may be cited as the reason for this. The new Social Work team will work to Welsh Government Performance measures for Social Services.</li> </ol> |
| 1.06 | <p><b>Positive Aspects of the Proposal</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The team will not have to undertake health related work, enabling them to focus on Social Work. This will protect their mental health and their motivation, commitment, energy for their work and future recruitment should be improved.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The other five LA's have all offered their support to undertake the work required and we can learn from their experience.</li> <li>3. We have consulted with all the team members, who are supportive of this proposal.</li> <li>4. The team can focus their capacity to achieve personal outcomes with people.</li> <li>5. Reviews of costly placements and care packages will occur with regularity. With a focus on Recovery, we envisage savings on placement spend.</li> <li>6. Located within the Well Being and Recovery team, and Mental Health Support Services, this will offer opportunities for Recovery work to advance and reduce the reliance on statutory services.</li> <li>7. Those within S117 of Mental Health Act will be reviewed and the funding source and proportion of care package costs well managed. This is likely to lead to a reduction in spending.</li> <li>8. Client recording will be through PARIS, as opposed to the poor paper systems currently used.</li> </ol> |
| 1.07 | <p><b>Work / Tasks Required to Achieve a Separation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policies, procedures and processes will need to be developed.</li> <li>2. PARIS system usage to be agreed and implemented.</li> <li>3. Location. This can be achieved within the current Mental Health Support Services accommodation at no additional cost.</li> <li>4. Managerial arrangements. Team and Service managers would have to take on additional managerial duties.</li> <li>5. HR implications. Office move.</li> <li>6. Political agreement.</li> <li>7. Informing BCUHB.</li> <li>8. Consider if Primary Care Mental Health team would also need to relocate.</li> <li>9. IT equipment. Most Social Workers already have FCC funded equipment but some additional may be required.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2.01        | This proposal can be implemented at very low cost. Accommodation and equipment are available within existing resources. Managers believe that, with the prompt management and review of placements and care packages, reduction in spend is highly likely to be achieved. |

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| <b>3.00</b> | <b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>                         |
| 3.01        | An impact assessment is not required as this is an existing service. |

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| <b>4.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>                                                       |
| 4.01        | All staff affected by this decision have been fully involved in the process and are supportive. |
| 4.02        | Managers in BCUHB have been informed that this decision is being considered.                    |

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

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

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| <b>7.00</b> | <b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7.01        | <b>Contact Officer:</b> Jo Taylor, Service Manager, Disabilities<br><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 701341<br><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jo.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk">jo.taylor@flintshire.gov.uk</a> |

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| <b>8.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>                                                                                 |
|             | <b>CMHT</b> - Community Mental Health Team<br><br><b>BCUHB</b> - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board |





## CABINET

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|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                                            |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Flying Start Childcare Expansion Flintshire Proposal                               |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Well-being |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Chief Officer (Social Services)                                                    |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Operational                                                                        |

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welsh Government have a well-established Flying Start Programme which consists of four core elements. The four elements are parenting programmes, speech and language, enhanced health visiting and funded childcare.

In Flintshire approximately 1500 children under the age of 4 are current beneficiaries of the Flying Start full programme which includes over 440 children aged 2 benefitting from funded childcare provision. The Flying Start full programme currently operates in the most deprived LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas) of Flintshire based on the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), (as specified by Welsh Government).

Whilst the full Flying Start programme is targeted at the most disadvantaged children and families across Wales, Welsh Government's ambition is that all families in Wales with children aged 2 will be eligible for 12.5 hours of funded, high-quality childcare for 39 weeks of the year.

This strategic intent is being delivered through a phased expansion of Flying Start funded childcare provision. Flintshire County Council have successfully rolled out the first two phases of the Flying Start childcare expansion programme. Welsh Government will continue to fund the rollout of further expansion and have requested that each local authority submit expansion proposals by December 2024 for consideration.

This report proposes three options for submission to Welsh Government to seek funding for our local childcare expansion programme. In summary the three options that have proposed are:

**Option 1** – Rollout of Flying Start funded childcare provision to all remaining areas of Flintshire who are not currently covered by expansion areas in 2025-2026. (Appendix 1)

**Option 2** – Rollout Flying Start funded childcare provision to remaining areas of Flintshire who are not currently covered by expansion areas over the next 2 years (2025-2027). (Appendix 2)

**Option 3** – Roll out in accordance with Welsh Government approved plan and funding, if different from the Option 1 and 2 above e.g. longer period.

The report also identifies proposals for the use of capital funding from Welsh Government to support providers of childcare to build their capacity and infrastructure to offer additional childcare placements across Flintshire.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | That Cabinet endorse and support the Flying Start Phase 3 expansion, building upon the developments from Phase 1 and Phase 2, and the large and small capital schemes.                                                                                        |
| 2 | That Cabinet approve the inclusion of the three Options within a Business Case to Welsh Government for future programme roll out. Welsh Government will base the future grant award on their availability of funding and the bids received from across Wales. |

## REPORT DETAILS

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| <b>1.00</b> | <b>EXPLAINING FLYING START CHILDCARE EXPANSION FLINTSHIRE PROPOSAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|             | <p>The Welsh Government Programme of Work includes the expansion of 2-year-old funded childcare for all children. They have incorporated this into the Flying Start programme and are taking a phased approach. The Flying Start Expansion Programme will significantly extend childcare provision to support long-term, positive impacts on the lives of the most disadvantaged children and families across Wales, until it reaches a universal offer.</p> <p>Welsh Government expansion guidance has encouraged local authorities to target the expansion of Flying Start towards communities, in more deprived areas, that aren't already part of the Flying Start programme. There is focus on ensuring all children have access to quality Welsh Medium childcare provision with the expectation that an equal offer is made to all eligible children.</p> |
| 1.01        | <b>Flintshire's Expansion Programme</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|             | The programme in Flintshire has been informed through a comprehensive needs analysis and assessment, with analysis conducted with NESTA Cymru. The 2019 WIMD data has been used to ensure children in Flintshire's more deprived areas are offered funded childcare during Phase                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

2 expansion, and the WIMD will be used for all future expansions, subject to Welsh Government funding allocation.

A weighting system has been incorporated that captures data from Children’s Services and Free School Meal eligibility to rank areas of need. This approach has provided an objective and evidence-based approach on the areas and sequencing of the expansion programme.

**1.02 Flying Start Expansion Phase 1**

The initial phase (Phase 1) of expansion commenced in September 2022 when two LSOAs in Buckley were successfully brought into the full Flying Start service. This enabled the programme to expand services in the Buckley area for childcare, health, speech and language and parenting. This has made a significant impact in the Buckley area tracked through regular Flying Start performance management and reporting to Welsh Government.

However, further phases have not included all four Flying Start elements (health visiting; parenting; speech, language, and communication) and are only funding childcare.

| LSOA Name             | WIMD Rank 2019 | WIMD Rank Movement since 2016/17 | Final Rank | SSC Rank | Hub Rank | FSM Uptake Rank | % of all Hub Referrals in LSOA | SSC Total % |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Buckley Bistre West 3 | 6              | 1                                | 4          | 6        | 5        | 4               | 2.9%                           | 2.9%        |
| Buckley Bistre West 2 | 25             | -4                               | 17         | 15       | 8        | 10              | 2.7%                           | 2.0%        |

**1.03 Flying Start Childcare Expansion Phase 2 Areas**

Phase 2 commenced in September 2023. As explained Phase 2 incorporates the expansion of quality childcare for 2 year olds as opposed to the full Flying Start programme. Phase 2 has three phases: 2a; 2b and 2c.

Phase 2a and 2b targets: 214 children, from September 2023 – March 2024.

Phase 2c: 23 children, from 1 April 2024.

From September 2023 to this date Phase 2 has provided childcare sessions to 280 children in total.

The following table sets out the areas which were rolled out for Phase 2a, 2b and 2c:

| LSOA Name             | WIMD Rank 2019 | WIMD Rank Movement since 2016/17 | Final Rank | SSC Rank | Hub Rank | FSM Uptake Rank | % of all Hub Referrals in LSOA | SSC Total % |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Mostyn (Flintshire)   | 5              | 8                                | 6          | 10       | 15       | 12              | 2.0%                           | 2.6%        |
| Mold West 1           | 12             | 4                                | 7          | 15       | 9        | 1               | 2.6%                           | 2.0%        |
| Bagillt West          | 11             | 2                                | 8          | 10       | 13       | 21              | 2.2%                           | 2.6%        |
| Saltney Mold Junction | 18             | 5                                | 14         | 14       | 19       | 3               | 1.7%                           | 2.2%        |
| Holywell East         | 26             | 5                                | 14         | 4        | 3        | 20              | 3.7%                           | 3.5%        |
| Buckley Bistre East 1 | 10             | -3                               | 19         | 24       | 38       | 22              | 1.0%                           | 1.3%        |
| Leeswood              | 20             | 10                               | 21         | 19       | 22       | 25              | 1.5%                           | 1.8%        |
| Elsanore              | 17             | 7                                | 22         | 24       | 28       | 28              | 1.2%                           | 1.2%        |

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| 1.04 | <p><b>Options Proposal: Flying Start Childcare Expansion Phase 3</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|      | <p>Welsh Government propose, after evaluation of Phase 2a, 2b and 2c expansion, to embark on Phase 3, which will be a ‘universal’ offer of funded childcare to all 2-year-olds. Timescale for this is subject to budget allocation from Welsh Government. The local authorities have been advised to plan the Phase 3 rollout for 2025 and thereafter. The expansion will use the original methodology as outlined above using 2019 WIMD data, moving into LSOA in rank order.</p> <p><b>Option 1</b> – Rollout to all remaining areas of Flintshire who are not currently covered by expansion areas in 2025-2026.</p> <p>Estimated 829 children aged 2 - please see Appendix 1 for further details.</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> – Rollout to remaining areas of Flintshire who are not currently covered by expansion areas over the next 2 years (2025-2027).</p> <p>Estimated 417 children aged 2 (2025 – 26) - please see Appendix 2 for further details.</p> <p>Estimated 412 children aged 2 (2026 – 27) - please see Appendix 2 for further details.</p> <p><b>Option 3</b> – Roll out in accordance with WG approved plan and funding, if different from the Option 1 and 2 above e.g. longer period.</p> |
| 1.05 | <p><b>Developing the Infrastructure to Support Phase 3 Expansion of Flying Start Funded Childcare</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|      | <p>To support the development of phase 3 expansion the programme includes the development of the infrastructure to develop the capacity needed to deliver the planned roll out.</p> <p><b>Staffing &amp; Recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing Early Years Childcare, Capital and Partnership Team will prepare for the expansions and submit plans to Welsh Government.</li> <li>• A refreshed Early Years and Family Service structure has brought all childcare elements together, and the Early Years Childcare, Capital and Partnership Team (Early Years Childcare Advisory Team, Childcare Programmes Team, Childcare Development Team and Early Years Childcare Capital Team) will implement the expansion with the support of partners and other local authority departments.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The grant funding covers staffing and administration and two Childcare Placement Officer posts have been recruited to support the development of the childcare sector and placing children to appropriate childcare, taking into consideration child and parent needs e.g. vulnerability, development need, additional support need, Welsh language.</li> <li>• The Childcare Advisors will support the childcare settings to improve their quality and go above the Minimum Standards, as required by the Welsh Government Flying Start Childcare Guidance. They will have a role in ensuring children benefit from the childcare, to improve their development needs and readiness for school.</li> <li>• Additional allocation of funding supports the increase of staffing capacity in Family Information Services to incorporate Welsh medium outreach development work with families as discussed with colleagues in Education and Cwlwm partners, and to support the WESP (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan) and Welsh Language Strategy. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A dedicated function to improve access to quality information regarding Welsh medium childcare and early education pathways aligning with Flintshire’s 10-year plan as outlined in the WESP.</li> <li>○ Liaising with the Welsh in Education Team to develop outreach work to raise awareness of the benefits of Welsh medium childcare &amp; education before parents choose a setting.</li> <li>○ Designated link with Mudiad Meithrin to coordinate informal Welsh Medium groups such as Ti a Fi and dissemination of promotional material.</li> <li>○ Designated link for settings wishing to improve the Welsh language skills of staff – liaison with Early Entitlement &amp; Childcare Development team to signpost to quality training.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 1.06 | <p><b>Capital Investment</b></p> <p>With the support of partner services, the Flintshire Early Years Team have successfully implemented Phase 1 Capital programmes and are currently working on Phase 2 Capital programme. This is done in collaboration with colleagues in Education, Cwlwm and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Welsh Government have indicated the availability of further Early Years Childcare Capital for 2025-2028. Flintshire Early Years Childcare Capital Team with support of Education colleagues will develop an early year’s childcare capital plan to maximise the programme, support areas of need and consider the longer-term impact and sustainability, and a pathway between childcare and education.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|      | <p>Priority will be given to new areas of Flying Start expansion, where the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has identified gaps in childcare provision and Welsh medium provision.</p> <p>The Small Capital grant supports the development and improvement of the indoor and outdoor childcare facilities/provisions to accommodate the 2–4 year olds. This will continue to build upon small capital investment since 2019 for childcare and will continue to be processed through a panel consisting of early years childcare and education colleagues.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1.07 | <p><b>Programme Benefits</b></p> <p>The identified benefits of the roll out of Phase 3 funded childcare are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Child development:</b> To improve outcomes for children and improve their skills and potential by receiving funded quality childcare provision. There is growing evidence that the Covid 19 pandemic has negatively impacted young children’s development.</li> <li>• <b>Childcare sector sustainability:</b> who will receive guaranteed long-term income for childcare providers, who have been struggling financially due to increased costs.</li> <li>• <b>Childcare sector quality:</b> improving setting quality and practitioner skills via the Implementation of Flying Start quality guidance and early years training and support e.g. safeguarding.</li> <li>• <b>Meeting need:</b> this has ensured the most deprived areas in Flintshire benefit first from the funding and has allowed time to grow the Sector, including in-house provision and models of operation.</li> <li>• <b>Family outgoings:</b> families already or considering paying for childcare will benefit from the funded childcare. Families unable to afford childcare will have access.</li> <li>• <b>Educational outcomes:</b> Quality childcare for 2-year-olds can improve children’s readiness for school and learning, and influence their longer-term outcomes. The longer-term aim is to ensure that all children have the best start in life and become adults who reach their full potential and contribute to society.</li> <li>• <b>Employment:</b> funded childcare demand will create new roles within settings and provide long term employment opportunities in Flintshire.</li> <li>• <b>Early Intervention:</b> Through the support of quality childcare and skilled staff there will be an opportunity to identify needs early and provide appropriate intervention. This could include for example, assessing and developing a child’s speech, language and communication or meeting an additional support initially within the childcare setting prior to seeking specialist input.</li> </ul> |
| 1.08 | <p><b>Challenges</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|  | <p>Programme challenges that will need to be managed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flying Start Childcare Sustainability: currently provided by existing open market childcare settings, with the exception of Garden City, an inhouse provision – in some area’s settings may not be sustainable in the long term due to rising staffing and utility costs, and the expectations required when childcare providers are registered for certain programmes which require more than the National Minimum Standards for Childcare.</li> <li>• Capacity and availability of childcare places: Limited capital funding and allocations from Welsh Government don’t cover all areas identified for creating and increasing childcare provision, therefore, some children are likely to miss out on funded childcare places. The Nesta Cymru Report and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan identifies that childcare availability is less in areas of deprivation.</li> <li>• Quality: Many settings do not fully meet all the quality standards stipulated within the Flying Start Guidance. This does not mean that the quality is not good. Indeed, there is permission to temporarily relax some expectations of new providers however it will require a concerted effort to ensure settings meet targets within timescales, and to develop a model of self-assessment, planning and action that ensure the quality is consistent and sustainable and that child needs are met. There will be impact on the Early Years Childcare, Capital and Partnership Team due to the requirements for verifying the quality and qualifications of expansion settings on an ongoing basis. The model will need to be reviewed and research shows that it is childcare quality that provides the biggest impact on children, not childcare itself. There is no evidence that children benefit from attending settings that are not of high quality (<a href="#">EPPSE, 2015</a>).</li> <li>• Workforce capacity: Pressure on exiting employees to deliver this scheme on top of business-as-usual commitments will impact other services.</li> <li>• Digital Strategy: There is a need to develop work pathways through digital provision to staff due to the increased demands. This will include the expansion of the Flying Start database to incorporate childcare and support staff with digital solutions.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2.01        | The Flying Start 2 year old childcare is fully funded by Welsh Government grant funding; allocated through the Children and Communities Grant. Welsh Government provide Guidance in relation to the expenditure which must be complied with. This relates to the age, geographical area, number of children and staffing and resourcing. |

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| 3.00 | <b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.01 | <p data-bbox="320 259 772 293"><b><u>Risk 1: Childcare Sufficiency</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="320 333 1353 443">Some areas have no or limited childcare available for 2-year-olds. Specifically, there is limited provision in rural areas which is supported in the analysis and report from Nesta Cymru.</p> <p data-bbox="320 483 1378 696">Work is being undertaken by the Childcare team to promote and develop provision in these areas, but this will require investment, a willingness for providers to establish childcare settings, including potential capital development, and time before being able to ensure childcare sufficiency in these areas and this may lead to complaints from parents/carers wishing immediate access to provision within their community.</p> <p data-bbox="320 736 1378 882">As an interim mitigation, eligible families from these areas will be able to access childcare in other areas whilst the local infrastructure is developed. However, this will need to be closely monitored by the staff to ensure capacity and local impacts in areas of limited places.</p> <p data-bbox="320 922 703 956"><b>Actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="320 987 1385 2045" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="320 987 1385 1133">• Enable parents in rural communities to access childcare by promoting all Early Years childcare programmes/grants/schemes including Flying Start expansion, through FCC and Family Information Service Flintshire (FISF) media platforms and outreach work including Dewis childcare.</li> <li data-bbox="320 1173 1385 1274">• Signpost parents/carers to their nearest childcare providers, made available through FISF information packs and promotion of the expansion through volunteer Parents Champions and Family Workers.</li> <li data-bbox="320 1314 1385 1722">• Provide information, advice, and support to childcare providers to apply for the Small Capital Grant (Welsh Government funding) to enable opportunities for childcare providers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="464 1464 1385 1574">○ obtain a vehicle to transport children from rural areas to the nearest childcare providers to increase access and take up the offer.</li> <li data-bbox="464 1615 1385 1722">○ Develop and improve the indoor and outdoor childcare facilities/provisions to make it developmentally appropriate for 2-year-olds.</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="320 1762 1385 2045">• Continue to support the development of the childminder sector in collaboration with PACEY (Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years). Currently, training funding is available to applicants who want to become a childminder (pre-registration cost including accredited training, quality start pack, PACEY membership fee). There may be opportunity to build up childminder networks. This will also support the anti-poverty agenda. PACEY is commissioned to provide pre-registration email and telephone support to potential applicants</li> </ul> |



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|      | <p>who want to become a childminder in Flintshire. Once registered, childminders are supported by FCC Childcare Development Officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop seamless early years childcare and education pathways. Early Entitlement and Early Years and Family services will continue to work closely together to support transition for children. The Phase 2 proposed areas offer Early Entitlement provision within non-maintained settings (playgroups and private day nurseries) and schools. Regular meetings will be scheduled to consider each proposed area and future areas as Flying Start childcare expands further. The meetings will consider pathways between Flying Start, Early Entitlement and Schools and how these can be made as easy and accessible as possible.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3.02 | <p><b><u>Risk 2: Welsh Medium Targets</u></b></p> <p>In Flintshire, all eligible children have an offer of a Welsh medium setting. Even with a comprehensive active offer fewer than 5% of parents choose Welsh medium childcare. In terms of reporting and potentially published statistics that these targets are unlikely to be met without additional funding, communication, and clear Welsh medium education pathways for all children in Flintshire. This requires the active support of members of the Welsh Language Strategy (WESP) group.</p> <p><b>Actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudiad Meithrin had advised that all Welsh Medium providers who are supported by them would be expected to become Flying Start registered providers, to meet the phased expansion of 2-year-old childcare. The 6 Welsh Medium Mudiad Meithrin playgroups within Flintshire already provide Early Entitlement education which makes transition of Flying Start and Childcare Offer children to Early Entitlement in these settings straight forward.</li> <li>• All Welsh Medium settings are based within Flintshire Welsh Medium schools or on their grounds which helps their smooth transition through the different phases of their Welsh Medium childcare and education.</li> <li>• One Welsh Medium school is due to be considered within the next phase of WG Early Years Large Capital Grant offer (subject to agreement of all parties and approval of the business case). If successful, this grant will be used to develop childcare provision at the school sites which will support the smooth transition of children from childcare to education in line with wider WESP objectives. It is recommended that all school expansions and improvements and childcare capital are aligned to ensure needs are met across the childcare/education.</li> <li>• Continue to work with Mudiad Meithrin to support WESP objectives by commissioning the organisation to support Welsh Medium settings in Flintshire. Early Years are a member of the WESP Partnership.</li> </ul> |
| 3.03 | <p><b>Risk: Increased Demand on Early Entitlement Provision</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|  | <p>The expansion of the 2 year old childcare programme could enhance integration between the 2 year old provision, the 3–4 year old Childcare Offer, and Early Entitlement, benefiting families and the sector by improving transitions and continuity. However, this creates two key risks:</p> <p><b>1. Hourly Rates</b></p> <p>Increased demand may require more settings to register as Early Entitlement providers. Hourly rates paid to childcare providers registered to provide Flying Start, 3-4 year old Childcare Offer and Early Entitlement require joined-up management and oversight to ensure sustainability and incentivise participation. Rate reviews, such as the annual review of Childcare Offer rates from 2025/26, could result in one programme negatively impacting another.</p> <p><b>2. Qualified Teacher Input and Childcare Development</b></p> <p>Welsh Government’s requirement for 10% qualified teacher input in Early Entitlement settings could lead to financial and workforce pressures. Increased demand may strain advisory teachers’ capacity to maintain standards, potentially causing: failure to meet requisite standards; settings being placed into Estyn follow-up categories; higher workloads for advisory teachers, leading to reputational risks for the Council.</p> <p>It will also impact on capacity to meet the Authorities statutory duty to ensure sufficient childcare across Flintshire, to meet the needs of parents. Whilst funding is available to support the Flying Start element no further funding has been made available for increasing capacity within the above teams.</p> <p><b>Actions to mitigate risks:</b></p> <p>These risks require careful management of rate reviews, targeted workforce development, and support for registered 2-year old expansion and Early Entitlement settings to reach and maintain quality and compliance.</p> |
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| <b>4.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4.01        | <p>Consultation has been carried out with key partners including Early Years staff, and Cwllwm partners.</p> <p>Welsh Government have stipulated the criteria and will approve the areas, and speed of expansion. Partners have been aware of the programme since its original inception, and it is widely published on social media.</p> |

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| <b>5.00</b> | <b>APPENDICES</b>    |
| 5.01        | Appendix 1: Option 1 |

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|  | Appendix 2: Option 2 |
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| <b>6.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 6.01        | <p>Welsh Government 2 Year Old Expansion Guidance</p> <p>The criteria will determine the areas of focus and will reflect the following three priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- addressing deprivation</li> <li>- supporting and increasing Welsh language provision</li> <li>- addressing gaps in availability of provision</li> </ul> <p>A data-driven research project to explore available early-years data in Flintshire, identifying key questions early-years staff hoped to address through data analysis, improve data utilisation, and uncovering gaps in existing datasets.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nesta.org.uk/project/using-early-years-data-to-support-families-a-partnership-with-flintshire-county-council/">https://www.nesta.org.uk/project/using-early-years-data-to-support-families-a-partnership-with-flintshire-county-council/</a></p> |

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| <b>7.00</b> | <b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7.01        | <p><b>Contact Officer:</b></p> <p>Byra Foulkes – Early Years Childcare, Capital and Partnership Team Manager</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 703934 / 07795122267<br/> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:byra.foulkes@flintshire.gov.uk">byra.foulkes@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Gail Bennett – Service Manager, Early Years and Family Service<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:gail.bennett@flintshire.gov.uk">gail.bennett@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> |

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| <b>8.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|             | <p><b>Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)</b> - The CSA is a questionnaire that was sent out to families living in the Flintshire area that enquired about what improvements they would like to see made to the childcare provisions that are offered in the Flintshire area.</p> <p><b>Capital Funding</b> - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.</p> <p><b>LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas)</b> – The data used to support the identification of geographical areas for statistical purposes. It includes population, health, education, housing and deprivation.</p> |

**Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)** – This index is used to identify areas with higher levels of deprivation based on various social, economic and environmental factors.

**NESTA Cymru:** Nesta is an innovation foundation. For them, innovation means turning bold ideas into reality and changing lives for the better. They use their expertise, skills and funding in areas where there are big challenges facing society.

**WESP and Welsh Language Strategy:** Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. Working together to achieve Cymraeg 2050 and a million Welsh Speakers, implementing the WESP action plan into educational strategic plans.

**CWLWM:** Childcare Wales Learning and Working Mutually. The alliance of five childcare and play partners delivering a bilingual integrated service that will ensure the best outcomes for children and families across Wales.

**Mudiad Meithrin:** A voluntary organisation celebrating and encouraging the use of Welsh Language in childcare and education.

**Early Entitlement:** Provides educational provision for 3 year olds, supporting the childcare workforce to deliver educational sessions.

| LSOA Name               | WIMD Rank 2019 | WIMD Rank Movement since 2016/17 | Final Rank | SSC Rank | Hub Rank | FSM Uptake Rank | % of all Hub Referrals in LSOA | SCC Total % | LSOA 10 Yearly Birth Average 2011 - 2020 | % LSOA coverage at 31 March 2016 | Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 | Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 Minus coverage % |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Holywell West           | 1              | 0                                | 1          | 2        | 1        | 18              | 4.5%                           | 5.1%        | 37                                       | 42.6                             | 28                                      | 16                                                       |
| Holywell Central        | 4              | -2                               | 2          | 1        | 2        | 8               | 3.9%                           | 6.8%        | 25                                       | 90.7                             | 29                                      | 3                                                        |
| Shotton Higher 2        | 2              | 2                                | 3          | 3        | 10       | 2               | 2.5%                           | 4.2%        | 22                                       | 80.4                             | 14                                      | 3                                                        |
| Sealand 2               | 8              | 8                                | 5          | 6        | 4        | 5               | 3.3%                           | 2.9%        | 22                                       | 96.9                             | 18                                      | 1                                                        |
| Shotton Higher 1        | 9              | -3                               | 9          | 21       | 24       | 6               | 1.5%                           | 1.5%        | 14                                       | 92.6                             | 7                                       | 1                                                        |
| Flint Castle            | 18             | 1                                | 10         | 10       | 11       | 11              | 2.4%                           | 2.6%        | 26                                       | 59.1                             | 18                                      | 7                                                        |
| Greenfield 1            | 3              | 0                                | 11         | 33       | 23       | 17              | 1.5%                           | 0.9%        | 20                                       | 77.3                             | 14                                      | 3                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Central 2 | 20             | 2                                | 12         | 6        | 7        | 19              | 2.7%                           | 2.9%        | 26                                       | 40.7                             | 22                                      | 13                                                       |
| Flint Oakenholt 2       | 12             | 0                                | 14         | 15       | 16       | 42              | 1.8%                           | 2.0%        | 28                                       | 56.7                             | 59                                      | 25                                                       |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 4 | 28             | -2                               | 16         | 5        | 6        | 9               | 2.8%                           | 3.3%        | 23                                       | 92.7                             | 10                                      | 1                                                        |
| Flint Oakenholt 1       | 6              | 4                                | 18         | 52       | 17       | 14              | 1.8%                           | 0.4%        | 20                                       | 95.8                             | 14                                      | 1                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Central 1 | 22             | 0                                | 20         | 15       | 26       | 13              | 1.4%                           | 2.0%        | 15                                       | 97.1                             | 11                                      | 0                                                        |
| Queensferry             | 12             | -7                               | 22         | 24       | 36       | 31              | 1.0%                           | 1.3%        | 29                                       | 95.7                             | 24                                      | 1                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 3 | 32             | -1                               | 28         | 6        | 12       | 53              | 2.3%                           | 2.9%        | 22                                       | 2.7                              | 22                                      | 21                                                       |
| Connah's Quay Wepre     | 36             | 2                                | 33         | 33       | 21       | 51              | 1.6%                           | 0.9%        | 27                                       | 8.7                              | 25                                      | 23                                                       |
| Saltney Stonebridge 1   | 45             | -10                              | 36         | 43       | 31       | 7               | 1.2%                           | 0.7%        | 30                                       | 0.0                              | 27                                      | 27                                                       |
| Buckley Bistre East 2   | 28             | 7                                | 37         | 43       | 48       | 67              | 0.8%                           | 0.7%        | 18                                       | 0.0                              | 9                                       | 9                                                        |
| Flint Coleshill 2       | 32             | -16                              | 38         | 52       | 54       | 23              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 14.3                             | 9                                       | 8                                                        |
| Shotton East            | 36             | 6                                | 39         | 29       | 65       | 29              | 0.5%                           | 1.1%        | 20                                       | 6.1                              | 12                                      | 11                                                       |
| Mancot 2                | 49             | -4                               | 41         | 21       | 44       | 37              | 0.8%                           | 1.5%        | 19                                       | 24.7                             | 10                                      | 8                                                        |
| Flint Trelawny 2        | 48             | -10                              | 42         | 33       | 34       | 50              | 1.1%                           | 0.9%        | 14                                       | 21.0                             | 8                                       | 6                                                        |
| Greenfield 2            | 42             | -4                               | 43         | 33       | 64       | 26              | 0.5%                           | 0.9%        | 20                                       | 82.0                             | 6                                       | 1                                                        |
| Gronant                 | 45             | 13                               | 44         | 29       | 67       | 16              | 0.4%                           | 1.1%        | 12                                       | 0.0                              | 16                                      | 16                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 3   | 42             | 12                               | 45         | 43       | 53       | 32              | 0.7%                           | 0.7%        | 15                                       | 46.3                             | 10                                      | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Mountain 2      | 36             | 6                                | 46         | 43       | 59       | 61              | 0.6%                           | 0.7%        | 16                                       | 0.0                              | 18                                      | 18                                                       |
| Hope 2                  | 36             | -14                              | 47         | 52       | 65       | 36              | 0.5%                           | 0.4%        | 13                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Shotton West            | 51             | 3                                | 47         | 33       | 40       | 49              | 0.9%                           | 0.9%        | 24                                       | 0.0                              | 25                                      | 25                                                       |
| Mancot 1                | 45             | 7                                | 49         | 52       | 49       | 34              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 15                                       | 18.5                             | 11                                      | 9                                                        |
| Gwernaffield            | 36             | 22                               | 50         | 52       | 59       | 60              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 13                                       | 0.0                              | 6                                       | 6                                                        |
| Mold West 2             | 57             | 1                                | 51         | 43       | 33       | 30              | 1.2%                           | 0.7%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 1 | 35             | 7                                | 52         | 70       | 62       | 52              | 0.5%                           | 0.2%        | 13                                       | 31.1                             | 7                                       | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Mountain 1      | 59             | -12                              | 53         | 33       | 42       | 57              | 0.9%                           | 0.9%        | 19                                       | 0.0                              | 14                                      | 14                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 2   | 65             | 11                               | 54         | 33       | 29       | 59              | 1.3%                           | 0.9%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 21                                      | 21                                                       |
| Flint Trelawny 1        | 61             | -7                               | 55         | 24       | 47       | 66              | 0.8%                           | 1.3%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 2 | 49             | 2                                | 56         | 70       | 44       | 43              | 0.8%                           | 0.2%        | 22                                       | 2.0                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Brynford                | 55             | -10                              | 57         | 52       | 52       | 65              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 14                                      | 14                                                       |
| Saltney Stonebridge 2   | 61             | 15                               | 58         | 43       | 62       | 41              | 0.5%                           | 0.7%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Penyffordd 2            | 74             | -6                               | 59         | 29       | 34       | 69              | 1.1%                           | 1.1%        | 21                                       | 0.0                              | 27                                      | 27                                                       |
| Ewloe 3                 | 61             | 6                                | 60         | 52       | 54       | 78              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 23                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Flint Coleshill 1       | 55             | -8                               | 61         | 52       | 85       | 54              | 0.2%                           | 0.4%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 8                                       | 8                                                        |
| Caergwrlle              | 53             | -4                               | 62         | 70       | 72       | 56              | 0.3%                           | 0.2%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Pentrobin 2     | 68             | -3                               | 63         | 52       | 50       | 75              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 20                                       | 0.0                              | 19                                      | 19                                                       |
| Llanfynydd              | 53             | -4                               | 64         | 70       | 78       | 63              | 0.3%                           | 0.2%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Cilcain                 | 66             | -8                               | 65         | 70       | 44       | 73              | 0.8%                           | 0.2%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 12                                      | 12                                                       |
| Buckley Pentrobin 1     | 59             | -1                               | 66         | 70       | 69       | 64              | 0.4%                           | 0.2%        | 26                                       | 0.0                              | 43                                      | 43                                                       |
| Northop 1               | 61             | 7                                | 67         | 52       | 87       | 62              | 0.1%                           | 0.4%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 9                                       | 9                                                        |
| Buckley Bistre West 1   | 57             | 8                                | 68         | 84       | 75       | 55              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 11                                      | 11                                                       |
| Gwernymynydd            | 74             | 5                                | 69         | 52       | 54       | 80              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 12                                      | 12                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 1   | 70             | -12                              | 70         | 52       | 71       | 68              | 0.3%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 16.7                             | 5                                       | 4                                                        |
| Broughton South 2       | 78             | 1                                | 71         | 52       | 50       | 76              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 29                                       | 0.0                              | 45                                      | 45                                                       |
| New Brighton 1          | 70             | 9                                | 72         | 70       | 59       | 71              | 0.6%                           | 0.2%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Penyffordd 1            | 70             | 0                                | 73         | 52       | 75       | 84              | 0.3%                           | 0.4%        | 24                                       | 0.0                              | 46                                      | 46                                                       |
| Whitford                | 74             | 11                               | 74         | 43       | 80       | 74              | 0.2%                           | 0.7%        | 18                                       | 0.0                              | 15                                      | 15                                                       |
| Aston 2                 | 74             | -4                               | 75         | 52       | 88       | 46              | 0.1%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 0.5                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Halkyn                  | 66             | -12                              | 76         | 70       | 81       | 70              | 0.2%                           | 0.2%        | 12                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Mold South 1            | 78             | 1                                | 77         | 52       | 72       | 72              | 0.3%                           | 0.4%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 11                                      | 11                                                       |
| New Brighton 2          | 68             | -10                              | 78         | 84       | 78       | 48              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Argoed (Flintshire) 2   | 70             | 0                                | 79         | 84       | 72       | 58              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Northop Hall            | 78             | -8                               | 80         | 70       | 57       | 77              | 0.6%                           | 0.2%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 23                                      | 23                                                       |
| Ewloe 1                 | 78             | 1                                | 81         | 70       | 69       | 83              | 0.4%                           | 0.2%        | 17                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Northop 2               | 89             | 1                                | 82         | 52       | 57       | 90              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Pentrobin 3     | 84             | -5                               | 83         | 43       | 81       | 87              | 0.2%                           | 0.7%        | 13                                       | 0.0                              | 15                                      | 15                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 4   | 86             | -1                               | 84         | 70       | 67       | 86              | 0.4%                           | 0.2%        | 19                                       | 0.0                              | 14                                      | 14                                                       |
| Hope 1                  | 78             | -8                               | 85         | 70       | 90       | 89              | 0.1%                           | 0.2%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Caerwys 1               | 86             | 1                                | 86         | 70       | 81       | 79              | 0.2%                           | 0.2%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Argoed (Flintshire) 1   | 78             | -8                               | 87         | 84       | 91       | 88              | 0.0%                           | 0.0%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 2                                       | 2                                                        |
| Hawarden                | 86             | 1                                | 88         | 84       | 75       | 85              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Ewloe 2                 | 84             | -8                               | 89         | 84       | 81       | 92              | 0.2%                           | 0.0%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Caerwys 2               | 90             | -3                               | 90         | 84       | 85       | 81              | 0.2%                           | 0.0%        | 8                                        | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Mold South 2            | 92             | -2                               | 91         | 70       | 91       | 91              | 0.0%                           | 0.2%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Higher Kinnerton        | 90             | 0                                | 92         | 84       | 88       | 82              | 0.1%                           | 0.0%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 11                                      | 11                                                       |

Cohorts

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829

Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 Minus coverage %

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| LSOA Name               | WIMD Rank 2019 | WIMD Rank Movement since 2016/17 | Final Rank | SSC Rank | Hub Rank | FSM Uptake Rank | % of all Hub Referrals in LSOA | SCC Total % | LSOA 10 Yearly Birth Average 2011 - 2020 | % LSOA coverage at 31 March 2016 | Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 | Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 Minus coverage % |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Holywell West           | 1              | 0                                | 1          | 2        | 1        | 18              | 4.5%                           | 5.1%        | 37                                       | 42.6                             | 28                                      | 16                                                       |
| Holywell Central        | 4              | -2                               | 2          | 1        | 2        | 8               | 3.9%                           | 6.8%        | 25                                       | 90.7                             | 29                                      | 3                                                        |
| Shotton Higher 2        | 2              | 2                                | 3          | 3        | 10       | 2               | 2.5%                           | 4.2%        | 22                                       | 80.4                             | 14                                      | 3                                                        |
| Sealand 2               | 8              | 8                                | 5          | 6        | 4        | 5               | 3.3%                           | 2.9%        | 22                                       | 96.9                             | 18                                      | 1                                                        |
| Shotton Higher 1        | 9              | -3                               | 9          | 21       | 24       | 6               | 1.5%                           | 1.5%        | 14                                       | 92.6                             | 7                                       | 1                                                        |
| Flint Castle            | 18             | 1                                | 10         | 10       | 11       | 11              | 2.4%                           | 2.6%        | 26                                       | 59.1                             | 18                                      | 7                                                        |
| Greenfield 1            | 3              | 0                                | 11         | 33       | 23       | 17              | 1.5%                           | 0.9%        | 20                                       | 77.3                             | 14                                      | 3                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Central 2 | 20             | 2                                | 12         | 6        | 7        | 19              | 2.7%                           | 2.9%        | 26                                       | 40.7                             | 22                                      | 13                                                       |
| Flint Oakenholt 2       | 12             | 0                                | 14         | 15       | 16       | 42              | 1.8%                           | 2.0%        | 28                                       | 56.7                             | 59                                      | 25                                                       |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 4 | 28             | -2                               | 16         | 5        | 6        | 9               | 2.8%                           | 3.3%        | 23                                       | 92.7                             | 10                                      | 1                                                        |
| Flint Oakenholt 1       | 6              | 4                                | 18         | 52       | 17       | 14              | 1.8%                           | 0.4%        | 20                                       | 95.8                             | 14                                      | 1                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Central 1 | 22             | 0                                | 20         | 15       | 26       | 13              | 1.4%                           | 2.0%        | 15                                       | 97.1                             | 11                                      | 0                                                        |
| Queensferry             | 12             | -7                               | 22         | 24       | 36       | 31              | 1.0%                           | 1.3%        | 29                                       | 95.7                             | 24                                      | 1                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 3 | 32             | -1                               | 28         | 6        | 12       | 53              | 2.3%                           | 2.9%        | 22                                       | 2.7                              | 22                                      | 21                                                       |
| Connah's Quay Wepre     | 36             | 2                                | 33         | 33       | 21       | 51              | 1.6%                           | 0.9%        | 27                                       | 8.7                              | 25                                      | 23                                                       |
| Saltney Stonebridge 1   | 45             | -10                              | 36         | 43       | 31       | 7               | 1.2%                           | 0.7%        | 30                                       | 0.0                              | 27                                      | 27                                                       |
| Buckley Bistre East 2   | 28             | 7                                | 37         | 43       | 48       | 67              | 0.8%                           | 0.7%        | 18                                       | 0.0                              | 9                                       | 9                                                        |
| Flint Coleshill 2       | 32             | -16                              | 38         | 52       | 54       | 23              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 14.3                             | 9                                       | 8                                                        |
| Shotton East            | 36             | 6                                | 39         | 29       | 65       | 29              | 0.5%                           | 1.1%        | 20                                       | 6.1                              | 12                                      | 11                                                       |
| Mancot 2                | 49             | -4                               | 41         | 21       | 44       | 37              | 0.8%                           | 1.5%        | 19                                       | 24.7                             | 10                                      | 8                                                        |
| Flint Trelawny 2        | 48             | -10                              | 42         | 33       | 34       | 50              | 1.1%                           | 0.9%        | 14                                       | 21.0                             | 8                                       | 6                                                        |
| Greenfield 2            | 42             | -4                               | 43         | 33       | 64       | 26              | 0.5%                           | 0.9%        | 20                                       | 82.0                             | 6                                       | 1                                                        |
| Gronant                 | 45             | 13                               | 44         | 29       | 67       | 16              | 0.4%                           | 1.1%        | 12                                       | 0.0                              | 16                                      | 16                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 3   | 42             | 12                               | 45         | 43       | 53       | 32              | 0.7%                           | 0.7%        | 15                                       | 46.3                             | 10                                      | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Mountain 2      | 36             | 6                                | 46         | 43       | 59       | 61              | 0.6%                           | 0.7%        | 16                                       | 0.0                              | 18                                      | 18                                                       |
| Hope 2                  | 36             | -14                              | 47         | 52       | 65       | 36              | 0.5%                           | 0.4%        | 13                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Shotton West            | 51             | 3                                | 47         | 33       | 40       | 49              | 0.9%                           | 0.9%        | 24                                       | 0.0                              | 25                                      | 25                                                       |
| Mancot 1                | 45             | 7                                | 49         | 52       | 49       | 34              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 15                                       | 18.5                             | 11                                      | 9                                                        |
| Gwernaffield            | 36             | 22                               | 50         | 52       | 59       | 60              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 13                                       | 0.0                              | 6                                       | 6                                                        |
| Mold West 2             | 57             | 1                                | 51         | 43       | 33       | 30              | 1.2%                           | 0.7%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 1 | 35             | 7                                | 52         | 70       | 62       | 52              | 0.5%                           | 0.2%        | 13                                       | 31.1                             | 7                                       | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Mountain 1      | 59             | -12                              | 53         | 33       | 42       | 57              | 0.9%                           | 0.9%        | 19                                       | 0.0                              | 14                                      | 14                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 2   | 65             | 11                               | 54         | 33       | 29       | 59              | 1.3%                           | 0.9%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 21                                      | 21                                                       |
| Flint Trelawny 1        | 61             | -7                               | 55         | 24       | 47       | 66              | 0.8%                           | 1.3%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Connah's Quay Golftyn 2 | 49             | 2                                | 56         | 70       | 44       | 43              | 0.8%                           | 0.2%        | 22                                       | 2.0                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Brynford                | 55             | -10                              | 57         | 52       | 52       | 65              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 14                                      | 14                                                       |
| Saltney Stonebridge 2   | 61             | 15                               | 58         | 43       | 62       | 41              | 0.5%                           | 0.7%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Penyffordd 2            | 74             | -6                               | 59         | 29       | 34       | 69              | 1.1%                           | 1.1%        | 21                                       | 0.0                              | 27                                      | 27                                                       |
| Ewloe 3                 | 61             | 6                                | 60         | 52       | 54       | 78              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 23                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Flint Coleshill 1       | 55             | -8                               | 61         | 52       | 85       | 54              | 0.2%                           | 0.4%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 8                                       | 8                                                        |

## Cohorts

1

2

417

Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 Minus coverage %

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| LSOA Name             | WIMD Rank 2019 | WIMD Rank Movement since 2016/17 | Final Rank | SSC Rank | Hub Rank | FSM Uptake Rank | % of all Hub Referrals in LSOA | SCC Total % | LSOA 10 Yearly Birth Average 2011 - 2020 | % LSOA coverage at 31 March 2016 | Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 | Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 Minus coverage % |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Caergwrlle            | 53             | -4                               | 62         | 70       | 72       | 56              | 0.3%                           | 0.2%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Pentrobin 2   | 68             | -3                               | 63         | 52       | 50       | 75              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 20                                       | 0.0                              | 19                                      | 19                                                       |
| Llanfynydd            | 53             | -4                               | 64         | 70       | 78       | 63              | 0.3%                           | 0.2%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Cilcain               | 66             | -8                               | 65         | 70       | 44       | 73              | 0.8%                           | 0.2%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 12                                      | 12                                                       |
| Buckley Pentrobin 1   | 59             | -1                               | 66         | 70       | 69       | 64              | 0.4%                           | 0.2%        | 26                                       | 0.0                              | 43                                      | 43                                                       |
| Northop 1             | 61             | 7                                | 67         | 52       | 87       | 62              | 0.1%                           | 0.4%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 9                                       | 9                                                        |
| Buckley Bistre West 1 | 57             | 8                                | 68         | 84       | 75       | 55              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 11                                      | 11                                                       |
| Gwernymynydd          | 74             | 5                                | 69         | 52       | 54       | 80              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 12                                      | 12                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 1 | 70             | -12                              | 70         | 52       | 71       | 68              | 0.3%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 16.7                             | 5                                       | 4                                                        |
| Broughton South 2     | 78             | 1                                | 71         | 52       | 50       | 76              | 0.7%                           | 0.4%        | 29                                       | 0.0                              | 45                                      | 45                                                       |
| New Brighton 1        | 70             | 9                                | 72         | 70       | 59       | 71              | 0.6%                           | 0.2%        | 15                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Penyffordd 1          | 70             | 0                                | 73         | 52       | 75       | 84              | 0.3%                           | 0.4%        | 24                                       | 0.0                              | 46                                      | 46                                                       |
| Whitford              | 74             | 11                               | 74         | 43       | 80       | 74              | 0.2%                           | 0.7%        | 18                                       | 0.0                              | 15                                      | 15                                                       |
| Aston 2               | 74             | -4                               | 75         | 52       | 88       | 46              | 0.1%                           | 0.4%        | 11                                       | 0.5                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Halkyn                | 66             | -12                              | 76         | 70       | 81       | 70              | 0.2%                           | 0.2%        | 12                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Mold South 1          | 78             | 1                                | 77         | 52       | 72       | 72              | 0.3%                           | 0.4%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 11                                      | 11                                                       |
| New Brighton 2        | 68             | -10                              | 78         | 84       | 78       | 48              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Argoed (Flintshire) 2 | 70             | 0                                | 79         | 84       | 72       | 58              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Northop Hall          | 78             | -8                               | 80         | 70       | 57       | 77              | 0.6%                           | 0.2%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 23                                      | 23                                                       |
| Ewloe 1               | 78             | 1                                | 81         | 70       | 69       | 83              | 0.4%                           | 0.2%        | 17                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Northop 2             | 89             | 1                                | 82         | 52       | 57       | 90              | 0.6%                           | 0.4%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Buckley Pentrobin 3   | 84             | -5                               | 83         | 43       | 81       | 87              | 0.2%                           | 0.7%        | 13                                       | 0.0                              | 15                                      | 15                                                       |
| Connah's Quay South 4 | 86             | -1                               | 84         | 70       | 67       | 86              | 0.4%                           | 0.2%        | 19                                       | 0.0                              | 14                                      | 14                                                       |
| Hope 1                | 78             | -8                               | 85         | 70       | 90       | 89              | 0.1%                           | 0.2%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Caerwys 1             | 86             | 1                                | 86         | 70       | 81       | 79              | 0.2%                           | 0.2%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 10                                      | 10                                                       |
| Argoed (Flintshire) 1 | 78             | -8                               | 87         | 84       | 91       | 88              | 0.0%                           | 0.0%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 2                                       | 2                                                        |
| Hawarden              | 86             | 1                                | 88         | 84       | 75       | 85              | 0.3%                           | 0.0%        | 14                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Ewloe 2               | 84             | -8                               | 89         | 84       | 81       | 92              | 0.2%                           | 0.0%        | 10                                       | 0.0                              | 13                                      | 13                                                       |
| Caerwys 2             | 90             | -3                               | 90         | 84       | 85       | 81              | 0.2%                           | 0.0%        | 8                                        | 0.0                              | 5                                       | 5                                                        |
| Mold South 2          | 92             | -2                               | 91         | 70       | 91       | 91              | 0.0%                           | 0.2%        | 9                                        | 0.0                              | 7                                       | 7                                                        |
| Higher Kinnerton      | 90             | 0                                | 92         | 84       | 88       | 82              | 0.1%                           | 0.0%        | 11                                       | 0.0                              | 11                                      | 11                                                       |

## Cohorts

1

2

412

Estimated # of children aged 2 < 3 2025 Minus coverage %

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| CABINET                |                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024.                                                                             |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Report back from the Call-In of Decision No.4307 - Residual Waste Collection Change Implementation and Policy Review |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Cabinet Member for Streetscene & Transportation                                                                      |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Democratic Services Manager                                                                                          |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Strategic                                                                                                            |

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A decision of the Cabinet - Record No 4307 - *Residual Waste Collection Change Implementation and Policy Review* was called in.

The call-in meeting of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 10am.

Having considered the decision, the committee chose Option 3: to refer it back to the decision-making person or body (i.e. Cabinet) for reconsideration.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | That Cabinet notes the decision of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting regarding Record No.4307.                                                                                                                                      |
| 2 | The Cabinet is invited to confirm or amend its previous decision, specifically record number 4307 e), having regard to the decision and comments from the call-in meeting of the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee held 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024. |

## REPORT DETAILS

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.00 | <b>EXPLAINING THE CALL-IN</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1.01 | <p>At the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the <a href="#">Residual Waste Collection Change Implementation and Policy Review</a> report was considered.</p> <p>The recommendations of that report, approved by Cabinet were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Cabinet approves the proposed implementation date for the residual waste collection frequency change already approved.</i></li><li>2. <i>Cabinet notes the proposed implementation plan presented with this report and supports the work undertaken to date.</i></li><li>3. <i>Cabinet notes the communication plan presented with this report.</i></li><li>4. <i>Cabinet notes the updated Recycling and Household Collections and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy to reflect the previously approved changes to services.</i></li><li>5. <i>Cabinet notes the updated Household Recycling Centre Vehicle Permit Policy to be published following the adoption of revised procedures put in place to support customers with disabilities who may need to access the HRCs using their vehicles.</i></li></ol> |
| 1.02 | <p>The decision of Cabinet, published as Record No. 4307 is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) <i>That the proposed implementation date for the residual waste collection frequency change already approved, be approved;</i></li><li>b) <i>That the proposed implementation plan be noted, and the work undertaken to date be supported;</i></li><li>c) <i>That the communication plan be noted;</i></li><li>d) <i>That the updated Recycling and Household Collections and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy to reflect the previously approved changes to services be noted; and</i></li><li>e) <i>That the updated Household Recycling Centre Vehicle Permit Policy to be published following the adoption of revised procedures put in place to support customers with disabilities who may need to access the HRCs using their vehicles be noted.</i></li></ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1.03 | <p>That decision – specifically e) in Paragraph 1.02 above – was called in by Councillors Sam Swash, Carolyn Preece, Andrew Parkhurst, Alasdair Ibbotson, and Gillian Brockley on the following grounds:</p> <p><i>The call-in relates to the updated Vehicle Permit Policy which requires residents to show proof of a valid blue badge in order to be eligible for a permit. There are residents who are disabled who will not have a blue badge, and therefore the Council's amended policy will continue to exclude them from the household recycling centres.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.04 | <p>The call-in was heard by the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee at the 10am meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p> <p>The call-in process is included as Appendix 1.</p> <p>The decision of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee was option 3, referral back to Cabinet.</p> <p>The Cabinet is therefore invited to reconsider the wording of the <i>Household Recycling Centre Vehicle Permit Policy</i> to take account the discussions and wording agreed in the light of the call-in.</p> <p>An updated copy of the policy is included as Appendix 2 which reflects the outcome of the committee discussions.</p> |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|             |                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>                                       |
| 2.01        | As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue. |

|             |                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>                        |
| 3.01        | As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue. |

|             |                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4.00</b> | <b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>                                             |
| 4.01        | As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue. |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5.00</b> | <b>APPENDICES</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 5.01        | <p>Appendix 1 – Call-in Arrangements</p> <p>Appendix 2 – <i>Household Recycling Centre Vehicle Permit Policy</i> (updated) which was included as Appendix 4 to the Report of the Chief Officer (Streetscene &amp; Transportation) on <i>Residual Waste Collection Change Implementation and Policy Review</i> considered at Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> November.</p> |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>                                                                                                                                                      |
| 6.01        | Report of the Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation) on <a href="#">Residual Waste Collection Change Implementation and Policy Review</a> considered at Cabinet on 19 <sup>th</sup> November. |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7.01        | <b>Contact Officer:</b> Steven Goodrum, Democratic Services Manager<br><b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702320<br><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:Steven.Goodrum@flintshire.gov.uk">Steven.Goodrum@flintshire.gov.uk</a> |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8.01        | Call-in: under section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview & Scrutiny committee can review a decision which has been made but not implemented. This is known as a 'call-in'. |

## **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

#### **CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **1. Background**

The arrangements for calling in a decision are to be found in paragraph 16 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution. The legal authority is within section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000. This note summarises the provisions in the Constitution and identifies changes required due to the pandemic and our holding Remote Attendance Meetings.

##### **2. Decision of the Cabinet**

When a decision is made by the Cabinet, the Head of Democratic Services publishes a record of those decisions within two days of them being made. This record is emailed to all Members of the County Council.

The decision record is dated the day it was published and specifies that

- the decision will come into force, and may be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision.
- unless it is called in within 5 working days after the publication of the decision

##### **3. Calling in a Decision**

For a call in to be initiated, the Chief Officer (Governance) or Head of Democratic Services must receive a request from the Chair of the relevant Overview & Scrutiny committee or at least four Members of the Council.

The call in email should be sent via a Flintshire.gov.uk email address to the Head of Democratic Services, stating the reason for call in. The first signatory should include the words 'call in' as the subject and should copy in the other proposed signatories. Those signatories should then email the Head of Democratic Services, using their Flintshire email addresses, saying 'I endorse the call in of record of Decision No XX'

This will ensure that there is an audit trail of signatories, in writing, of the call in, electronically signed ( and from their Flintshire email addresses) by all parties. The Head of Democratic Services will notify the decision taker of the call-in, and then arrange a meeting of the Committee within seven working days of the decision to call-in. (The last working day before Christmas day and the three non-public holiday days between Christmas and New Year will not be counted as working days for the purposes of this paragraph).

#### **4. The Call-in Meeting**

By their nature, call-in meetings can often be held at short notice (i.e. within seven working days of the call-in decision) and the only item of business to be transacted would normally be to deal with the call-in. However, from time to time it is expedient to consider a call in at a meeting which has already been convened.

It is suggested that the procedure outlined below be used at such a meeting.

#### **5. Procedure for a Call-in Meeting**

- (i) The Chair will invite the Head of Democratic Services or Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator to briefly outline the call-in procedure for Members of the Committee, explaining the time constraints within the Constitution. The Officer should also outline the ideal procedure, set out below, for an Overview & Scrutiny Committee to deal with a call-in meeting.
- (ii) The Chairman will then invite the initiators of the call-in to explain and clarify their reasons for calling in the decision. This can be by means of a spokesman, or by several Members contributing.
- (iii) The decision makers will then have the opportunity to respond to the issues raised by those initiating the call-in and provide further information if they believe that it will assist the committee's understanding of the decision.
- (iv) The Chair will then invite questions from Members, and the decision-makers and call-in initiators will be invited to answer the questions.
- (v) At the end of Members' questions, the Chair will ask the initiators of the call-in and the decision makers to sum up their respective cases.
- (vi) The Chair will then invite the Head of Democratic Services or Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator to explain the Committee's options for decision contained in the Constitution. The decision should include one of the four options given below, which are contained in the Constitution.

##### Option 1

If, having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is satisfied with the explanation which it has received, it will indicate as such, in order for the decision to be implemented.

##### Option 2

If, having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is 'no longer concerned', having received the explanations, but is not minded to indicate that it is 'satisfied with the explanation', then it is in order for the



Committee to resolve that 'the explanation be accepted but not endorsed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee'.

### Option 3

If, having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about it, then it may refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. If referred to the decision maker then the decision maker shall then reconsider, at the earliest scheduled meeting, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

### Option 4

If, having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about it, then it may refer the matter to full Council. If referred to full Council, the Council shall meet to consider the referral within 10 working days unless there is a scheduled meeting of the full Council at which the matter may be considered within the expiry of a further 5 working days.

Note:

If either Option 1 or Option 2 is decided upon, the Cabinet decision can be implemented after the Overview & Scrutiny meeting. If either Option 3 or 4 is decided upon, the Cabinet decision cannot be implemented after the Overview & Scrutiny meeting until it has received further consideration by either the Cabinet or Council.

- (vii) The Committee will then discuss the matter and following debate, reach a decision.

If it is apparent from the discussion that there is a clear preference for a particular option, it may be possible for the officer advising the chair to indicate whether they object or wish to abstain. However, it may be necessary to conduct a 'roll call' vote (similar to a recorded vote, but a quicker process with 12 members on a committee)

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## Vehicle Permit Policy



 Sir y Fflint yn ailgylchu  
Flintshire recycles

|                   |                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy            | Vehicle Permit Policy                                                       |
| Portfolio         | Streetscene and Transportation                                              |
| Service Area      | Waste Strategy                                                              |
| Related Documents | Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy |

## Revision History

| Version | Issue date    | Summary of Changes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | April 2022    | Standalone policy implemented following review of the Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2       | April 2023    | S1-Includes definition of trade/business waste<br>S1.1-Update to permit criteria for sign written vehicles<br>S2.1- Defines mobility vehicle access<br>S2.2-Defines access for trailers with caged sides<br>S3.1 & 3.2 – Defines documents needed on application<br>S3.3-Defines access criteria for sign written vehicles<br>S4-Defines action to be taken on permit administration and collection of soil conditioner<br>S7(c) - Defines process when borrowing a vehicle |
| 3       | November 2024 | S1 Updated text to reflect trade waste procedure.<br>S 1.1 – Added clarity regarding permit re-application<br>S 2.2 – Added mobility/disability vehicles<br>S 3.2 – Added application process for mobility/disability vehicles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Consultation

| Version | Who                                                                                                                                        | Date                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1       | Operatives, management, Chief Officer Team, Elected Members, Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet              | 2021/22                   |
| 2       | Operatives, management, Chief Officer Team, Elected Members, Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee                       | September – November 2022 |
| 3       | Management, Chief Officer Team, Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation, Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee | September - November 2024 |

## Approval

| Version | Who/Where                     | Date             |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1       | Cabinet                       | 18 January 2022  |
| 2       | Cabinet                       | 20 December 2022 |
| 3       | Cabinet (subject to approval) | 17 December 2024 |

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2. Vehicle Eligibility
  - 2.1 Vehicles that do not require a permit
  - 2.2 Vehicles that do require a permit
  - 2.3 Vehicles not eligible for a permit
3. Application Process
  - 3.1 Vehicle documentation required on application
  - 3.2 Trailer documentation required on application
  - 3.3 Sign written vehicles
  - 3.4 [Motability/Disability vehicles](#)
4. Permit Holder Access
  - 3.5 Changing/Selling a vehicle
  - 3.6 Lost or damaged vehicle permits
  - 3.7 Collection of soil conditioner
- 4 Withdrawal from the vehicle permit scheme
- 5 One-off permit
- 6 Temporary permit
- 7 Abuse of the vehicle permit scheme

## 1. Flintshire Vehicle Permit Scheme

The Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) are provided for householders to dispose of household waste safely and conveniently, as well as encouraging increased participation in recycling.

Flintshire County Council currently manages and operates five Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) for Flintshire residents to recycle or reuse household items that cannot be collected by the kerbside collections vehicles. The centres are situated at the following locations across the County:

- Greenfield
- Sandycroft
- Mold
- Buckley
- Rockliffe (Oakenholt)

The HRCs are solely for the disposal of small scale household waste from domestic properties. [Commercial and/or business waste is only accepted through a permit scheme at the Greenfield HRC in line with the conditions of the Environmental Permit.](#)

The Council's HRCs are not permitted to accept trade, commercial or business waste, which can be defined as any waste that comes from a commercial activity. If you use part of your home to run your business, then any waste from that part is business waste. Business waste also includes any waste that comes from construction, demolition, industry and agriculture. [This waste can be disposed of at a charge through a permit scheme, subject to compliance checks, at Greenfield HRC.](#)

To control access and manage the waste volumes being delivered to a HRC, the Council operates a vehicle permit scheme.

This policy sets out the parameters of the vehicle permit scheme.

## 1.1 Vehicle Permit Scheme Criteria

- A permit is issued on a rolling twelve month basis
- Twelve visits are permitted every twelve months.
- A householder can choose when to use the permits e.g. either all in one month or spread the visits over the year.
- [A full application must be resubmitted following the permit expiry or, if all twelve visits have not been used on expiry, once all the permit allocation has been fully utilised.](#)
- Only one permit is to be issued per residential address.
- [Permits will be issued for the site in closest proximity to the resident's property or, where a valid business case is presented, for the resident's site choice.](#)
- Trailers **will not** be allowed access if towed by a vehicle requiring a permit (E.g. van)
- Certain sign written vehicles may be eligible for an annual permit subject to certain conditions (see Section 3.3)
- Vehicles registered to a business address or associated with business, trade or commercial waste **are not** eligible for a [standard](#) permit.

- Domestic vehicles **are not** eligible if they are linked to businesses.(as above).
- The vehicle/owner must **not be** a registered waste carrier with either Natural Resources Wales or Environment Agency (England) [when disposing of household recycling and waste materials](#).
- Permits are available to Flintshire residents only and only **one** permit can be issued per household.
- Permits issued apply to a vehicle at a specific Flintshire address and not the waste. Therefore, even with a permit, HRC site staff can still turn away anybody suspected of bringing in waste of a commercial nature or waste related to the business of the sign written vehicle. If this does occur then the permit will be withdrawn from the resident as the terms and conditions of its issue will have been breached.
- Householders will **not** be permitted to use a permit to bring in any waste that relates to the business activity for which the vehicle is normally used.

## 2. Vehicle Eligibility

The type of vehicle will dictate whether a permit is required.

### 2.1 Vehicles that do not require a permit

- Small car
- Standard car
- Large family car
- Sports Utility vehicles (SUV)
- 4x4 vehicles (also known as All-Wheel drive)
- Motorbike
- Mobility vehicle (size must be with in restrictions of policy - standard or low roof elevation below 7 feet or 2.14 metres and must have mobility aid modifications)

### 2.2 Vehicles that do require a permit

- Pick-up (two and four seats) i.e. a small vehicle with an open/closed part at the back in which goods can be carried
- Car derived van
- Small van
- Medium van (standard or low roof elevation below 7 feet or 2.14 metres)
- Single axle trailers up to 6.6 feet / 2 metres in length with/without caged sides\*
- Twin axle trailers up to 6.6 feet / 2 metres in length with/without caged sides\*
- Minibus (with internal fixtures intact)
- Camper vans and motor homes (with internal fixtures intact and below 7 feet or 2.14 metres)



- Mobility vehicles that exceed the size restriction as set out in this policy, but have mobility aid modifications to support a customer with a disability to facilitate their day to day lives.
- Vehicles that exceed the size restriction as set out in this policy but are needed by a customer with a disability to facilitate their day to day lives.
- Vehicles that have been adapted to accommodate a disability, which would not ordinarily meet the criteria for a standard vehicle permit.

*\* The policy may allow trailers with caged sides to have access to the HRC as long as they do not exceed the dimensions indicated above (either at the point of purchase or retrofitted) and providing that the waste can be removed without removing the sides completely or without lowering the ramps.*

### **2.3 Vehicles that are not eligible for a permit**

- Large box van (Luton type)
- Large goods vehicles (LGVs)
- Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs)
- Tipper vehicles
- Flatbed vehicles
- Large vans (XLWB; LWB)
- Vans with high roof elevations (over 7 feet or 2.14 metres)
- Trailers longer than 6.6 feet / 2 metres in length
- Boxed trailers / trailers with extended side panels / modified trailers
- Trailers with access ramps
- Minibus (with internal fixtures removed)
- Camper vans and motor homes (with internal fixtures removed)
- Agricultural vehicles
- Horse boxes / trailers

### **3. Application process**

Householders paying standard council tax in Flintshire will be entitled to apply for permits by fully completing an application form. Permits will only be issued to Flintshire households. (Only households in Flintshire paying standard Council Tax are entitled to use the Council's Household Recycling Centres).

All applications for a vehicle permit will be made via the online e-form available on the Council's Website.

On application, all required documentation must be submitted so that an assessment of eligibility can be made.

Householders will be required to provide the following information:

- Name of applicant
- Address
- Telephone number
- Vehicle registration number
- Vehicle make, model and colour
- Height of the vehicle / dimensions of the trailer
- Type of Vehicle: as specified in Section 2.2
- Confirmation of acceptance of Terms and Conditions of the permitting scheme

For applicants who repeatedly do not provide the required documentation their application will be refused, and they will not be eligible to re-apply for a period of six months.

A resident will be allowed one appeal should a vehicle permit be refused. To lodge an appeal the resident must complete the relevant e-form on the Council's website clearly stating the grounds for appeal. Before considering an appeal, residents must refer to this policy and only appeal if they deem that the policy has not been applied correctly.

Terms and Conditions apply and can be viewed on the Council's website along with the privacy notice.

### **3.1 Vehicle documentation required on application**

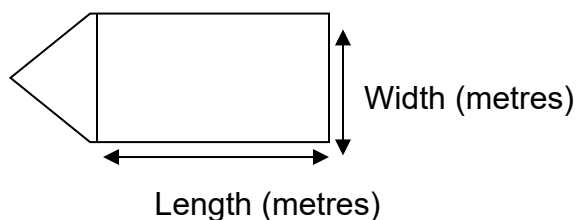
- Completed e-form.
- Full vehicle log book / A copy of the V5 Vehicle Registration document
- Driving licence
- 1 x utility bill or council tax bill to prove you live within the County of Flintshire (current and within the last 12 months)
- The addresses on the documentation must match and must detail the property where the vehicle is registered.
- Photos of the vehicle for which the permit is requested:
  - Rear interior view from rear doors showing registration plate (additional picture required if registration plate cannot be seen if doors are open)
  - Side view (one side)

### **3.2 Trailer documentation required on application:**

- Complete e-form
- Full vehicle log book / A copy of the V5 Vehicle Registration document
- Trailer dimensions (see diagram below)
- Driving licence

- 1 x utility bill or council tax bill to prove you live within the County of Flintshire (current and within the last 12 months)
- The addresses on the documentation must match and must detail the property where the vehicle is registered
- Photos of trailer for which the permit is requested clearly showing:
  - Rear of trailer showing registration plate
  - Side view showing full length and height.

The trailer dimensions required to be submitted with the application are:



No alternative or self-interpreted dimensions will be accepted.

### **3.3 Certain sign written vehicles may be issued an annual permit (allowing a maximum of 12 visits), on condition that:**

- the vehicle is registered to a Flintshire residential address for council tax;
- the waste deposited is not associated with any trade waste activity
- the waste deposited at the HRC has not been or is unlikely to have been produced by the activity of that business or associated business;
- the only waste presented at the HRC is domestic household waste

The new annual permit would be available for Flintshire residents only and only one permit will be issued per household. Permits issued apply to a vehicle at a specific Flintshire address and not the waste. Therefore, even with a permit, HRC site staff can still turn away anybody suspected of bringing in waste of a commercial nature or waste related to the business of the sign written vehicle. If this does occur then the permit will be withdrawn from the resident as the terms and conditions of its issue will have been breached. Householders will not be permitted to use a permit to bring in any waste that relates to the business activity for which the vehicle is normally used.

### **3.4 Mobility/Disability vehicle documentation required on application:**

Where a resident has a disability and utilises a vehicle not permitted under this policy then adjustments can be made to allow that vehicle to obtain a permit.

A full permit application must be made so that an assessment of the vehicle can be undertaken.

Assessment is subject to the submission of a standard permit application plus one of the following:

- Provide a copy of a valid blue badge if in receipt of one.
- Letter from an appropriately qualified medical, health or social care professional to support the application and confirming the disability e.g. GP, Occupational Health Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Specialist Consultant

In all cases, the applicant will need to confirm the following: -

- Make a declaration that there is no other vehicle at the property that could be used for the disposal of waste at the sites.
- Provide a declaration that the disability is long term
- Provide an explanation as to why the vehicle is required to be used as a result of the disability (documentation may be requested to substantiate this).

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Council reserves the right not to grant a permit or withdraw a permit if it is deemed that the vehicle could cause a health and safety issue while using the site.

#### **4 Permit Holder Access**

To better control access to HRCs and prevent abuse of the permit scheme, permits will be issued to a designated HRC site. The permits will be issued for the site in closest proximity to the resident's property or, where a valid business case is presented, for the resident's site choice. This will assist in the control of larger more complex vehicles at each site meaning that one site is not overwhelmed with permitted vehicles.

- Permits will only be issued to individual addresses once per annum.
- Vehicles cannot be issued permits against multiple addresses.
- A permit is only valid for the vehicle described on the permit

##### **4.1 Changing/Selling a vehicle**

When a resident sells a vehicle which has been issued with a vehicle permit they must return the permit to the following address with a covering letter explaining the situation. The permit is not transferable with the vehicle at the point of sale.

**Flintshire County Council,  
Alltami Depot, Mold Road, Alltami, Flintshire CH7 6LG**

If the resident purchases another vehicle that requires a permit then a new application must be made to ensure that the vehicle is compliant with this policy.

##### **4.2 Lost or Damaged Vehicle Permits**

If a resident loses or damages a permit they must contact the council immediately to notify of the situation. The permit will be immediately cancelled and site staff notified. A replacement permit can be issued; however, the number of uses already taken place will be deducted from the permit.

**Streetscene Contact Centre 01352 701234**

**Email: [streetsceneadmin@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetsceneadmin@flintshire.gov.uk)**

### **4.3 Collection of Soil Conditioner**

Soil condition is available free of charge from the HRCs. If a resident wants to collect this product in a vehicle that is subject to this policy then they must have a valid permit to gain access to the site. This is to ensure that only vehicles accessing the HRCs are of the approved height or length.

If the resident is only attending site to collect soil conditioner, and not to dispose of any recycling or waste, then they will have to show their valid permit however a visit will not be deducted from the allocated twelve.

## **5. Withdrawing from the vehicle permit scheme**

Residents can withdraw from the vehicle permit scheme at any time by returning their permit to the following address with a covering letter explaining their wish to cancel:

**Flintshire County Council**

**Alltami Depot, Mold Road, Alltami, Flintshire CH7 6LG**

Should unused permits not be handed back, the Council will treat this situation the same as if a householder has lost the permits.

## **6. One-Off Permit**

For those vehicles that do not conform to the vehicle eligibility criteria, such as a vehicle registered to a business, whose owner(s) require to use their vehicle/trailer to dispose of larger, bulky items, then a one-off permit can be issued if it is clearly demonstrated that the waste being disposed of is not related to the business or activity of the business to which the vehicle is registered or used e.g. a vehicle registered to a plumber wanting to dispose of household garden waste.

To obtain a one-off permit an application must be made in advance of the visit via the specified e-form on the Council's website so that an assessment can be made and a permit issued.

The vehicle type for the application of a one-off permit must conform to one of the vehicle types stated in Section 2.2.

A one-off permit may be issued a maximum of two times in a twelve month period.

## **7. Temporary Permit**

### **a) Using a Hired Vehicle to remove household waste**

A temporary permit can be issued to a Flintshire resident who hires a vehicle to remove their own household waste.

The householder will be required to provide the vehicle hire agreement to demonstrate that the vehicle is on hire.

### **b) Borrowing or using a workplace or company van and commercial type vehicle**

Householders from Flintshire may use their employer's van or commercial type vehicles (subject to the vehicle complying with the type and size restrictions detailed in Section 2.2) to deposit their own household waste at Household Recycling Centres.

However, the householder will require a letter from the owner (or their representative) on company notepaper giving permission to the applicant to use the vehicle to move their own domestic waste, which will be used in place of the Vehicle Registration Document V5 for verification purposes (proof of residency in Flintshire will still be required by the householder).

### **c) Borrowing or using family/friend's vehicle**

Householders from Flintshire may make use of a family member or friend's vehicle (subject to the vehicle complying with the type and size restrictions detailed in Section 2.2) to deposit their own household waste at Household Recycling Centres.

Proof of residency in Flintshire will still be required by the householder, but it is not a requirement that the vehicle must be registered within Flintshire.

The vehicle type for the application of a one-off permit will be required to conform to one of the vehicle types stated in Section 2.2. If the vehicle does not meet the vehicle sizing or type requirements it will not be allowed access onto the HRC site.

A temporary permit will be issued a maximum of one time in a twelve month period and will allow for three visits over a seven day period.

To obtain a temporary permit an application must be made in advance by contacting **Streetscene Contact Centre on 01352 701234 / [streetsceneadmin@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetsceneadmin@flintshire.gov.uk)** so that an assessment can be made and a permit issued.

## **8. Abuse of the vehicle permit scheme**

Flintshire County Council reserves the right to terminate all concessions afforded by the permit scheme if the permit holder is in contravention of any stipulations contained within this policy and the Terms and Conditions of use.

Abuse, aggressive behaviour or threats to members of staff or other residents will not be tolerated and may result in a permit either being revoked with immediate effect or the permit holder being excluded from access to Flintshire County Council HRCs.

HRC staff members are authorised and permitted to confiscate a permit should certain circumstances make this necessary, for example:

- Abuse, aggressive behaviour or threats towards site staff or other residents.
- Not adhering to site rules including breach of site safety rules, speeding restrictions, staff directives.

- Permits defaced, altered or with illegible details are invalid.
- Not declaring hazardous waste within a load.
- Depositing non-conforming or waste types that are not permitted on site.

Permits issued apply to a vehicle at a specific Flintshire address and not the waste, therefore, even with a permit the site staff at HRCs are still able to turn away anybody suspected of bringing in waste of a commercial nature.

The Council will monitor visits to HRC sites to prevent and control duplicated requests for replacement of lost or stolen permits, that is, householders that continue to use the supposedly lost permits, after receiving new ones.

The Council will monitor visits to identify any permits that have been copied or faked.

The Council will have the right to reject any person from a HRC site if it suspects that the person has contravened any of the conditions highlighted within this Policy.

Householders who turn up at a Household Recycling Centre site without a permit for their van or small commercial-type vehicle will be turned away.

Any person bringing trade waste to site with or without a permit will be reported to Natural Resources Wales.

**This Policy supersedes the Household Waste Collection and Household Recycling Centre Operations Policy 2017, Sections 12.7 to 12.13**

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## EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS - DECISIONS TAKEN REPORTED TO CABINET – 17.12.24

### Streetscene and Transportation

- **Proposal to Implement Waiting Restrictions (double yellow lines) and Bus Stop Clearway on the A5026 Holway Road, Fron Park Road and Whitford Street, Holywell**

To note that formal objections and comments have been received as part of the statutory consultation procedure, which have been reviewed and considered impartially. This delegated decision report confirms the progression of the proposals to implement waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) and bus stop clearway on the A5026 Holway Road, Fron Park Road and Whitford Street, Holywell.

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 December 2024 TO 31 May 2025**

| COMMITTEE                 | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                           | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only) |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| December                  |              |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                             |                             |
| Flintshire County Council | 4/12/24      | Chief Executive's       | <b>Capital Strategy including Prudential Indicators 2025/26 – 2027/28</b><br>To present the Capital Strategy 2025/26 – 2027/28 for approval                                               |                                                             |                             |
| Flintshire County Council | 4/12/24      | Governance              | <b>Scrutiny Arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee</b><br>To consider and make recommendations to Council on the proposed scrutiny arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee |                                                             |                             |
| Flintshire County Council | 4/12/24      | Chief Executive's       | <b>Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28</b><br>To present the Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2027/28 for approval                                                                             |                                                             |                             |

| COMMITTEE                 | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                    | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only) |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Flintshire County Council | 4/12/24      | Governance              | <b>Review of Political Balance</b><br>Due to a change in group membership we need to review the Political Balance and the allocation of seats on Committees.       |                                                             |                             |
| Flintshire County Council | 4/12/24      | Chief Executive's       | <b>Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24</b><br>To present to Members the draft Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24                                      |                                                             |                             |
| Flintshire County Council | 4/12/24      | Finance                 | <b>Appointment of the Leader of the Council</b><br>To clarify the procedure when a Leader resigns                                                                  |                                                             |                             |
| Flintshire County Council | 4/12/24      | Chief Executive's       | <b>Annual Performance Report (APR)</b><br>To approve the Annual Performance Report 2023-24, noting the Council Plan (2023-28) end of year performance for 2023-24. |                                                             |                             |

| COMMITTEE                                          | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                       | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flintshire County Council                          | 4/12/24      | Governance              | <b>Climate Change Committee Terms of Reference</b><br>To approve the proposed changes to the Climate Change Committee Terms of Reference.                                                                                             |                                                             |                                                                                                                                |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 5/12/24      | Overview and Scrutiny   | <b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking</b><br>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. | Operational                                                 |                                                                                                                                |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 5/12/24      | Finance                 | <b>Budget 2025/26 – Stage 2</b><br>To review and comment on the budget pressures under the remit of the Committee.                                                                                                                    | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value, 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<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee                                                                                                                | 5/12/24      | Social Services         | <p><b>Framework of Support: A Sustainable Approach to Adult Social Care</b><br/>To propose and discuss changes to the financial assessment and charging for Domiciliary Care and Residential Care Services.</p> | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| <span data-bbox="98 662 145 861" style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 330</span> Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 5/12/24      | Social Services         | <p><b>Mockingbird Fostering Project</b><br/>To update on the progress of the implementation of the Mockingbird model of care.</p>                                                                               | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee                                                                                                                | 5/12/24      | Social Services         | <p><b>Financial Assessments and Charging Team</b><br/>To provide Members with information regarding the work undertaken within the Financial Assessment and Charging Team.</p>                                  | Operational                                                 | 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<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 5/12/24      | Social Services         | <p><b>Social Services Care Inspectorate Wales, Performance Evaluation Inspection November 2023 - Action Plan Update</b></p> <p>To update on the progress of implementing the resulting action plan.</p>                                                                                                                                                                  | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 5/12/24      | Social Services         | <p><b>Children and Families Safeguarding Hub</b></p> <p>To receive a report outlining the strengths and challenges from the newly established Safeguarding Hub.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 5/12/24      | Social Services         | <p><b>Future of Integrated Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)</b></p> <p>To consider a proposal to cease an integrated CMHT partnership with BCUHB (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board). This would involve withdrawing Social Workers from the three CMHT Teams and locating them alongside the existing Well Being and Recovery Team within Social Services.</p> | Operational                                                 | 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<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee  | 5/12/24      | Social Services                   | <p><b>Social Services Workforce Development Report</b><br/>           This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Social Services Workforce Development Team over the past 12 months, including details relating to recruitment activity in Social Services.</p> | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Environment & Economy Overview Scrutiny Committee   | 10/12/24     | Overview and Scrutiny             | <p><b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (E&amp;E OSC)</b><br/>           To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.</p>   | Operational                                                 |                                                                                   |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 10/12/24     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <p><b>Access Barrier update</b><br/>           To update members on the implementation of access improvements to the Wales Coast Path.</p>                                                                                                                                        | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate                               |



| COMMITTEE                                           | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO        | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 10/12/24     | Streetscene and Transportation | <p><b>In-year overspend Action Plan 2024/25</b><br/>To consider sections of the in-year overspend Action Plan 2024/25 relevant to the Environment &amp; Economy Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</p>                                                            | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 10/12/24     | Streetscene and Transportation | <p><b>Proposals by the Law Commission to Reform Burial and Cremation Legislation</b><br/>To provide information on a review being undertaken by the Law Commission in relation to a reform in the legislation for burial, cremation and new funerary methods.</p> | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 10/12/24     | Streetscene and Transportation | <p><b>Cost Recovery for Supporting Public Events Affecting the Highway</b><br/>To advise on the level of support offered to event organisers, and the necessity to recover associated costs for public events affecting the highway.</p>                          | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation |

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                                    | <b>MEETING DATE</b> | <b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b> | <b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>REPORT TYPE<br/>(Strategic or Operational)<br/>(Cabinet only)</b> | <b>PORTFOLIO<br/>(Cabinet only)</b>               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 10/12/24            | Streetscene and Transportation | <b>Conversion of the FCC fleet to electric or alternative fuels</b><br>To receive a progress report on the implementation of the conversion of the FCC fleet to electric and alternative fuels.                                                | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee   | 11/12/24            | Overview and Scrutiny          | <b>Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking (C&amp;H)</b><br>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                                                          |                                                   |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee   | 11/12/24            | Housing and Communities        | <b>Garage Site Review</b><br>To provide an update on the Garage Site Review, to include information on the Car Parking Matrix.                                                                                                                 | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities        |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee   | 11/12/24            | Housing and Communities        | <b>De-carbonisation Strategy Update</b><br>To provide the Committee with an update on the De-carbonisation Strategy.                                                                                                                           | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities        |

| COMMITTEE                                         | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                      | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 11/12/24     | Housing and Communities | <b>In-year overspend Action Plan 2024/25</b><br>To consider sections of the in-year overspend Action Plan 2024/25 relevant to the Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities                                    |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 11/12/24     | Housing and Communities | <b>Void Management</b><br>To provide an update on the number of Void properties and the work undertaken to bring in properties back into use.                                        | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities                                    |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Overview and Scrutiny   | <b>Action Tracking</b><br>To inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.                                                                                | Operational                                                 |                                                                               |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Chief Executive's       | <b>Cambrian Aquatics</b><br>To provide an update report on Cambrian Aquatics.                                                                                                        | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |

| COMMITTEE                                         | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Governance              | <b>Transformation Programme</b><br>To approve the criteria for adding projects to the transformation programme and to consider adding a number of projects.                                                                                             | Strategic                                                   | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Chief Executive's       | <b>Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2025/26</b><br>To provide an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2025/26 financial year in advance of the receipt of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement on 11 December. | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value                                   |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Overview and Scrutiny   | <b>Forward Work Programme</b><br>To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.                                                                                                                       | Operational                                                 |                                                                               |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Finance                 | <b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 7)</b><br>To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 7) Report and Significant Variances.                                                                                         | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value                                   |

| COMMITTEE                                         | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO           | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                               | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Chief Executive's                 | <b>Community and Recreation Assets Audit Report</b><br>To provide a progress update on the Management of Community and Recreation Audit report.               | Strategic                                                   | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone</b><br>To provide an update on the development of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone.                       | Operational                                                 | Leader of the Council                                                         |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 12/12/24     | People and Resources              | <b>Employment and Workforce Mid-year Update</b><br>This report covers strategic updates in addition to the quarterly workforce statistics and their analysis. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Corporate Services                                         |

| COMMITTEE | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                   |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Finance                 | <p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget 2025/26</b></p> <p>To provide an update on the Council's revenue budget position for the 2025/26 financial year in advance of the receipt of the Welsh Local Government Provisional Settlement on 11 December.</p> | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value                                   |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Chief Executive's       | <p><b>Cambrian Aquatics</b></p> <p>To provide an update on Cambrian Aquatics.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                  | Strategic                                                   | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Chief Executive's       | <p><b>Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2024/25</b></p> <p>To present the draft Treasury Management Mid-Year Review for 2024/25 for recommendation to Council.</p>                                                                                               | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value                                   |

| COMMITTEE | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Chief Executive's       | <b>Theatr Clwyd</b><br>To provide information on recent developments and to discuss next steps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Chief Executive's       | <b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 7)</b><br>This regular monthly report provides the latest revenue budget monitoring position for 2024/25 for the Council Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The position is based on actual income and expenditure as at Month 7, and projects forward to year-end. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value                                                                                                      |

| COMMITTEE | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO        | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                       |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Social Services                | <p><b>Flying Start Childcare Expansion Flintshire Proposal</b></p> <p>To seek approval for the proposed Phase 3 expansion of the Flying Start 2 year old childcare across Flintshire into remaining areas currently not covered.</p>                                 | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Streetscene and Transportation | <p><b>Cost Recovery for Supporting Public Events Affecting the Highway</b></p> <p>To advise on the level of support offered to event organisers, and the necessity to recover associated costs for public events affecting the highway.</p>                          | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation                                 |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Streetscene and Transportation | <p><b>Proposals by the Law Commission to Reform Burial and Cremation Legislation</b></p> <p>To provide information on a review being undertaken by the Law Commission in relation to a reform in the legislation for burial, cremation and new funerary methods.</p> | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation                                 |



| COMMITTEE | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                       |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Social Services         | <p><b>Future of Integrated Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)</b><br/>           To consider a proposal to cease an integrated Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). This would involve withdrawing Social Workers from the three CMHT Teams and locating them alongside the existing Well Being and Recovery Team within Social Services.</p> | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Social Services         | <p><b>Social Services Care Inspectorate Wales, Performance Evaluation Inspection November 2023 – Action Plan Update</b><br/>           To provide an update on the progress of implementing the resulting action plan.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      | Operational                                                 | 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<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                   |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Governance                        | <b>Transformation Programme</b><br>To approve the criteria for adding projects to the transformation programme and to consider adding a number of projects.                                              | Strategic                                                   | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Housing and Communities           | <b>De-carbonisation Strategy Update</b><br>To provide an update on the De-carbonisation Strategy.                                                                                                        | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities                                    |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Governance                        | <b>Housing Rent Income Service – Change in Reporting Portfolio</b><br>To seek approval to transfer the Housing Rent Income service from the Governance portfolio to the Housing & Communities portfolio. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities                                    |
| Cabinet   | 17/12/24     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Consultation on the proposed new National Park for North East Wales</b><br>To agree the Council's response to a live consultation on the proposed North East Wales National Park.                     | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate                           |

| COMMITTEE                                                | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO           | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet                                                  | 17/12/24     | Housing and Communities           | <b>Recommissioning of Housing Support Grant (HSG) Floating Support Contracts</b><br>To approve the commissioning / re-tendering of Flintshire's Floating Support Services funded by the Housing Support Grant. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities                        |
| Cabinet                                                  | 17/12/24     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone</b><br>To provide an update on the development of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone.                                                                        | Operational                                                 | Leader of the Council                                             |
| Cabinet                                                  | 17/12/24     | Governance                        | <b>Business Rates – Write Off</b><br>To seek approval to write off irrecoverable Business Rate debts more than £25,000.                                                                                        | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Corporate Services                             |
| January                                                  |              |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                             |                                                                   |
| Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 9/01/25      | Education and Youth               | <b>Youth Services Update</b><br>To provide an update on the work of the Youth Services, including information on the Leeswood Transition Club and Bronze Quality Mark.                                         | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure |

| COMMITTEE                                                             | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee              | 9/01/25      | Education and Youth     | <p><b>Council Plan (2023-28) Mid-year Performance Report 2024/25 (EY&amp;C OSC)</b></p> <p>To review and monitor the Council's performance including actions and measures, as set out in the Council Plan (2023-28) at mid-year for 2024/25.</p> | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure |
| Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee<br>18099 344 | 9/01/25      | Chief Executive's       | <p><b>Corporate Risk Register (EY&amp;C OSC)</b></p> <p>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.</p>                                                                                                                                     | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure |
| Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee              | 9/01/25      | Chief Executive's       | <p><b>Theatr Clwyd</b></p> <p>To provide the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a briefing on recent developments and to discuss next steps.</p>                                                                           | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure |

| COMMITTEE                                           | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO           | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 14/01/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <p><b>Council Plan (2023-28) Mid-year Performance Report 2024/25 (E&amp;E OSC)</b></p> <p>To review and monitor the Council's performance including actions and measures, as set out in the Council Plan (2023-28) at mid-year for 2024/25.</p> | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate, Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 14/01/25     | Streetscene and Transportation    | <p><b>Review of the Car Parking Policy</b></p> <p>To review and update the Council's car parking policy.</p>                                                                                                                                    | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation                                                                                                                        |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 14/01/25     | Chief Executive's                 | <p><b>Corporate Risk Register (E&amp;E OSC)</b></p> <p>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.</p>                                                                                                                                     | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate, Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection, Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation |

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| COMMITTEE                                           | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO           | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 14/01/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Flintshire Local Area Energy Plan</b><br>To seek endorsement of the Flintshire Local Area Energy Plan Main Report and Technical Report.                                                                                                                                                                            | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate              |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 14/01/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Flintshire Council Carbon Footprint Report 2023-24</b><br>To note the progress made in reducing the Council's carbon footprint.                                                                                                                                                                                    | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate              |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 14/01/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and the Introduction of Special Procedures' Licensing</b><br>To seek the delegation of Cabinet/Members with respect to the provisions of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 which will enable officers to fulfil the requirements of the new 'Special Procedures' licensing regime. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection |

| COMMITTEE                                         | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 15/01/25     | Housing and Communities | <p><b>Council Plan (2023-28) Mid-year Performance Report 2024/25 (C&amp;H OSC)</b></p> <p>To review and monitor the Council's performance including actions and measures, as set out in the Council Plan (2023-28) at mid-year for 2024/25.</p>                                                                                           | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 15/01/25     | Chief Executive's       | <p><b>Corporate Risk Register</b></p> <p>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 15/01/25     | Housing and Communities | <p><b>Food Poverty Update</b></p> <p>To provide an update in relation to the work that has been ongoing and the work that is planned in relation to the food poverty priority area. And to also highlight the positive role Flintshire has played in developing partnerships, supporting other organisations and facilitating action.</p> | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities |

| COMMITTEE                                         | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                      | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 16/01/25     | Finance                 | <b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 8)</b><br>To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 8) Report and Significant Variances.                                                                      | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value                                       |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 16/01/25     | Social Services         | <b>Joint Funded Care Packages - Update Report</b><br>To provide an update on the latest position regarding outstanding Continuing Health Care invoices raised by the Council for payment by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. | Operational                                                 | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 16/01/25     | Chief Executive's       | <b>Council Plan (2023-28) Mid-year Performance Report 2024/25 (CROSC)</b><br>To review and monitor the Council's performance including actions and measures, as set out in the Council Plan (2023-28) at mid-year for 2024/25.       | Strategic                                                   | Leader of the Council                                                             |



| COMMITTEE                                          | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                       | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee  | 16/01/25     | Chief Executive's       | <b>Corporate Risk Register (CROSC)</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.                                                                                                                                            | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 17/01/25     | Social Services         | <b>Council Plan (2023-28) Mid-year Performance Report 2024/25 (S&amp;HC OSC)</b><br>To review and monitor the Council's performance including actions and measures, as set out in the Council Plan (2023-28) at mid-year for 2024/25. | Strategic                                                   | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing                                    |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 17/01/25     | Chief Executive's       | <b>Corporate Risk Register (S&amp;HC OSC)</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.                                                                                                                                     | Operational                                                 | 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<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                      |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet   | 21/01/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <p><b>Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and the Introduction of Special Procedures' Licensing</b></p> <p>To seek the delegation of Cabinet/Members with respect to the provisions of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 which will enable officers to fulfil the requirements of the new 'Special Procedures' licensing regime.</p> | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection |
| Cabinet   | 21/01/25     | Streetscene and Transportation    | <p><b>Review of Car Parking Policy</b></p> <p>To review and update the Council's car parking policy<br/>To review and update the Council's car parking policy.</p>                                                                                                                                                               | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation                |
| Cabinet   | 21/01/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <p><b>Flintshire Local Area Energy Plan</b></p> <p>To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the Flintshire Local Area Energy Plan Main Report and Technical Report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                  | Strategic                                                   | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate              |

| COMMITTEE                      | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO           | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                        | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                       |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cabinet                        | 21/01/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Flintshire Council Carbon Footprint Report 2023-24</b><br>To note the progress made in reducing the Council's carbon footprint.                                                                                     | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate               |
| Cabinet                        | 21/01/25     | Chief Executive's                 | <b>Corporate Risk Register</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register                                                                                                                                      | Strategic                                                   | Cllr Linda Thomas                                                 |
| Cabinet                        | 21/01/25     | Chief Executive's                 | <b>Council Plan (2023-28) Mid-year Performance Report 2024/25</b><br>To review and monitor the Council's performance including actions and measures, as set out in the Council Plan (2023-28) at mid-year for 2024/25. | Strategic                                                   | Cllr Linda Thomas                                                 |
| Governance and Audit Committee | 22/01/25     | Education and Youth               | <b>Flintshire Youth Justice Service HMIP Inspection</b><br>To present the report following the recent Youth Justice Service Inspection.                                                                                | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure |
| Governance and Audit Committee | 22/01/25     | Governance                        | <b>Risk Management Update</b><br>To be assured that the updated risk management framework is comprehensive and functional.                                                                                             | All Report Types                                            |                                                                   |

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                                    | <b>MEETING DATE</b> | <b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b>    | <b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>                                                                                                   | <b>REPORT TYPE<br/>(Strategic or Operational)<br/>(Cabinet only)</b> | <b>PORTFOLIO<br/>(Cabinet only)</b>                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Governance and Audit Committee                      | 22/01/25            | Chief Executive's                 | <b>Asset Disposals and Capital Receipts Generated 2023/24</b><br>To report on asset disposals and capital received generated during 2023/24. | Operational                                                          | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Flintshire County Council                           | 28/01/25            | Internal Audit                    | <b>Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report</b><br>To approve the Governance and Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24.                  |                                                                      |                                                                               |
| February                                            |                     |                                   |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                      |                                                                               |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 11/02/25            | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Place Making Plans update</b><br>To provide an update on the development of Place Making Plans in Flintshire                              | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate                           |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee   | 12/02/25            | Housing and Communities           | <b>Local Housing Market Needs Assessment</b><br>To present the Local Housing Market Needs Assessment.                                        | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities                                    |

| COMMITTEE                                           | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO           | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee   | 13/02/25     | Finance                           | <b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 9) and Capital Programme Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 9)</b><br>To provide the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 9) Report and the Capital Programme 2024/25 (Month 9) Report. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value         |
| Cabinet                                             | 18/02/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Place Making Plans update</b><br>To provide an update on the development of Place Making Plans in Flintshire                                                                                                                | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate |
| <p>Page 35<br/>March</p>                            |              |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                             |                                                     |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 11/03/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Place Making Plans for Buckley, Holywell and Shotton</b><br>Cynlluniau Creu Lleoedd ar gyfer Bwcle, Treffynnon a Shotton                                                                                                    | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate |
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee   | 12/03/25     | Housing and Communities           | <b>Housing Strategy</b><br>To consider the Housing Strategy.                                                                                                                                                                   | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities          |

| COMMITTEE                                                                                                                                                                                        | MEETING DATE | CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO           | AGENDA ITEM & PURPOSE OF REPORT                                                                                                                                   | REPORT TYPE<br>(Strategic or Operational)<br>(Cabinet only) | PORTFOLIO<br>(Cabinet only)                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee                                                                                                                                                | 13/03/25     | Finance                           | <b>Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 10)</b><br>To provide Members with the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 (Month 10) Report and Significant Variances. | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value                                                                                                                                    |
| Cabinet                                                                                                                                                                                          | 18/03/25     | Planning, Environment and Economy | <b>Place Making Plans for Buckley, Holywell and Shotton</b><br>To consider and approve the Place Making Plans for Buckley, Holywell and Shotton                   | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate                                                                                                                            |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; margin-right: 5px;">Page 34</div> <div>April</div> </div> |              |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee                                                                                                                                              | 8/04/25      | Chief Executive's                 | <b>Corporate Risk Register (E&amp;E OSC)</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.                                                                  | Operational                                                 | Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection,<br>Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation,<br>Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Climate |

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                                         | <b>MEETING DATE</b> | <b>CHIEF OFFICER PORTFOLIO</b> | <b>AGENDA ITEM &amp; PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>                                                        | <b>REPORT TYPE<br/>(Strategic or Operational)<br/>(Cabinet only)</b> | <b>PORTFOLIO<br/>(Cabinet only)</b>                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee        | 9/04/25             | Chief Executive's              | <b>Corporate Risk Register (C&amp;H OSC)</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.  | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities                                                                           |
| Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee        | 10/04/25            | Chief Executive's              | <b>Corporate Risk Register (CROSC)</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register.        | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Assets |
| Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee       | 9/05/25             | Chief Executive's              | <b>Corporate Risk Register (S&amp;HC OSC)</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register. | Operational                                                          | Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing                                    |
| Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee | 22/05/25            | Chief Executive's              | <b>Corporate Risk Register (EY&amp;C OSC)</b><br>To review the Council's Corporate Risk Register. | Operational                                                          | Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure                                                    |

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